



# 60 DAY RAPID REVISION (RARE) SERIES Prelims 2025


UPSC/IAS Prelims 2025

**RaRe Notes Compilations**

**Current Affairs Part 1**



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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the Colombo Process:**

1. It is a regional consultative forum comprising 20 member states of Asia.
2. Its **process is non-binding** and **decision-making is by consensus**.
3. India has been a member of the Colombo Process since its inception in 2003.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

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

**Explanation:**

- The Colombo Process is a regional consultative forum comprising 12 member states of Asia. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It serves as a forum for the exchange of best practices on overseas employment.
- Its members are **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.**
- Its process is non-binding and decision-making is by consensus. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The process is **coordinated through the Permanent Missions of Member States at the United Nations in Geneva.**
- The process is **governed by Ministerial Consultations** wherein recommendations and action plans are discussed and adopted by the Ministers of the participating countries.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has provided technical support to the Colombo Process since its inception and **serves as its Secretariat.**
- India has been a member of the Colombo Process since its inception in 2003. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-assumes-chair-of-colombo-process-for-2024-26-9359983/>

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the Exit Poll:**

1. It is a post-election survey that shows **how many seats a political party will likely win.**
2. It can be released by media houses **only after the voting ends for an election.**
3. It is regulated by **Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.**

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

**Explanation:**

- The Exit Poll is a post-election survey that shows how many seats a political party will likely win. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- It is **not the same as the official election results**.
- It is conducted **immediately after voters have cast their ballots**.
- It can be released by media houses only after the voting ends for an election. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
- It is regulated by Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Hence, **Statement 3 is correct**.
- It stipulates that **no person shall conduct or publish exit polls** via print or electronic media, or disseminate the results in any manner, **during a period specified by the Election Commission of India**.
- Any person who contravenes the provisions of Section 126A shall be **punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with a fine or both**.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/political-pulse/exit-polls-2009-2014-2019-lok-sabha-elections-9364231/>

Q.3) Consider the following:

1. Tobacco
2. Red Sanders
3. Papaya

How many of the above trees are actually native to India?

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

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

**Explanation:**

- Tobacco is native to North and South America.
- Red Sanders is a native of India and is only present in the southern Eastern Ghats. **Hence, option a is correct.**
- Papaya is native to tropical America.

**Note:**

- World No Tobacco **Day** is an annual campaign to **raise awareness of the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use** and second-hand smoke exposure and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.
- The theme for 2024 was **“Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference”**.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2022317>

**Q.4) Recently, the term “two-state solution” is actually and appropriately discussed in the context of which one of the following?**

- a) Israel-Egypt
- b) Israel-UAE
- c) Israel-Palestine
- d) None

**Q.4) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

- The term “two-state solution” is actually and appropriately discussed in the context of Israel-Palestine. It would see an **independent Palestinian state** established **alongside the existing one of Israel** - giving both peoples their territory. **Hence, option c is correct.**

**Note:**

The **Abraham Accords** are a series of agreements signed in **2020** between Israel and several Arab states. The primary countries involved are Israel, UAE, **Morocco, Bahrain, and Sudan**. **It was mediated by** the United States.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/is-a-future-palestine-state-possible/article68241006.ece>

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Ahilya Bai Holkar:**

1. She **established a textile industry in Maheshwar.**
2. **She contributed to the repair of the famous Kashi Vishwanath Temple.**
3. **She removed a traditional law confiscating the property of childless widows.**
4. **She was given the title 'The Philosopher Queen'.**

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.5) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

- Ahilya Bai Holkar (31 May 1725 – 13 August 1795) was the **Holkar Queen of the Maratha Malwa kingdom**, India.
- She is regarded as one of the most **visionary female rulers** of India. She is widely known for her **wisdom, courage, and administrative skills**.
- Ahilyabai's **husband, Khanderao Holkar**, was **killed in the battle of Kumbher in 1754**.
- **Twelve years later**, her **father-in-law, Malhar Rao Holkar**, **died**.
- **A year after that**, she was **crowned the queen** of the Malwa kingdom. For the **next 28 years, Ahilyabai ruled over Malwa** in a just, wise, and knowledgeable manner.
- Under Ahilyabai's rule, Malwa **enjoyed relative peace, prosperity, and stability**, and her **capital, Maheshwar**, was turned into an oasis of literary, musical, artistic, and industrial pursuits.
- She **welcomed stalwarts such as Marathi poet Moropant, Shahir Ananta Gandhi, and Sanskrit scholar Khushali Ram** into her capital.
- She was instrumental in **spreading the message of dharma** and propagating **industrialization**.
- She **established a textile industry in Maheshwar, which today is very famous for its Maheshwari sarees**. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- She contributed to the repair of the famous Kashi Vishwanath Temple in 1780. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
- She built hundreds of temples and Dharmashalas throughout India.
- She was **military-trained** and **personally led armies** into battle. She **appointed Tukojirao Holkar** as the **Chief of Army**.
- She removed a traditional law confiscating the property of childless widows. Hence, **Statement 3 is correct**.
- She **held daily public audiences** to help redress the problems of the common man.

- She was given the title 'The Philosopher Queen' by the **British** historian, John Keay. Hence, Statement 4 is correct.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/when-a-holkar-queen-gave-india-ram-raja-9362764/>

**Q.6) Which of the following released 'State of the Ocean Report'?**

- a) Blue Frontier Campaign
- b) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- d) Coral Reef Alliance

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

**Explanation:**

The 'State of the Ocean Report' is released by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission** - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**IOC-UNESCO**). It serves as an accessible overview of the ocean's current status. It supports the monitoring of the **UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)** and encourages actions towards a sustainable ocean future. Hence, option c is correct.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/unesco-s-state-of-ocean-report-highlights-key-knowledge-gaps-in-research-data-on-spiking-oceanic-warming-96534>

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the Aditya-L1 Mission:**

1. It is India's first space-based solar mission to study the Sun.
2. It was launched into a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange point 1 (L1).
3. It helps to understand the initiation of Coronal Mass Ejection (CME), solar flares, and near-earth space weather.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

- The Aditya-L1 Mission is India's first space-based solar mission to study the Sun. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It would provide an uninterrupted view of the Sun for prolonged periods, overcoming the limitations of Low Earth Orbits where the view is frequently blocked by the Earth itself.
- It carries seven payloads to examine the Sun's properties using visible and X-ray spectrometers, a coronagraph, analysers for solar winds and energetic particles, and magnetometers.
- It was launched into a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange point 1 (L1). **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The L1 point is perhaps the most immediately significant of the Lagrangian points, which were discovered by mathematician Joseph Louis Lagrange. It lies 1.5 million kilometres inside the Earth's orbit, partway between the Sun and the Earth.
- It will facilitate India to establish its solar observatory in space, which would have numerous applications in day-to-day life.
- Its success would place ISRO into an elite space club along with NASA and ESA.
- It helps to understand the initiation of Coronal Mass Ejection (CME), solar flares, and near-earth space weather. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- It helps to understand coronal heating, solar wind acceleration, coupling and dynamics of the solar atmosphere, solar wind distribution, and temperature anisotropy.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/isro-releases-images-of-sun-captured-by-aditya-l1-during-may-solar-storm/article68273124.ece>

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)**

1. It is an **extra-constitutional** body headed by the Ministry of Defence.
2. It is the apex body for the appointment of officials in national security bodies.
3. Its members include **the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of External Affairs.**

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.8) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **The** Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) is an [extra-constitutional](#) body headed by the Prime Minister. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It deals with all issues related to the **law and order** and national security of India.
- It discusses different initiatives to take to enhance the national security of India.
- It deals with policy matters of foreign affairs that may have a bearing on internal or external security implications, including cases relating to agreements with other countries on security-related issues.
- It is the apex body for the appointment of officials in national security bodies. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It **makes all the important decisions** on defence policy and expenditure and, generally, all matters of India's security.
- Its members include [the Prime Minister along with](#) the Ministry of [Home Affairs](#), the Ministry of [Defence](#) [the](#) Ministry of [Finance](#), [and the](#) Ministry of [External Affairs](#). **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/everyday-explainers/narendra-modi-cabinet-committees-ccs-explained-9381592/>

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Nagarhole Tiger Reserve:**

1. It is spread over two districts in **Karnataka and is named after** a small river.
2. It is **contiguous with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary** to its south and **Bandipur Tiger Reserve** to its southeastern parts.
3. Its **predominant vegetation is of southern tropical, moist, and mixed deciduous** type.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.9) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

- Nagarhole Tiger Reserve is spread over two districts in [Karnataka and is named after](#) a small [river](#).
- It is situated in the districts of Mysore and Kodagu in **Karnataka**, covering an area of 847.981 sq km.
- It is **named after** a small river, '**Nagarahole**' (literally a snake stream in Kannada), which meanders within the habitat before **joining the river Kabini**. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It was set up in 1955 as a wildlife sanctuary by Coorg State.



- It was upgraded to a national park in 1988 and brought under the fold of Project Tiger by declaring it a Tiger Reserve in 1999.
- It is contiguous with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary to its south and Bandipur Tiger Reserve to its southeastern parts. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It also forms **part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.**
- The **Kabini and Taraka reservoirs** are large water bodies located towards the west and southeastern parts of the reserve, respectively.
- Its predominant vegetation is of southern tropical, moist, and mixed deciduous type. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Its flora includes **rosewood, teak, sandalwood**, and silver oak.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bangalore/mysuru-dasara-elephant-ashwatthama-dies-of-electrocution-in-nagarhole-tiger-reserve-9386342/>

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding JIMEX- 2024:**

1. It is the eighth edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise.
2. It took place in Visakhapatnam, India.

**Which of the above given statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.10) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

- JIMEX- 2024 is the eighth edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The exercise involves harbour and sea phases, with professional, sports, and social activities at the harbour, followed by joint naval war drills at sea to improve their interoperability across various operations.
- During the exercise, the navies of both countries will jointly hone their **warfighting skills at sea and enhance their interoperability.**
- Indian Navy's Indigenous **Stealth Frigate** INS Shivalik is participating in the bilateral maritime exercise. Japan is being represented by the **Guided Missile Destroyer JS Yugiri.**
- It provides an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices and facilitates operational interactions between India and Japan.

- The exercise also reaffirms their **shared commitment towards maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.**
- It took place in Yokosuka, Japan. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Q.11) Consider the following statements about the e-Shram Portal:**

1. It aims to register any unorganised worker on a self-declaration basis and create a comprehensive **National Database of Unorganized Workers.**
2. It was launched by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment.**
3. The registration in the portal is fully Aadhaar verified and Aadhaar seeded.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

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

**Explanation:**

- The e-Shram Portal aims to register any unorganised worker on a self-declaration basis and create a comprehensive National Database of Unorganized Workers. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It allows an unorganised worker to register himself or herself on the portal on a self-declaration basis, under 400 occupations in 30 broad occupation sectors.
- It is a one-stop solution for unorganised workers in the country.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment aims to facilitate access to various **social security schemes** being implemented by various Ministries/ Departments for the benefit of the unorganised workers through the e-Shram portal.
- The registration in the portal is fully Aadhaar verified and Aadhaar seeded. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- It is presently integrated with the National Career Service (NCS) Portal, Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), **myScheme portal, and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhaan (PMSYM) scheme.**

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2026731>

**Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the Speaker Pro Tem:**

1. The Speaker Pro Tem is appointed by the Prime Minister under **Article 95(1)** of the **Constitution**.
2. The Speaker Pro Tem presides over the **first sitting** of the Lok Sabha.
3. The Speaker Pro Tem has limited powers to that of a Speaker.
4. The Speaker Pro Tem administers the oath of office to the newly elected MPs.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.12) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The Speaker Pro Tem is appointed by the President under Article 95(1) of the Constitution. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The President appoints a member of the Lok Sabha as the Speaker Pro Tem.
- Usually, the senior member of the house is made the pro-tem speaker.
- The Speaker Pro Tem presides over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- When the new Speaker is elected by the House, the office of the Speaker Pro Tem ceases to exist.
- The President administers the oath to the Speaker Pro Tem.
- The Speaker Pro Tem has all the powers of a Speaker. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The Speaker Pro Tem conducts the vote for the speaker, and deputy speaker, and administers the floor test.
- The Speaker Pro Tem administers the oath of office to the newly elected MPs. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/bhartruhari-mahtab-appointed-pro-tem-speaker-of-lok-sabha/article68313153.ece>

**Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the International Criminal Court (ICC):**

1. It is a **permanent judicial body** established by the **Rome Statute**.
2. It is **the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN)**.
3. *It prosecutes individuals for serious international crimes.*

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.13) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a permanent judicial body established by the Rome Statute. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The court's **founding treaty, the Rome Statute**, was adopted in July 1998, and the court began work in 2003.
- Its objective is to **investigate, prosecute, and try individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression**, and to impose prison sentences upon individuals who are found guilty of such crimes.
- **The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.**
- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) also known as the World Court, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the UN and began work in April 1946. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It prosecutes individuals for serious international crimes. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

The ICC is only competent to hear a case if:

- The country where the offence was committed is a party to the Rome Statute; or
- The perpetrator's country of origin is a party to the Rome Statute.
- The ICC may only exercise its jurisdiction if the national court is unable or unwilling to do so.
- The ICC only has jurisdiction over offences committed after the Statute entered into force on 1 July 2002.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/icc-warrant-russia-shoigu-gerasimov-9414806/>

**Q.14) Consider the following statements:**

1. The **first World Refugee Day** was celebrated to commemorate the **50th anniversary of the 1951** Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.
2. World Refugee Day 2024 official theme is "Everyone is Welcome."
3. World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on 20 June.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

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

**Explanation:**

- The first World Refugee Day was celebrated to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The day was earlier recognized as **Africa Refugee Day** and later in **December 2000, the United Nations General Assembly officially declared it as an International Day for Refugees.**
- The 1951 Refugee Convention provides a globally recognized definition of a refugee and outlines the legal protections, rights, and assistance they are entitled to.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) acts as the guardian of the 1951 Refugee Convention and its protocols, ensuring their implementation and protection of refugees' rights.
- World Refugee Day 2024 official theme is "Everyone is Welcome." **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- This theme highlights the need for global unity in supporting refugees. It envisions a world that accepts and actively embraces refugees, offering inclusion and assistance as they rebuild their lives. It also translates to ensuring access to asylum for those escaping persecution and creating welcoming environments in host nations.
- The day is dedicated to acknowledging and celebrating the resilience, courage, and strength of refugees as they strive to rebuild their lives and work towards a brighter future.
- World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on 20 June. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Every year on this day, we focus on the millions forced to flee their homes. This day sheds light on the immense human impact of conflicts, persecution, and natural disasters.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/trending/world-refugee-day-2024-date-history-significance-and-theme-9401433/>

**Q.15) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** Geotextile bags are used for flood control and to prevent beach erosion.

**Statement II:** Because they provide a protective layer that minimizes erosion by evenly distributing water flow and reducing surface runoff.

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

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

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

**Explanation:**

- **Geotextiles** are **permeable fabrics** that, when used in association with soil, can separate, filter, reinforce, protect, or drain. These are typically made from **polypropylene or polyester**.
- Geotextile bags are used for flood control and to prevent beach erosion. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Because they provide a protective layer that minimizes erosion by evenly distributing water flow and reducing surface runoff. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- **Geotextiles** support many civil engineering applications including roads, airfields, railroads, embankments, retaining structures, reservoirs, canals, dams, bank protection, coastal engineering, and construction site silt fences or geotube. They are also used for sand dune armoring to protect upland coastal property from storm surges, wave action, and flooding.

Source:

[https://epaper.thehindu.com/reader?utm\\_source=Hindu&utm\\_medium=Menu&utm\\_campaign=Header](https://epaper.thehindu.com/reader?utm_source=Hindu&utm_medium=Menu&utm_campaign=Header)

**Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding ABHYAS:**

1. It is a **High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)**.
2. It has been designed by DRDO's **Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru**.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

- ABHYAS is a **High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)**. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It offers a **realistic threat scenario** for weapon systems practice.
- This indigenous system is designed for **autonomous flying** with the help of an autopilot, a laptop-based Ground Control System for aircraft integration, pre-flight checks, and autonomous flight.
- It also has a feature to record data during flight for post-flight analysis.
- It has been designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

**Note:**

**DRDO was formed in 1958** from the amalgamation of the then-existing **Technical Development Establishment (TDEs)** of the Indian Army and the **Directorate of Technical Development and Production (DTDP)** with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO). It is the Research & Development wing of the **Ministry of Defence**, with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2029196>

**Q.17) Which of the following countries borders the South China Sea?**

1. **China**

2. Taiwan
3. Philippines
4. Malaysia
5. Japan
6. Indonesia
7. Brunei
8. Vietnam

Select the answer using the code below:

- a) Only five
- b) Only six
- c) Only seven
- d) All eight

**Q.17) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

Countries that border the **South China Sea** are **China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Vietnam**. Hence, option c is correct.





Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/oppose-unilateral-actions-change-status-quo-force-india-fresh-tensions-south-china-sea-9421529/>

**Q.18) Recently, the Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched the mobile application 'Sangyaan App'. Which of the following statement correctly describes the 'Sangyaan App'?**

- a) It aims to capture the entire MPLADS fund allocation cycle and provide greater convenience and accessibility in monitoring the scheme.
- b) It is a practical tool for anyone seeking to stay informed about the **latest legal developments** in India.
- c) It offers **agronomic practices, Minimum Support Prices (MSP) details, jute gradation parameters, weather forecasts**, and procurement policies.
- d) None

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

**Explanation:**

Recently, the Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched the mobile application 'Sangyaan App'. 'Sangyaan App' is a practical tool for anyone seeking to stay informed about the **latest legal developments** in India. It **aims to educate and empower RPF Personnel** by providing comprehensive information to understand the provisions of both new and old criminal laws while highlighting the relevance of these new acts in the context of RPF operations. It will provide in-depth **information on three new criminal acts** - the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023. **Hence, option b is correct.**

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2028994>

**Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the *Filoboletus manipularis*:**

1. It is a fascinating species of **bioluminescent mushroom**.
2. It thrives in **tropical, humid environments**, typically found in dense forests.
3. It glows a bright green at night due to a **chemical reaction** in their cells.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

- a) Only one

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

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

**Explanation:**

- The *Filoboletus manipularis* is a fascinating species of **bioluminescent mushroom**. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- In fungi, this glowing mechanism is thought to attract insects, which help disperse the mushroom's spores.
- It thrives in **tropical, humid environments**, typically found in dense forests. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The chemical reaction involving **luciferin (a pigment)** and **luciferase (an enzyme)** with oxygen plays a critical role in these mushrooms. This reaction produces light, a trait shared with other bioluminescent organisms like fireflies and certain marine creatures.
- It glows a bright green at night due to a **chemical reaction** in their cells. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/life-style/bioluminescent-mushrooms-kasaragod-kerala-india-toxic-forest-fungi-9396984/>

**Q.20) Consider the following pairs:**

Index	Organization
1. Energy Transition Index	<b>World Economic Forum</b>
2. Ease of Living Index	World Bank
3. Gender Inequality Index	United Nations Development Programme
4. Global Financial Stability Report	International Monetary Fund

How many given pair/s is/are correctly matched?

- a) One pair
- b) Two pairs
- c) Three pairs
- d) Four pairs

**Q.20) Solution (d)****Explanation:**

Index	Organization
1. Energy Transition Index	<b>World Economic Forum</b>
2. Ease of Living Index	World Bank
3. Gender Inequality Index	United Nations Development Programme
4. Global Financial Stability Report	International Monetary Fund

Hence, option d is correct.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/india-ranks-63rd-on-energy-transition-index-sweden-on-top-wef/article68306972.ece>

**Q.21) Which of the following organization releases the 'Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) India Index'?**

- a) Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- c) *International Monetary Fund (IMF)*
- d) National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog

**Q.21) Solution (d)****Explanation:**

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog released the 'Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) India Index'. It is a tool to measure and track India's progress towards the SDGs set by the United Nations. It supports the localization of SDGs, encouraging states to integrate these goals into their development plans. It serves as a benchmark for policymakers to identify gaps and prioritise actions toward achieving

sustainable development by 2030. Hence, option d is correct.

**Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding the SIM Swapping Scam:**

- 1. It occurs when a **malicious actor convinces** your carrier to transfer your phone number to a new SIM card in their possession.
- 2. It can grant them **access to your calls, texts, and two-factor authentication** codes.

3. Number Lock introduced by Google Fi wireless empowers users to take control and prevent SIM swapping.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

**Explanation:**

- The SIM Swapping Scam occurs when a malicious actor convinces your carrier to transfer your phone number to a new SIM card in their possession. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- In the SIM swap scam, fraudsters first take personal details such as phone numbers, bank account details, and addresses with the **help of phishing or vishing.**
- After receiving the personal information, fraudsters visit the mobile operator's retail outlet, posing as the victim with forged ID proof, and report a fake theft of the victim's SIM card and/or mobile phone. By doing this, they attain a duplicate SIM.
- It can grant them access to your calls, texts, and two-factor authentication codes. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- When the SIM is swapped, the accused gains control of the entire SIM. All calls and messages go through their SIM only.
- Once in control of the SIM card, they can obtain passwords and OTPs that allow them to access their targets' bank accounts.
- Number Lock introduced by Google Fi wireless empowers users to take control and prevent SIM swapping. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding Syphilis:**

1. It is caused by the fungus, *Treponema pallidum*.
2. It is a **sexually transmitted infection (STI)**.
3. It cannot pass from **mother to baby during pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding.**
4. It is **commonly treated by Penicillin.**

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.23) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Syphilis is caused by the bacteria, *Treponema pallidum*. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- After the infection happens, syphilis **bacteria can stay in the body for many years without causing symptoms**. But the infection **can become active again**.
- It is a sexually transmitted infection (STI). **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It can pass from mother to baby during pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**
- **starts as a sore** that's often painless and typically appears **on the genitals, rectum, or mouth**.
- **If left** untreated, it can cause serious health issues. It can **permanently damage your heart, brain, muscles, bones, and eyes**.
- It is **treatable and curable**. It is easy to cure **with antibiotics**, especially **during the early stages**.
- It is commonly treated by Penicillin. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**

**Q.24) Match the following pairs:**

Festival	State
A. Cheiraoba Festival	1. Meghalaya
B. Kharchi Puja	2. Nagaland
C. <b>Wangala Festival</b>	3. Tripura
D. <b>Sekrenyi Festival</b>	4. Manipur

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3
- b) A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1
- c) A-4, B-3, C-1, D-2
- d) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3

**Q.24) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

Festival	State
A. Cheiraoba Festival	Manipur
B. Kharchi Puja	Tripura
C. Wangala Festival	Meghalaya
D. Sekrenyi Festival	Nagaland

- **Cheiraoba Festival** is celebrated across Manipur, as it is the New Year according to the Manipuri tribes. It is also related to the domestic deity called Sanamahi worshipped by the Manipuri people.
  - **Kharchi Puja** primarily originates from Tripura. It is celebrated in honour of Lord Shiva.
  - **Wangala Festival** is celebrated by the dominant Garo Tribe in Meghalaya. It indicates the beginning of winter and is celebrated as a nod to the post-harvest season.
  - **Sekrenyi Festival** is celebrated in February by the Angami tribe of Nagaland.
- Hence, option c is correct.

**Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding the Primary Amoebic Meningo-Encephalitis (PAM):**

1. The causative organism for PAM is eukaryote naegleria fowleri.
2. Its symptoms include headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, stiff neck, confusion, delusions, and convulsions.
3. There are **no standard treatments** for the treatment of PAM.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 2 and 3 only

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

#### Q.25) Solution (d)

#### Explanation:

- Primary Amoebic Meningo-Encephalitis (PAM) is a rare, usually **fatal, infection of the central nervous system** (brain and spinal cord).
- The causative organism for PAM is eukaryote *naegleria fowleri*. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- *Naegleria fowleri* **occurs in shallow surface waters and incorrectly maintained swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas, particularly in warm climates.**
- The amoebas can **enter the brain through the nose** when people swim in contaminated warm, fresh water. The amoeba then **invades the brain and meninges** through the nose.
- Its symptoms include headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, stiff neck, confusion, delusions, and convulsions. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- In the **later stages**, one can suffer from a **stiff neck, seizures, hallucinations, and even coma.**
- There are *no standard treatments* for the treatment of PAM. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

**Combination therapy** using medicines **to treat parasites** offers the most promise.

#### Q.26) The terms 'Vallam Kali' and 'Nouka Baich' are related to which of the following?

- a) Folk Dance
- b) Fishing Method
- c) Boat Race
- d) Tribal Festival

#### Q.26) Solution (c)

#### Explanation:

The terms 'Vallam Kali' and 'Nouka Baich' are related to boat races. Vallam kali (vaḷḷam kaḷi, literally: boat game), also known as snake boat race, is a traditional boat race in Kerala, India. Nouka Baich is a traditional boat race in **West Bengal**. **Hence, option c is correct.**

**Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Gaur:**

1. It is the **largest and tallest** in the family of **wild cattle**.
2. **It is indigenous to the south and southeast parts of Asia.**
3. **Both males and females possess horns.**
4. It is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.27) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

- The Indian Gaur is the *largest and tallest* in the family of *wild cattle*. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian Bison is about 240 cm to 340 cm in length, with a sole tail length of about 70 cm to 105 cm. Their height is about 170 cm to 230 cm.
- The adult male weighs around 600 kg to 1500 kg. and the adult female weighs about 400 kg to 1000 kg.
- They have a **convex shape on the forehead**.
- *It is indigenous to the south and southeast parts of Asia.* **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- **They** are primarily the denizens of **evergreen and semi-evergreen forests** along with **moist deciduous forests** with open grasslands.
- They **prefer hilly terrains below** an altitude of **1,500-1,800 m** with large and undisturbed forest tracts and abundant water.
- *Both males and females possess horns.* **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- The horns are pale green or yellowish brown in color and are not pointed upward but possess a slightly inward curvature.
- They have a typically **short tail**.
- The Gaur is a **social animal**. They generally live in a group size of about 30 to 40.
- It is listed as *vulnerable on the IUCN Red List*. **Hence, Statement 4 is incorrect.**



- It is protected under Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act of 1972 and Appendix I of the CITES.

**Q.28) The world's oldest cave painting found in the limestone cave of Leang Karampuang depicts a pig that is standing upright along with three smaller human-like figures painted in a single shade of dark red pigment. It was discovered in which of the following country?**

- a) India
- b) Italy
- c) China
- d) Indonesia

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

**Explanation:**

The world's oldest cave painting found in the limestone cave of Leang Karampuang depicts a pig that is standing upright along with three smaller human-like figures painted in a single shade of dark red pigment. It was discovered in Indonesia. **Hence, option d is correct.**

**Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the NIRMAL Scheme:**

1. It is a unique corporate social responsibility (CSR) scheme by Coal India Limited (CIL).
2. It aims to provide financial assistance of **₹10,00,000** to candidates who have successfully **cleared the preliminary round of the UPSC Civil Services and Forest Service Examinations** in 2024.
3. The eligible beneficiaries include those with an **annual family income of less than ₹10 lakhs**, and who are **permanent residents of the 39 districts where CIL operates**.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.29) Solution (a)****Explanation:**

- The NIRMAN Scheme is a unique corporate social responsibility (CSR) scheme by Coal India Limited (CIL). **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Coal India Limited (CIL)** is a **government of India-owned Maharatna company**. It is the single **largest coal producer** in the world. It contributes to **85% of total domestic coal production** and 75% of total coal-based generation.
- It aims to provide financial *assistance of ₹1,00,000* to candidates who have successfully *cleared the preliminary round of the UPSC Civil Services and Forest Service Examinations in 2024*. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- This support extends to **individuals from Scheduled Castes (SC)**, and Scheduled Tribes (**ST**), as well as **female and third-gender** candidates.
- The eligible beneficiaries include those with an *annual family income of less than ₹8 lakhs*, and who are *permanent residents of the 39 districts where CIL operates*. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The application process for NIRMAN is fully digital and facilitated through a dedicated portal.

**Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding the SEHER Programme:**

1. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL.
2. It is a comprehensive **credit education program** designed to enhance financial literacy and business skills **among women entrepreneurs**.

**Which of the above given statements is/are correct?**

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

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

- The SEHER Programme is an initiative of NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **The Women Entrepreneurship Platform** was incubated in **NITI Aayog** in 2018 as an aggregator platform that transitioned as a **public-private partnership** in 2022 to build a comprehensive ecosystem supporting women entrepreneurs across India.
- It is a comprehensive *credit education program* designed to enhance financial literacy and business skills *among women entrepreneurs*. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It is expected to enable women to access the financial tools necessary for business growth and job creation.

**Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding the Vizhinjam International Seaport:**

1. It is India's first deepwater container transshipment port.
2. It is located at Vizhinjam, a coastal town in Thiruvananthapuram district, Tamil Nadu.
3. It is developed in a **landlord model with a public-private partnership component** on a design, build, finance, operate, and transfer ("DBFOT") basis.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

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

- The Vizhinjam International Seaport is India's first deepwater container transshipment port. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is being designed to **primarily cater to the transshipment and gateway container business**, with provision for a cruise terminal, liquid bulk berth, and facilities for additional terminals.

- It is located at Vizhinjam, a coastal town in Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It is located around **10 nautical miles** from the **international shipping route connecting Europe and the Persian Gulf with East Asia**, through which around 30 percent of global maritime cargo passes.
- It is developed in a *landlord model with a public-private partnership component* on a design, build, finance, operate, and transfer ("DBFOT") basis. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- It is being **built by Adani Vizhinjam Ports Private Ltd.**, a subsidiary of Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd. (APSEZ), India's largest private sector port operator.

**Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the Chandravalli Cave:**

1. It is located in the Indian state of **Karnataka**.
2. **It has a rock inscription of Mayurasharma**, the founder of the first Kannada dynasty.

**Which of the above given statements is/are correct?**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

- The Chandravalli Cave is located in the Indian state of *Karnataka*. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The cave complex is also **known as the Ankali Math**, named after a saint from Ankalagi in Belagavi district who is believed to have come and settled here.
- The cave has many chambers such as a **puja place with a shivlinga**, a drawing room, a bedroom, and a water outlet that connects to a tank inside.
- Excavations around this site surrounded by three hills have revealed coins, painted bowls, and earthen pots dating back to various dynasties such as the **Hoysala, the Satavahana, and the Vijayanagara**.
- *It has a rock inscription of Mayurasharma*, the founder of the first Kannada dynasty. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The region had **connections with Rome and China**, as some coins found here reveal. Some of the walls are adorned with paintings done in organic paint.

**Q.33) Consider the following statements regarding the Heat Dome:**

1. It is a **weather phenomenon** where a **high-pressure system** in the **atmosphere traps warm air** like a lid on a pot, for an extended period of time.
2. It allows **more sunlight to reach the earth**, which results in more warming and drying of soil.
3. It leads to more evaporation and increases the likelihood of the formation of rain clouds.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.33) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

- The Heat Dome is a *weather phenomenon* where a *high-pressure system* in the *atmosphere traps warm air* like a lid on a pot, for an extended period of time. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- As the warm air is not able to rise upward, the sky remains clear — clouds are formed under the opposite circumstances as the rising warm air cools down, and the water in it condenses out.
- It allows *more sunlight to reach the earth*, which results in more warming and drying of soil. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The longer the heat dome stays in one place, the warmer conditions can get with every passing day. While heat domes cause heat waves, they can occur without heat domes as well.
- It leads to less evaporation and reduces the likelihood of the formation of rain clouds. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding the Shield-tail Snakes:**

1. They are **venomous snakes belonging** to the Uropeltidae family.
2. They are **endemic to peninsular India and Sri Lanka**.

**Which of the above given statements is/are correct?**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The researchers have discovered a new species of shield-tail snake in the Meghamalai-Munnar landscape of the Western Ghats.

- The *Shield-tail Snakes* are non-venomous snakes belonging to the Uropeltidae family. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- They have a large **keratinous shield** at the tip of the tail and are hence called shield-tailed snakes.
- They are *endemic to peninsular India and Sri Lanka*. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- They are found in the **Western Ghats and some parts of Peninsular India**.

**Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding the Thirty Meter Telescope:**

1. It is an international project involving **India, the United States, Canada, China, and Japan**.
2. **It aims to study the early universe** and the formation and evolution of the first galaxies and stars after the Big Bang.
3. It contains instruments like the **Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (IRIS)** and the **Wide-Field Optical Spectrograph (WFOS)**.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.35) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

- The Thirty Meter Telescope is an international project involving *India, the United States, Canada, China, and Japan*. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a next-generation astronomical observatory designed to provide unprecedented resolution and sensitivity with its massive 30-meter primary mirror, **advanced adaptive optics system**, and state-of-the-art instruments.
- *It aims to study the early universe* and the formation and evolution of the first galaxies and stars after the Big Bang. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- **It investigates the formation, structure**, and evolution of galaxies across cosmic time, studies the relationship between **supermassive black holes** and their host galaxies, investigates the formation of stars and planetary systems, characterizes exoplanets, and studies their atmospheres.

- It contains instruments like the *Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (IRIS)* and the *Wide-Field Optical Spectrograph (WFOS)*. Hence, **Statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding the Makhana Cultivation:**

1. It is an **aquatic crop** grown in **stagnant perennial water bodies**.
2. It is **native to Southeast Asia and China**.
3. It requires **annual rainfall of 100 cm to 250 cm** with smooth loamy soil.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Q.36) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

- The Makhana also known as Foxnut is an *aquatic crop* grown in *stagnant perennial water bodies*. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a plant of **tropical and subtropical** climate.
- It is *native to Southeast Asia and China*. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct.**
- In India, it is mainly distributed in the states of **Bihar, West Bengal, Manipur**, Tripura, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Bihar** in India is the **leading state in its production and processing**. It is estimated that Bihar accounts for more than **80 percent of total Makhana** production in the country.
- It requires *annual rainfall of 100 cm to 250 cm* with smooth loamy soil. Hence, **Statement 3 is correct.**
- It requires a temperature ranging from 200°C to 350°C with a **relative humidity** of 50% to 90%.
- It is a kind of hydrophyte used **both as a drug and food** that exhibits many application and development prospects in the fields of medicine, food, and the economy.

**Q.37) Recently, India signed a deal known as the 'Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)' with which of the following countries?**

- a) The United States of America
- b) Australia
- c) The United Kingdom

d) Russia

### Q.37) Solution (d)

#### Statement Analysis:

India signed a deal known as the 'Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)' with Russia. It aims to enhance **military cooperation between the two nations**. It is designed to **streamline military logistics support**, making joint operations and **long-distance missions** more efficient and **cost-effective** for both India and Russia. **Hence, option d is correct.**

### Q.38) Consider the following statements with reference to the World Bank Group Guarantee Platform:

1. It is housed at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).
2. It provides credit guarantees for the loans only to the Private Sector.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- e) 1 only
- f) 2 only
- g) Both 1 and 2
- h) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.38) Solution (a)

#### Statement Analysis:

- The World Bank Group Guarantee Platform is housed at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It brings together products and experts from the World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC), and MIGA for simplicity, efficiency, and speed.
- WBG Guarantees will serve as a one-stop-shop for all WBG guarantee businesses, providing the best guarantee solutions for clients to meet project needs and development priorities.
- The platform will provide three types of coverages: credit guarantees for loans to the public or private sector; trade finance guarantees for trade finance projects involving public entities; and political risk insurance against non-commercial risks for private sector projects or public-private partnerships. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**



- It aims to boost WBG annual guarantee issuance to \$20 billion by 2030.

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

1. It is an indigenization portal developed by the **Department of Defence Production**.
2. It gives information on items that can be taken up for **indigenization of Defence products by the private sector**.

**Which of the above given statements is/are correct about the Srijan portal?**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

- The Srijan Portal is an indigenization portal developed by the Department of Defence Production. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- On this portal, DPSUs/OFB/SHQs can display the items that they have been importing or are going to import which the Indian Industry can design, develop, and manufacture as per their capability or through a joint venture with OEMs.
- It will give information on items that can be taken up for indigenization by the private sector. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to the MV Sea Change:**

1. It is the **world's first commercial passenger ferry powered entirely by zero-emission hydrogen fuel cells**.
2. It was **built by All American Marine Shipyard** for the compatriot shipowner SWITCH Maritime.
3. It uses H2 fuel cells to **generate electricity through the combination of H2 from storage tanks and oxygen from the ambient air**.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

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

- The MV Sea Change is the world's first commercial passenger ferry powered entirely by zero-emission hydrogen fuel cells. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The vessel, designed by Incat Crowther, is fitted with hydrogen-powered fuel cells producing electricity to power electric motors, enabling the vessel to operate for about 16 hours, traveling around 300 nautical miles, between refueling sessions.
- It was built by All American Marine Shipyard for the compatriot shipowner SWITCH Maritime. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It can reach speeds up to 20 knots, and its service speed will be about 8-12 knots.
- It uses H<sub>2</sub> fuel cells to generate electricity through the combination of H<sub>2</sub> from storage tanks and oxygen from the ambient air. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- It produces only heat and water vapor as by-products.

**Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding Enemy Property:**

1. Enemy property are the immovable and moveable **assets** that were **left behind by people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China after leaving India during the partition Only.**
2. **They** include **bank accounts, shares, gold,** and other assets of such individuals along with real estate.
3. It is vested with the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI), an authority created under the Enemy Property Act of 1968.
4. **Assam** has the **highest number** of enemy properties, **followed by West Bengal.**

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.41) Solution (b)****Explanation:**

- Enemy Property is those immovable and moveable assets that were left behind by people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China after leaving India during the partition and also post the 1962 and 1965 wars. **Hence, Statement 1 is Incorrect.**
- It may include bank accounts, shares, gold, and other assets of such individuals along with real estate. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- As per CEPI, there are 13,252 enemy properties in India, valued at over Rs1 lakh crore.

- It is vested with the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI), an authority created under the Enemy Property Act of 1968. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- The **2017 amendment** to the Act (Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2017) **stated that the successors** of those who migrated to Pakistan and China **ceased to have a claim over the properties** left behind in India.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has the highest number of enemy properties, followed by West Bengal. **Hence, Statement 4 is incorrect.**

**Q.42) Consider the following statements with respect to QUAD:**

1. It is an informal diplomatic partnership between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States.
2. Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) was the initiative announced at the Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo in 2022.

**Which of the above given statements is/are incorrect?**

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

**Q.42) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

*Here the question is asking to choose incorrect statements.*

- QUAD is an informal diplomatic partnership between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is committed to supporting an open, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient.
- It was first proposed by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007, it became a formal group in 2017 after overcoming initial setbacks, including Australia's withdrawal due to Chinese pressure.
- Finally in 2017, India, Australia, the US, and Japan, came together and formed this quadrilateral coalition.
- Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) was the initiative announced at the Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo in 2022. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It focuses on integrating the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean region (IOR) in the Indo-Pacific.

- Its primary aim is to track dark shipping vessels that turn off their Automatic Identification System (AIS) to avoid detection.

**Q.43) He was born on 26th December 1899, in Sunam, Punjab. His anti-colonial stance was due to his exposure to Sikhism and revolutionary activities, including the Komagata Maru incident and the Ghadar Party's uprising. He was deeply affected by the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, in 1919 and vowed to avenge the massacre by killing Michael O'Dwyer, the then Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, who had ordered the massacre. He joined the Ghadar Party in 1924 to overthrow colonial rule. He was arrested for illegal possession of firearms in 1927 and was sentenced to five years in prison. He assassinated Michael O'Dwyer during a meeting at Caxton Hall in London in 1940. He was tried and sentenced to death and was hanged, in Pentonville Prison, London. As a tribute to him, a district in Uttarakhand was named after him in 1995.**

**The above paragraph describes which of the following personality?**

- a) Bhagat Singh
- b) Sardar Udham Singh
- c) Chandrashekhar Azad
- d) Sachindranath Sanyal

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

**Explanation:**

Sardar Udham Singh was born on 26th December 1899, in Sunam, Punjab. His anti-colonial stance was due to his exposure to Sikhism and revolutionary activities, including the Komagata Maru incident and the Ghadar Party's uprising. He was deeply affected by the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, in 1919 and vowed to avenge the massacre by killing Michael O'Dwyer, the then Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, who had ordered the massacre. He joined the Ghadar Party in 1924 to overthrow colonial rule. He was arrested for illegal possession of firearms in 1927 and was sentenced to five years in prison. He assassinated Michael O'Dwyer during a meeting at Caxton Hall in London in 1940. He was tried and sentenced to death and was hanged, in Pentonville Prison, London. As a tribute to him, a district in Uttarakhand was named after him in 1995. **Hence, option b is correct.**

**Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding the National Culture Fund:**

1. It was set up as a trust under the **Charitable Endowment Act of 1890**.
2. **It aims** to mobilize extra resources through Public Private Partnerships (PPP) towards promoting, protecting, and preserving India's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

3. It is managed and **administered through a Governing Council** chaired by the Minister of Culture.
4. It can receive **donations from corporates, PSUs, trusts, and individuals** for the maintenance and preservation of centrally protected monuments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

#### Q.44) Solution (d)

#### Explanation:

- The National Culture Fund was set up as a trust under the Charitable Endowment Act of 1890. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Its objective is** to administer and apply the fund for the conservation, maintenance, promotion, protection, preservation, and upgrade of monuments protected or otherwise and to impart training and facilitate the development of a cadre of specialists and cultural administrators.
- It aims to mobilize extra resources through Public Private Partnerships (PPP) towards promoting, protecting, and preserving India's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- NCF's activities are covered under Schedule VII No. (v) of the Companies Act, 2013 as a valid receptacle of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contribution under the protection of national heritage, art, and culture including restoration of buildings and sites of historical importance and works of art; setting up public libraries; promotion and development of traditional arts and handicrafts."
- It is managed and administered through a Governing Council chaired by the Minister of Culture. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- An Executive Committee headed by the Secretary (Culture) and has a maximum strength of 11 Members, to execute those policies.
- Donations to the National Culture Fund are eligible for 100% tax benefit under Section 80G (ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- It can receive donations from corporates, PSUs, trusts, and individuals for the maintenance and preservation of centrally protected monuments. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**
- All donors/sponsors have the responsibility to comply with the terms & conditions of the MoU agreed for any particular project.

**Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding the Advanced Land Navigation System (ALNS):**

1. It is a **Ring Laser Gyro** (RLG) based navigation system.
2. It provides only Inertial **Navigation** data for the navigation requirements.
3. It is spoof-proof with high levels of encryption.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

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

**Explanation:**

- The Advanced Land Navigation System (ALNS) is a Ring Laser Gyro (RLG) based navigation system. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is used for traversing a path defined by the coordinates of a military map in ESM format.
- It provides Inertial, GPS, and Hybrid Navigation data for the navigation requirements. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- ALNS Mk-II is compatible with the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System**, NAVigation using Indian Constellation (IRNSS, NavIC), India in addition to the Global Positioning System (GPS) and **Global Navigation Satellite System** (GLONASS).
- The ALNS Mk-II offers compatibility with Defence Series Maps resulting in very high accuracy in navigational applications for AFVs.
- It is spoof-proof with high levels of encryption. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- It will be **procured from Bharat Electronics Limited** (BEL), Chennai under the Buy [Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM)] category.

**Q.46) Consider the following statements regarding Oropouche Fever:**

1. It is a **zoonotic bacterial disease** caused by Bordetella pertussis.
2. It is spread to humans through the **bite of an infected midge** or mosquito.
3. There are **no vaccines** or specific treatments for Oropouche fever.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

d) 1 and 2 only

#### Q.46) Solution (a)

#### Explanation:

- Oropouche Fever is a zoonotic arboviral disease caused by the Oropouche Virus (OROV). **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It was first discovered in Trinidad and Tobago in 1955.
- Symptoms of the disease are similar to dengue and typically start between four and eight days after the bite.
- The onset is sudden, and symptoms usually include fever, headaches, pain, chills, joint stiffness, and sometimes nausea and vomiting.
- It is spread to humans through the bite of an infected midge or mosquito. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Factors such as urbanization, deforestation, and climate change contribute to the proliferation of its vector, escalating the risk of transmission.
- There is no evidence of human-to-human transmission of the disease — to date.
- There are no vaccines or specific treatments for Oropouche fever. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Medical care aims to control the symptoms and help with recovery.

#### Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding the International Labour Organization (ILO):

1. It was **created in 1919**, as part of the **Treaty of Versailles** that ended World War I.
2. It is a **specialized agency of the United Nations (UN)** dedicated to **improving labour conditions** and living standards throughout the world.
3. It is the **only tripartite U.N. agency**, that **brings together governments, employers, and workers'** representatives
4. It is headquartered in **Geneva**, Switzerland, and was awarded the Nobel Prize for **Peace in 1969**.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.47) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) was created in 1919, as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- In 1946, the ILO became a specialized agency of the newly formed UN.
- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) dedicated to improving labour conditions and living standards throughout the world. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The ILO has 187 member states: 186 out of 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands.
- It is the only tripartite U.N. agency, that brings together governments, employers, and workers' representatives. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- It is also a **member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDP)**, a coalition of UN organizations aimed at helping meet the Sustainable Development Goals.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1969. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**

**Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC):**

1. It is the **highest decision-making body of the Defence Ministry on procurement.**
2. It was formed **in the year 2001 post-Kargil War.**
3. **Its chairman is the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).**

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

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

**Explanation:**



- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is the highest decision-making body of the **Defence Ministry** on procurement. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **The** main objective of the DAC is to **ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the armed forces** in terms of capabilities sought and time frame prescribed by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.
- It was formed after the **Group of Ministers' recommendations** on 'Reforming the National Security System', in **2001, post-Kargil War (1999)**. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- **Its** functions include giving in-principal approval of a 15-year Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) for defence forces.
- Its chairman is the Minister of **Defence**, Government of India. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Its members include the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

**Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding the Mekedatu Project:**

1. It is a **multi-purpose project proposed by Tamil Nadu.**
2. It is proposed at the **confluence of the Cauvery River with its tributary Arkavathi.**

**Which of the above given statements is/are correct?**

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

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

**Explanation:**

- The Mekedatu Project is a multi-purpose project proposed by Karnataka, which involves building a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district, Karnataka. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is about 90 km away from Bengaluru and 4 km ahead of the border with Tamil Nadu.
- The plan involves building a 99-metre-high, 735-metre-long concrete gravity dam, an underground powerhouse, and a water conductor system.
- The expected capacity of the dam is 66,000 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water
- Once completed, it is expected to supply over 4 TMC of water to Bengaluru city for drinking purposes.
- The estimated cost of completing the project is around Rs 14,000 crores, covering an area of over 5,000 hectares.

- It is proposed at the confluence of the Cauvery River with its tributary Arkavathi. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.50) JUICE (Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer) mission is aimed to explore Jupiter and three of its biggest moons - Europa, Callisto, and Ganymede. It is to be launched by which of the following space agency?**

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- European Space Agency (ESA)**
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

**Q.50) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

JUICE (Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer) mission is aimed at exploring Jupiter and three of its biggest moons - Europa, Callisto, and Ganymede. It is **to be** launched by **the** European Space Agency (ESA). aims to explore the possibilities of life in space and the origins of Jupiter. It will monitor Jupiter's complex magnetic, radiation, and plasma environment in depth and its interplay with the moons. It has been fuelled with mono-methyl hydrazine (MMH) fuel and mixed oxides of nitrogen (MON) oxidizer, which ignites when the two come in contact. Juice will use this propellant to make critical course manoeuvres on its journey. It will be packed with 10 instruments and will characterize Jupiter's ocean-bearing icy moons. It will be launched onboard the Ariane-5 rocket, a workhorse for the **European Space Agency**. **Hence, option c is correct.**

**Q.51) The Disaster Management Act of 2005** defines a disaster as a **catastrophe, mishap, calamity, or grave occurrence** arising from **natural or man-made causes** that result in substantial loss of life, destruction of property, or damage to the environment. Which of the following are included as Notified Disasters in India?

- Cyclone
- Avalanche
- Pest Attack and Frost
- Heat Wave
- Cold Wave

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- Only two
- Only three
- Only four

d) All five

#### Q.51) Solution (c)

##### Statement Analysis:

The Disaster Management Act of 2005 defines a disaster as a catastrophe, mishap, calamity, or grave occurrence arising from natural or man-made causes that result in substantial loss of life, destruction of property, or damage to the environment. The following 12 disasters are included as Notified Disasters in India:

- Cyclone
- Avalanche
- Pest Attack and Frost
- Cold Wave
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Fire
- Flood
- Tsunami
- Hailstorm
- Landslide
- Cloud Burst

Heat Wave is not included in it. **Hence, option c is correct.**

The 15th Finance Commission has also declined to include heat waves on the list of notified disasters. However, the commission does allow states to use up to 10% of their State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) funds for "local disasters" like heat waves, which states can notify on their own

**Note:** Presently the notified list of disasters eligible for National Disaster Response Fund/State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) assistance.

#### Q.52) Consider the following statements regarding the Tell Umm Amer Heritage site:

1. It is situated to the **south of Luxor city of Egypt.**
2. It is an ancient Christian monastery found by **Hilarion the Great.**
3. It is also known as the '**Monastery of Saint Hilarion**'.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.52) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis:**

- Tell Umm Amer Heritage Site is situated on the coastal dunes of the Nuseirat Municipality, just 10 km **south of the Gaza city of Palestine. Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- **It was** founded in the fourth century.
- It is an ancient Christian monastery founded by Hilarion the Great. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It was the first monastic community in the Holy Land, laying the groundwork for the spread of monastic practices in the region.
- The monastery occupied a strategic position at the crossroads of major trade and communication routes between Asia and Africa.
- It is also known as the 'Monastery of Saint Hilarion'. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.53) Recently India signed a 'Cultural Property Agreement' to prevent and curb the illicit trafficking of antiquities from India with which of the following country?**

- Australia
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- United States of America

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

Recently India signed a 'Cultural Property Agreement' to prevent and curb the illicit trafficking of antiquities from India with the United States of America. It is aligned with the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to which both countries are state parties. It restricts the importation into the United States of certain archaeological material ranging in date from 1.7 million years ago through 1770 CE and certain ethnological material, which may include categories of civic, religious, and royal architectural material, religious material and ceremonial items, and manuscripts ranging in date from 2nd century BCE to 1947 CE. **Hence, option d is correct.**

**Q.54) 'Right to Shelter' is protected under which Article of the Constitution of India?**

- Article 15
- Article 29
- Article 21

d) Article 14

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

**Statement Analysis:**

- The Right to Shelter in India is recognised as a fundamental right under the broader ambit of the Right to Life guaranteed by Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. **Hence, option c is correct.**
- This right ensures that every citizen has access to adequate housing, which is considered essential for living a life with dignity.
- It implies not just a roof over one's head but also includes adequate privacy, space, security, lighting, ventilation, basic infrastructure, and proximity to workplaces and social amenities.

**Q.55) Which of the following are the objectives of the U-Win Portal developed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare ?**

- It is aimed to create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- It is aimed at digitising India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).
- It is aimed at promoting the consumption of millet, coarse cereals, and unpolished rice.
- It is aimed at reducing the incidence of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls, and women.

**Q.55) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

- U-WIN is aimed at digitising India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). **Hence, option b is correct.**
- The platform will be used to register and vaccinate every pregnant woman, record her delivery outcome, register every newborn delivery, administer birth doses, and all vaccination events thereafter.
- The U-WIN is going to be the single source of information for immunisation services, updating vaccination status, delivery outcome, and reports like antigen-wise coverage, etc.

**Q.56) The Oparin-Haldane Hypothesis, Miller-Urey Experiment, and Panspermia Hypothesis are related to which of the following?**

- Cybersecurity

- b) Space Technology
- c) Evolution of Life
- d) None

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

- The Oparin-Haldane Hypothesis, Miller-Urey Experiment, and Panspermia Hypothesis are related to the Evolution of Life. **Hence, option c is correct.**
- In 1924 and 1929, Oparin and Haldane respectively suggested the first molecules making up the earliest life forms gradually self-organised from a “primordial soup” in a young earth’s tempestuous, prebiotic environment. This idea is today called the Oparin-Haldane hypothesis.
- Miller-Urey Experiment showed that in the right conditions, inorganic compounds could give rise to complex organic compounds. Under it methane, ammonia, and water were mixed and applied an electric current to produce amino acids, the building blocks of proteins.
- The Panspermia Hypothesis suggests that meteorites could have brought life's building blocks to Earth, supported by discoveries of extraterrestrial organic material and amino acids on asteroids.

**Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding the Amaravati School of Sculpture:**

1. It was developed and patronaged by Kushanas.
2. It was influenced by Greek or Hellenistic sculpture, hence it is also called Indo-Greek art.
3. Its sculptures are made of white marble and represent Buddha’s life and the lives of Buddha in both human and animal forms.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

- Amaravati School of Sculpture was developed in Southern India and was patronaged by Satavahanas. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It was developed in the Krishna-Godavari lower valley, in and around Amravati, Nagarjunakonda, Goli, Ghantasala, and Vengi.
- It was developed indigenously during the 3rd century BCE to 250 CE. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It was mainly influenced by Buddhist imagery.
- Its sculptures are made of white marble and represent Buddha's life and the lives of Buddha in both human and animal forms. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.58) Consider the following statements about the Namo Drone Didi Scheme:**

1. It aims to provide drones to 15,000 selected women SHGs for offering rental services to farmers.
2. Its implementation period spans from 2023-24 to 2025-26.

**Which of the above given statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.58) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**

- Namo Drone Didi Scheme aims to provide drones to 15,000 selected women SHGs for offering rental services to farmers. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Rs 500 crore has been earmarked for this initiative under the Union budget 2024-25.
- This scheme will empower women in rural areas by integrating them into the technological advancements in agriculture, thus fostering entrepreneurship.
- Its implementation period spans from 2023-24 to 2025-26. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.59) Consider the following statements about the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme:**

1. It is a flagship **export promotion scheme** of the **Ministry** of Finance for the promotion of Trade.
2. It aims to **refund to the exporters the embedded central, state, and local duties and taxes paid on inputs** that have **so far not been refunded** or rebated.

3. It is **open to both manufacturers and merchant exporters, without any threshold of turnover.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

- The Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme is a flagship export promotion scheme of the Ministry of Commerce, India. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It aims to boost domestic exports and **replace the** export incentive scheme, **Merchandise Exports from India (MEIS) scheme.**
- It aims to refund to the exporters the embedded central, state, and local duties and taxes paid on inputs that have so far not **been** refunded or rebated. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It covers physical exports as well as outbound shipments of services from India. Service providers can also claim refunds on applicable hidden levies.
- It will be implemented by Customs through a simplified IT System.
- It is open to both manufacturers and merchant exporters, without any threshold of turnover. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- The most important condition is that such goods should have been directly exported by such a person.

**Q.60) Consider the following statements regarding the Green Climate Fund:**

- 1. It is the world's largest **dedicated climate fund** which was set up at COP 16 held in **Cancun.**
- 2. It is an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).**

**Which of the above given statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.60) Solution (c)**



**Statement Analysis:**

- The Green Climate Fund is the world's largest dedicated climate fund which was set up at COP 16 held in Cancun. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It accelerates transformative climate action in developing countries through a country-owned partnership approach and use of flexible financing solutions and climate investment expertise.
- The GCF is a legally independent institution with a fully independent secretariat headed by an Executive Secretary.
- The Secretariat, located in Songdo South Korea, began its work in December 2013.
- It is an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.61) With reference to the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the first council set up after Independence by the Government of India in 1954.
2. It has a membership of around 3,000 companies spread across major textile clusters in India.
3. It promotes exports of raw cotton, cotton yarns, woven and knitted fabrics, home textiles, and technical textiles.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

- e) Only one
- f) Only two
- g) All three
- h) None

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

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Indian garment sector expects short-term gains due to the Bangladesh crisis.

- The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council was the first council set up after Independence by the Government of India in 1954. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is an autonomous, non-profit body dedicated to the promotion of exports.
- It is popularly known as TEXPROCIL has been the international face of cotton textiles from India facilitating exports worldwide.
- It has a membership of around 3,000 companies spread across major textile clusters in India. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- Its members are well-established manufacturers and exporters of cotton textile products like Cotton, Yarns, Fabrics, and Home Textiles, showcasing a dazzling array of products across the value chain.
- It connects international buyers with appropriate suppliers and facilitates interaction that enables them to source their specific needs.
- It promotes exports of raw cotton, cotton yarns, woven and knitted fabrics, home textiles, and technical textiles. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/indian-garment-sector-expects-short-term-gains-due-to-bangladesh-crisis/article68493026.ece>

**Q.62) Consider the following statements about the Landslide Atlas of India:**

1. It has assessed and ranked 147 landslide-prone districts in all the States and Union Territories of India.
2. It is prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).
3. Rudraprayag in Uttaranchal was ranked first in the landslide atlas.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Wayanad is ranked 13th, while Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, and Kozhikode are ranked third, fifth, seventh, and 10th, respectively, in the Landslide Atlas of India.

- The Landslide Atlas of India has assessed and ranked 147 landslide-prone districts in 147 districts in 17 States and two Union Territories. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Its database covers landslide-vulnerable regions of India in the Himalayas and Western Ghats.
- It is prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre, one of the centres of the Indian Space Research Organisation. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Satellite data of high to very high-resolution nature were extracted from IRS-1D PAN+LISS-III, Resourcesat-1, 2 and 2A LISS-IV Mx, Cartosat-1 and 2S, and aerial images were used in the mapping of landslides.
- Rudraprayag in Uttaranchal was ranked first in the landslide atlas. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/wayanad-was-among-kerala-districts-that-ranked-high-on-isro-landslide-atlas/article68467556.ece>

**Q.63) With respect to the Exercise Tarang Shakti, consider the following statements:**

1. It will be the largest international air exercise ever conducted in India.
2. It aims to strengthen strategic relations with our friends from the international community.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.63) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** IAF's largest multilateral exercise Tarang Shakti to see the participation of over 150 aircraft.

- The Exercise Tarang Shakti will be the largest international air exercise ever conducted in India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Phase one of the exercise will be conducted at Sulur in Tamil Nadu from August 6 to August 14 and four countries including France, Germany, Spain, and the United Kingdom will participate with their assets.
- Phase two will be held at Jodhpur in Rajasthan from September 1 to 14 and it will see participation from Australia, Bangladesh, Greece, Singapore, UAE, and the USA with their assets.
- It aims to strengthen strategic relations with our friends from the international community. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/iafs-largest-multilateral-exercise-tarang-shakti-to-see-participation-of-over-150-aircraft/article68469453.ece#:~:text=The%20Indian%20Air%20Force%20is,skies%20over%20Sulur%20and%20Jodhpur>

**Q.64) Consider the following statements regarding the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):**

1. The Chairman and other members of the UPSC are appointed by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
2. Any member of the UPSC shall hold office for a term of five years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
3. The Chairman or any other member of UPSC shall only be removed from his/her office by order of the Prime Minister of India.
4. Only two women have been chairperson of the UPSC since its inception.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.64) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Preeti Sudan was appointed chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) after Manoj Soni resigned from the post.

- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is the central recruiting agency in India. It is an independent constitutional body. The provisions regarding the composition of UPSC, the appointment and removal of its members, and the powers and functions of UPSC are provided in Part XIV of the Indian Constitution under Article 315 to Article 323.
- The Chairman and other members of the UPSC are appointed by the President of India. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Any person who has once held the office as a member of a Public Service Commission is ineligible for reappointment to that office.
- Any member of the UPSC shall hold office for a term of six years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The Chairman or any other member of UPSC may be removed if he/she:
  - is adjudged an insolvent.
  - engages during his/her term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his/her office.
  - is, in the opinion of the President, unfit to continue in office because of infirmity of mind or body.
- The Chairman or any other member of UPSC shall only be removed from his/her office by order of the President of India. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The President can suspend the Chairman or any other member from his/her office in respect of whom a reference has been made to the Supreme Court.
- Only two women have been chairperson of the UPSC since its inception. Ms. Sudan is only the second woman to head the UPSC since R.M. Bathew served as the chairperson from 1992 to 1996. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/former-union-health-secretary-preeti-sudan-to-take-charge-as-chairman-of-upsc-on-august-1/article68467375.ece>

**Q.65) Consider the following statements regarding Vietnam:**

1. It shares land borders with China to the north, and Laos and Cambodia to the west.
2. It shares maritime borders with Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia.
3. It borders the Gulf of Tokin on its northern coast.
4. Mekong River and Red River flow through Vietnam.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

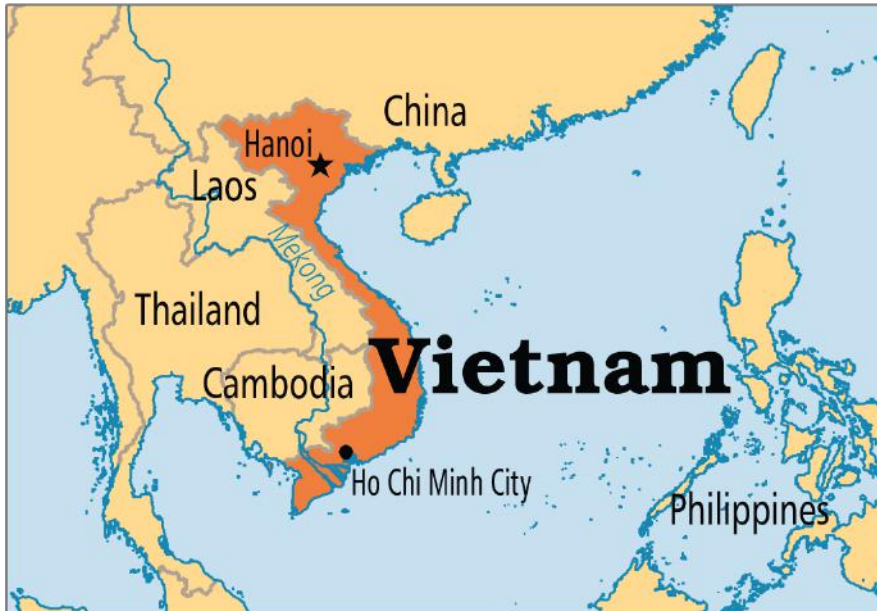
- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q.65) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** With the Vietnamese PM by his side, the Indian PM said India supports development and not expansionism — a thinly disguised reference to Beijing's belligerence in the Indo-Pacific.

- Vietnam shares land borders with China to the north, and Laos and Cambodia to the west. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Hanoi is its capital city.
- It shares maritime borders with Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Gulf of Tokin is a shallow, crescent-shaped body of water located in the northwest part of the South China Sea. It is known as "Beibu Gulf" in Chinese and "Bac Bo Gulf" in Vietnamese.
- It borders the Gulf of Tokin on its northern coast. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Mekong River and Red River flow through Vietnam. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**



Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/vietnamese-pm-by-his-side-modi-takes-dig-at-china-we-dont-support-expansionism-9490039/>

**Q.66)** It is located in the Junagadh district of Gujarat. It was declared as a sanctuary in 1965 and a national park in 1975. It is the only natural habitat of Asiatic lions. It is the largest compact tract of dry deciduous forests in the semi-arid western part of India. It is often linked with Maldharis who have survived through the ages by having a symbiotic relationship with the lion.

The above paragraph is related to which of the following National Park?

- a) Marine National Park
- b) Vansda National Park
- c) Velavadar National Park
- d) Gir National Park

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

#### Statement Analysis:

**Context:** The Gir Wildlife Sanctuary has reached its threshold and there is a rising need to develop other habitats, especially the Barda sanctuary in Porbandar, for the growing population of Asiatic lions.

Gir National Park is located in the Junagadh district of Gujarat. It was declared as a sanctuary in 1965 and a national park in 1975. It is the only natural habitat of Asiatic lions. It is the largest compact tract of dry deciduous forests in the semi-arid western part of India. It is often linked with Maldharis who have survived through the ages by having a symbiotic relationship with the lion. Maldharis are religious pastoral communities living in Gir. Their settlements are called nesses. **Hence option d is correct.**

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/gir-sanctuary-reached-threshold-nathwani-urges-govt-to-develop-other-habitats-for-lions-9491847/>

**Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding the European Commission (EC):**

1. It is an executive body of the European Union.
2. It is responsible for upholding the EU treaties.
3. The candidature of president is proposed by the European Council.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.67) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The newly constituted European Commission (EC), the executive arm of the European Union, elected Ursula von der Leyen, the EC's first female President, for a second term.

- The European Commission (EC) is an executive body of the European Union. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It operates as a cabinet government, with 27 members of the Commission. There is one member per member state. These members are proposed by member countries and the European Parliament gives final approval to them.
- It is responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties, and managing the day-to-day business of the EU. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Commission is divided into departments known as Directorates-General (DGs) that can be likened to departments or ministries headed by a director-general who is responsible to a commissioner High Representative (HR) of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is appointed by the European Council by voting and The President of the EC must be in agreement with the decision. HR is charged with shaping and carrying out the EU's foreign, security, and defence policies.
- Its president is proposed by the European Council.
- The selection of the EC President entails a two-stage process in consonance with the results of the parliamentary polls.
- The candidate is initially proposed and elected by the European Council — comprising the leaders of the EU's 27 member countries — and subsequently put to a secret ballot in parliament. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/election-of-the-european-commission-president-explained/article68474593.ece>

**Q.68) Consider the following places in Andaman and Nicobar Islands:**

1. Nancowry
2. Middle Andaman
3. Little Nicobar
4. Sentinel Island
5. Saddle Peak

**Arrange the above places from North to South:**

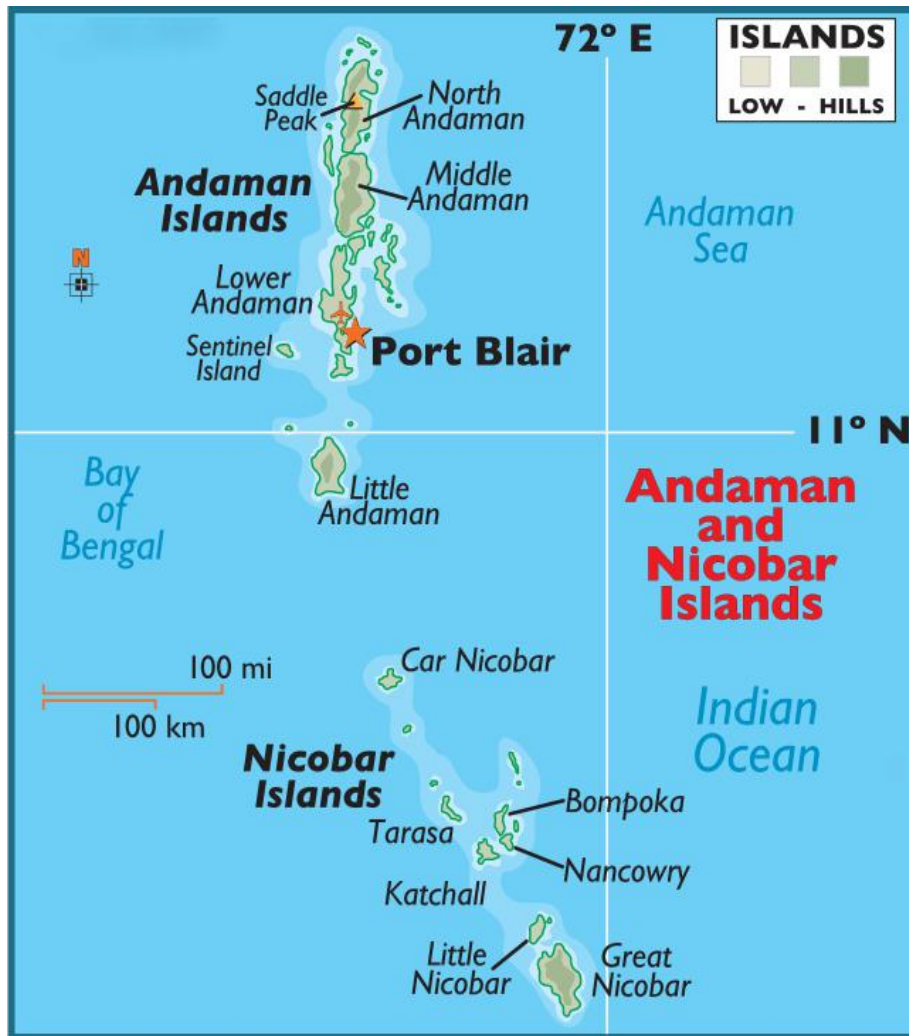
- a) 1-2-3-4-5
- b) 3-4-1-2-3
- c) 4-2-5-3-1
- d) 5-2-4-1-3

**Q.68) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Central government's Rs 72,000 crore Great Nicobar Island (GNI) infrastructure has faced legal challenges in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Calcutta High Court, which has jurisdiction over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.





Hence option d is correct.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/legal-cases-greater-nicobar-infra-project-9490929/>

**Q.69) With reference to the Indian Judiciary, consider the following statements:**

1. Nyaya Shruti is an automated system that facilitates court hearings through electronic media.
2. Nyaya Setu provides a unified legal interface for legal information, legal advice, and legal assistance.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.69) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation launched the e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti, and e-Summon apps for the three new criminal laws in Chandigarh.

- Nyaya Shruti is an automated system that facilitates court hearings through electronic media.
- It streamlines court hearings via video conferencing, sending alerts and links to police, prisons, prosecution, and forensics whenever summons or warrants are issued. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Nyaya Setu provides a unified legal interface for legal information, legal advice, and legal assistance.
- It enables a more inclusive and just society.
- It is connected with the police, prisons, prosecution, forensics, and designated access points. Whenever the court issues a summons or warrant, an alert is sent to the domain application, and a video conferencing link for judicial hearings is provided to all relevant individuals and officers. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Note:**

- The e-Sakshya app enables officers to capture and transmit crime scene evidence, witness information, and photos/videos securely to an evidence locker, linking it to the charge sheet for electronic access by the court.
- e-Summons electronically transmits court orders like summons and warrants to the police, who then receive and deliver them via their mobile devices.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/new-criminal-laws-biggest-reform-of-century-amit-shah/article68485457.ece>

**Q.70) Which of the following organisation develops the 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index'?**

- Reserve Bank of India
- National Institution for Transforming India
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

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

**Context:**

- The National Multidimensional Poverty is developed by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog). **Hence option b is correct.**
- It measures simultaneous deprivations across three equally weighted dimensions of Health, Education, and Standard of Living that are represented by 12 Sustainable Development Goals-aligned indicators.

**Q.71) Consider the following statements about the World Crafts Council:**

1. It is a New York-based organisation working on the recognition and preservation of traditional crafts across the globe.
2. It is a non-profit, non-governmental organization affiliated with UNESCO.
3. Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was part of the 1st World Crafts Council General Assembly.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Context:**

- The World Crafts Council is a Kuwait-based organisation working on the recognition and preservation of traditional crafts across the globe. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Its main objective is to strengthen the status of crafts in cultural and economic life.
- It aims to promote fellowship among craftspersons by offering them encouragement, help, and advice.
- It is a non-profit, non-governmental organization affiliated with UNESCO. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It fosters and assists cultural exchange through conferences, international visits, research studies, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and other activities.
- It was founded by Ms. Aileen Osborn Vanderbilt Webb, Ms. Margaret M. Patch, and **Smt Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay** at the 1st World Crafts Council General Assembly in New York on June 12, 1964.
- Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was part of the 1st World Crafts Council General Assembly. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.72) Which of the following are the benefits of Direct-Seeded Rice (DSR) and Zero-Tillage (ZT)?**

1. It reduces the environmental footprint by saving water.
2. It helps in making farming more climate-smart and sustainable.
3. It prevents pollution from stubble burning.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.72) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Jalna (Maharashtra)-based company and Savannah Seeds – the South Asian subsidiary of the Alvin (Texas)-headquartered RiceTec Inc. – have even formed a joint venture to take their Imazethapyr-tolerant 'FullPage' direct seeded rice (DSR) and 'FreeHit' zero-tillage (ZT) wheat technologies to farmers for making this cropping system "more climate-smart and sustainable".

Direct-Seeded Rice (DSR) and Zero-Tillage (ZT) use non-GM herbicide-tolerance technology. It allows for direct seeding of rice and zero-tillage planting of wheat.

Benefits of Direct-Seeded Rice (DSR) and Zero-Tillage (ZT):

- It involves direct seeding of rice without the need for nurseries, puddling, or transplanting. Herbicide Imazethapyr replaces water for weed control, reducing labour and water usage. It reduces the environmental footprint by saving water. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It helps in making farming more climate-smart and sustainable. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It uses zero-tillage technology, where seeds are sown directly without burning stubble or ploughing. Machines like the Super Seeder and Happy Seeder help in sowing without tillage.
- It prevents pollution from stubble burning. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- It holds promise for more sustainable and efficient farming practices.

**Q.73) Which of the following are the rules to include a drug under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)?**

1. Useful in treating diseases that are a public health problem in India
2. Licensed/approved by the Drugs Controller General (DCGI)
3. A safety profile based on scientific evidence
4. Comparatively cost-effective

Select the correct code using the codes below:

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

**Q.73) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:**

The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) is a list released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The medicines listed in the NLEM are sold below a price ceiling fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

Rules to include a drug under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM):

- Useful in treating diseases that are a public health problem in India
- Licensed/approved by the Drugs Controller General (DCGI)
- A safety profile based on scientific evidence
- Comparatively cost-effective
- Proven efficacy
- Aligned with the current treatment guidelines

**Hence option d is correct.**

**Q.74) With respect to the UNESCO Kalinga Prize, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the only international award from India in the field of popularisation of science.
2. It was founded by the president of the Kalinga Foundation Trust Shri Biju Patnaik.
3. It does not accept applications from individuals.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Science and Technology Ministry has withdrawn its contribution to the prestigious UNESCO Kalinga Prize for Popularisation of Science, UNESCO's oldest award, instituted through a donation by Odisha's former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik way back in 1951.

- The UNESCO Kalinga Prize is the only international award from India in the field of popularisation of science. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It was created in 1951 and given for exceptional skill in presenting scientific ideas to common people.
- It is administered by the Science Analysis and Policies Division of UNESCO.
- The recipient receives US\$ 40,000 and a UNESCO Albert Einstein Silver Medal. The recipient is also awarded the Kalinga Chair, introduced by the Government of India in 2001 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Kalinga Prize, which comprises a certificate and cash award of US\$5,000.
- It is funded by the Kalinga Foundation Trust, the Government of the State of Orissa, and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- It was founded by the president of the Kalinga Foundation Trust Shri Biju Patnaik. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Each member state is entitled to nominate a single candidate, through its National Commission for UNESCO, on the recommendation of the national associations for the advancement of science or other science associations, or national associations of science writers or science journalists.

It does not accept applications from individuals. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.75) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** The melting of polar ice caps due to climate change has led to a slight increase in the length of a day.

**Statement II:** As ice melts and flows towards the equator, the Earth bulges out slightly around the middle and its moment of inertia increases leading to the slowing of its spin. This leads to longer days.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to 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 Statement II is correct

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

**Explanation:**

**Context:** In yet another unprecedented effect of climate change, scientists find that the melting polar ice caps have caused the earth to spin slower.

- The melting of polar ice caps due to climate change has led to a slight increase in the length of a day. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- As ice melts and flows towards the equator, the Earth bulges out slightly around the middle and its moment of inertia increases leading to the slowing of its spin. This leads to longer days. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The slowdown of Earth's spin can impact precise timekeeping systems like atomic clocks, GPS, and technologies involved in space travel. Changes of even a few milliseconds can cause discrepancies in these systems.

**Q.76) Consider the following statements about the Index of Industrial Production (IIP):**

1. It tracks overall manufacturing activity in different sectors of an economy.
2. It is compiled and published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) annually.
3. It is currently calculated using 2011-2012 as the base year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.76) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The National Statistical Office also upgraded May's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to 6.2%, the highest in seven months, from its initial estimate of 5.9%.

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) tracks overall manufacturing activity in different sectors of an economy. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Three broad sectors in IIP are Manufacturing (77.6%), Mining (14.4%), and Electricity (8%).
- Electricity, crude oil, coal, cement, steel, refinery products, natural gas, and fertilizers are the eight core industries that comprise about 40 percent of the weight of items included in the IIP.
- It is compiled and published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) every month. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- CSO operates under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

- It is used by various government agencies such as the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), private firms, and analysts, among others for analytical purposes.
- It is currently calculated using 2011-2012 as the base year. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.77) With reference to Guillain-Barre Syndrome, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a rare autoimmune disorder that affects the central nervous system (CNS).
2. It affects the nerves responsible for muscle movement, pain, temperature, and touch sensations.
3. Its treatment involves procedures like plasmapheresis, which removes plasma and replaces it with other fluids.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.77) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Doctors of the Institute of Child Health (ICH) and Hospital for Children treated a two-and-a-half-year-old child, who was wheeled in with paralysis of lower limbs after testing positive for COVID-19. The girl was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), which is not commonly seen during early COVID-19 in children.

- Guillain-Barre Syndrome is a rare autoimmune disorder that affects the peripheral nervous system (PNS). **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It initially presents weakness, tingling, and numbness in the limbs, which can progress to paralysis lasting 6-12 months or longer.
- It affects the nerves responsible for muscle movement, pain, temperature, and touch sensations. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It can occur in individuals of all ages.
- As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), GBS is often preceded by an infection. This could be a bacterial or viral infection. This leads the immune system to attack the body itself.
- Its treatment involves procedures like plasmapheresis, which removes plasma and replaces it with other fluids. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**



**Q.78) The Global Food Policy Report of 2024 was released by the**

- a) World Health Organization (WHO)
- b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- d) International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

**Q.78) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:**

- The Global Food Policy Report of 2024 was released by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). **Hence option d is correct.**
- IFPRI is a research center of CGIAR, the world's largest agricultural innovation network.
- IFPRI was established in 1975 and provides research-based policy solutions to end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries.

**Q.79) Consider the following statements regarding the findings of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024:**

1. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has the top position in the 'Universities' and 'Research Institutions' categories.
2. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru has the top position in the 'Overall' and 'Engineering' categories.
3. IIM Ahmedabad has the top position in the 'Management' category while AIIMS, New Delhi has the top position in the 'Medical' category.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Ministry of Education announced the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024.

The findings of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024:

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has the top position in the 'Overall' and 'Engineering' categories. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru has the top position in the 'Universities' and 'Research Institutions' categories. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- IIM Ahmedabad has the top position in the 'Management' category while AIIMS, New Delhi has the top position in the 'Medical' category. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Jamia Hamdard has the top position in the 'Pharmacy' category, while IIT Roorkee has the top position in 'Architecture and Planning'.

**Q.80) With reference to Nankai Trough, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a subduction zone between two tectonic plates in the Atlantic Ocean.
2. It runs from Shizuoka, west of Tokyo, to the southern tip of Kyushu Island.
3. It is known as megathrust quakes as it often occurs in pairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Japan issues its first-ever 'megaquake advisory' as the likelihood of strong shaking and large tsunamis is higher than normal on the Nankai Trough, a subduction zone.

- Nankai Trough is a subduction zone between two tectonic plates in the Pacific Ocean. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- This underwater subduction zone is where the Eurasian Plate collides with the Philippine Sea Plate, pushing the latter under the former and into the Earth's mantle.
- It runs from Shizuoka, west of Tokyo, to the southern tip of Kyushu Island. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It has been the site of destructive quakes of magnitude eight or nine every century or two.
- It is known as megathrust quakes as it often occurs in pairs. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.81) Consider the following pairs:**

Folk Dance	State
1. Gotipua	Odisha
2. Raslila	Uttar Pradesh
3. Giddha	Punjab
4. Hurka Baul	Uttarakhand
5. Dhamyal	Haryana

**How many of the above pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

- a) Two pairs
- b) Three pairs
- c) Four pairs
- d) Five pairs

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

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Gotipua child artists, who experience the world as their stage and applaud as a constant companion, face an uncertain future when they hit puberty, leaving them without the skills required for a job.

Folk Dance	State
1. Gotipua	Odisha
2. Raslila	Uttar Pradesh
3. Giddha	Punjab
4. Hurka Baul	Uttarakhand
5. Dhamyal	Haryana

**Hence option d is correct.**

**Q.82) In the context of Indian Economy, consider the following statements:**

- 1. Food inflation refers to the increase in the prices of food items over time.
- 2. Headline Inflation is the measure of total inflation within an economy.

3. Climate-related issues and government policies on export curb can contribute to food inflation.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Economic Survey that preceded this year's Union Budget presentation makes a suggestion that has implications for inflation control. It is that the price of food be taken out of the inflation target that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is mandated with. In technical jargon, this would amount to targeting 'core' instead of 'headline' inflation, which is the practice now.

- Inflation refers to the overall increase in the prices of goods and services, coupled with a decrease in people's purchasing power.
- Food inflation refers to the increase in the prices of food items over time. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Food inflation in India is primarily calculated using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for food and beverages, a key measure tracking price changes of a typical consumer basket.
- Headline Inflation is the measure of total inflation within an economy. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It includes price rises in food, fuel, and all other commodities.
- The inflation rate expressed in Wholesale Price Index (WPI) usually denotes the headline inflation. Though Consumer Price Index (CPI) values are often higher, WPI values traditionally make headlines.
- Climate-related issues, increased fuel prices, supply chain disruptions, and government policies on export curb can contribute to food inflation. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.83) Consider the following statements regarding the International Criminal Court (ICC):**

1. It is a United Nations permanent judicial body.
2. It is headquartered in Hague, Netherlands.
3. It does not handle prosecutions of individuals.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.83) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Britain abandoned its intent to challenge the prosecutor's application for arrest warrants before the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Israel's Prime Minister and Defence Minister.

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a not United Nations body but has a cooperation agreement with the UN. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- When a situation is not within the Court's jurisdiction, the UN Security Council can refer the situation to the ICC, granting it jurisdiction.
- It is a permanent judicial body established by the Rome Statute (1998) to investigate, prosecute, and try individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression, and to impose prison sentences upon individuals who are found guilty of such crimes.
- It is headquartered in Hague, Netherlands. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- 123 nations are States Parties to the Rome Statute and recognize the ICC's authority. The notable exceptions are the US, China, Russia, and India.
- It is funded by contributions from the state parties and by voluntary contributions from governments, international organizations, individuals, corporations, and other entities.
- It handles prosecutions of individuals. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

The ICC is only competent to hear a case if:

- The country where the offence was committed is a party to the Rome Statute; or
- The perpetrator's country of origin is a party to the Rome Statute.
- The ICC may only exercise its jurisdiction if the national court is unable or unwilling to do so.
- The ICC only has jurisdiction over offences committed after the Statute entered into force on 1 July 2002.

**Q.84) Consider the following statements:**

1. Several EU member states such as Austria, Hungary, and Slovakia are still heavily dependent on Russian gas via the Ukrainian transit route.
2. The European Union has considerably cut the amount of Russian gas imports.

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

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

**Q.84) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic still receive Russian crude oil through the southern branch of the Druzhba pipeline — which passes through Ukraine — from Lukoil and other suppliers.

- Several EU member states such as Austria, Hungary, and Slovakia are still heavily dependent on Russian gas via the Ukrainian transit route. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Lukoil and other suppliers continue to deliver Russian crude oil to Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic via the southern branch of the Druzhba pipeline, which goes via Ukraine.
- The European Union has considerably cut the amount of Russian gas it imports, from approximately 40% in 2021 to 15% in 2024. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- In the first half of 2024, EU member states bought €11 billion worth of Russian oil and gas, with €3.6 billion from liquefied natural gas (LNG) and €4.8 billion from pipeline natural gas.

**Q.85) The Mosque City of Bagerhat, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is situated in**

- a) Myanmar
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Nepal

**Q.85) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The chaos in Bangladesh has shed light on Bangladesh's famous intricate terracotta Hindu temples from the medieval period.

The Mosque City of Bagerhat, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is situated in Bangladesh. The Mosque City of Bagerhat preserves the surviving monuments of Khalifatabad, a town built in the fifteenth century under the governorship of Khan Jahan Ali when the dominant power in the region was the Bengal Sultanate. Khan Jahan laid out his capital along the course of the Bhairab River, building mosques, water tanks, and a network of roads and bridges in an architectural style resembling the Tughlaq style of Delhi, adapted to the more tropical local climate. **Hence option b is correct.**

**Q.86) With reference to the Coffee Board of India, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a statutory organization constituted under the Coffee Act of 1942.
2. It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
3. It is headquartered in Bengaluru.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

**Q.86) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Coffee Board of India has started a special initiative to restore climate-resilient farming practices in Idukki.

- The Coffee Board of India is a statutory organization constituted under the Coffee Act of 1942. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It comprises 33 Members including the chairperson.
- It is mainly focusing its activities in the areas of research, extension, development, market intelligence, external & internal promotion, and welfare measures.
- It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It has a Central Coffee Research Institute at Balehonnur (Karnataka).
- It is headquartered in Bengaluru. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.87) Consider the following statements:**

1. International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) is an intergovernmental consultative and technical body to enhance navigation safety and protect the marine environment.
2. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) promotes international cooperation in marine sciences, capacity development, ocean observations and services, ocean science, tsunami warning, and ocean literacy.

3. India is a member of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.87) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:**

- International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) is an intergovernmental consultative and technical body to enhance navigation safety and protect the marine environment. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) promotes international cooperation in marine sciences, capacity development, ocean observations and services, ocean science, tsunami warning, and ocean literacy. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Its work contributes to UNESCO's mission to promote the advancement of science and its applications for economic and social progress.
- The IOC is coordinating the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030, also known as the "Ocean Decade."
- India is a member of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.88) With reference to the Clean Plant Programme, consider the following statements:**

- 1. The programme has been launched under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
- 2. It will not provide access to virus-free and high-quality planting materials.
- 3. The programme will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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



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

**Context:** The Cabinet approved the Clean Plant Programme (CPP), with an outlay of Rs 1,766 crore, under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

- The Cabinet approved the Rs 1,766 crore Clean Plant Programme (CPP) under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It will prioritise inexpensive access to clean plant material for all farmers, regardless of land size or socioeconomic background.
- The CPP will enable access to virus-free, high-quality planting material, resulting in higher agricultural yields and better earning opportunities. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The Programme will actively involve women farmers in its design and implementation, ensuring that they have access to resources, training, and decision-making power.
- The program will ensure that consumers receive high-quality, virus-free food, improving the taste, appearance, and nutritional content of fruit.
- The mission will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Programme will handle India's different agroclimatic conditions by producing clean plant varieties and technology tailored to each region.

**Q.89) Consider the following statements about the PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) Scheme:**

1. It is a central sector scheme for the upgradation and development of schools across the country.
2. It aligns with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020, striving to build a society characterized by equity, inclusivity, and pluralism.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.89) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Kerala Minister for General Education has indicated that the State will implement the PM-SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme though no final decision has been taken.

- The PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme for the upgradation and development of schools across the country. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Its objective is to establish over 14,500 PM SHRI Schools, overseen by the Central Government, State/UT Governments, local bodies, as well as Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS).
- These schools aim to create an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere for every student, ensuring their well-being and providing a secure and enriching learning environment.
- The goal is to offer a diverse range of learning experiences and ensure access to good physical infrastructure and appropriate resources for all students.
- It aligns with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020, striving to build a society characterized by equity, inclusivity, and pluralism. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The **pedagogy adopted** in these schools will be more **experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based** (particularly in the foundational years), **inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented**, learner-centered, **discussion-based, flexible**, and enjoyable.
- The schools will be **upgraded with labs, libraries, and art rooms**. They will be **developed as green schools** with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure, and integration of the organic lifestyle as part of the curriculum.
- The **duration** of the scheme is from **2022-23 to 2026-27**, after which it shall be the **responsibility of the States/UTs to continue** to maintain the benchmarks achieved by these schools.

**Q.90) In the context of the Indian Economy, the term “carry trade” refers to:**

- a) Transfer of goods and services in a country’s currency system not in US dollars.
- b) When money is borrowed from a country where interest rates are high and invested in a country where interest rates are low.
- c) When money is borrowed from a country where interest rates are low and invested in a country where interest rates are high.
- d) Trade between the countries excluding the trade of services

**Q.90) Solution (c)**

#### **Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** There was a sharp decline in the major stock markets across the world due to the unwinding of the yen carry trade.

In the context of the Indian Economy, the term “carry trade” refers to a situation when money is borrowed from a country where interest rates are low and invested in a country where interest rates are high. **Hence option c is correct.**

**Q.91) With reference to the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO), consider the following statements:**

1. It is owned and operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.
2. Sir Thomas Munro, the Governor of Madras had laid the foundation stone for KoSO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Astronomers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have found a new way to probe deeper into the sun's secrets by studying the magnetic field at different layers of the solar atmosphere using data from IIA's Kodaikanal Tower Tunnel Telescope.

- The Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO) is owned and operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Kodaikanal in the Palani hills of Tamil Nadu was picked for the observatory because of its good atmospheric conditions, based on surveys by Charles Michie Smith (a Professor of Physics at the Madras Christian College).
- Lord Wenlock, the Governor of Madras at the time, laid the foundation stone for KoSO in 1895. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The systematic observations at KoSO commenced on March 14, 1901.
- Initially, KoSO had telescopes to study sunspots, prominences, and solar radiation. Now, it has advanced instruments like the H-alpha telescope and the White Light Active Region Monitor (WARM) for high solar imaging.

**Q.92) Consider the following statements regarding the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS):**

1. It is a digital initiative of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. Its goal is to reduce farmers' reliance on pesticide retailers.
3. It utilizes Artificial Intelligence (AI) to analyze real-time data on pest infestations.

4. It connects farmers with agricultural scientists to enhance pest control.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- e) Only one
- f) Only two
- g) Only three
- h) All four

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

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Union Government launched the AI-based National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) that will help farmers connect with agriculture scientists and experts on controlling pests using their phones.

- The National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) is a digital initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It promises to reshape pest management practices and empower farmers across India.
- Its goal is to reduce farmers' reliance on pesticide retailers to foster a scientific approach to pest control. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It comprises a user-friendly mobile app and a web portal, ensuring accessibility for all farmers.
- It utilizes Artificial Intelligence (AI) to analyze real-time data on pest infestations. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- By leveraging real-time data and advanced analytics, NPSS enables accurate pest identification, monitoring, and management.
- It provides quick solutions to pest attacks and crop diseases, reducing crop losses and thus improving productivity.
- It connects farmers with agricultural scientists to enhance pest control. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- Its comprehensive pest incidence data and automated advisories will empower farmers with actionable insights, helping them make informed decisions.

**Q.93) Consider the following statements:**

1. It lies close to the Indo-Myanmar-China trijunction in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It is the only park in the world to have Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard, and Clouded Leopard.

3. The Noa-Dehing, a tributary of the Ganga River flows through the middle of the National Park.

Which of the above statements are correct regarding the Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve (NNP&TR)?

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

#### Q.93) Solution (a)

#### Explanation:

**Context:** Fifty-seven casual employees of **Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, India's easternmost tiger reserve** in Arunachal Pradesh, have been reinstated three months after their services were terminated.

- Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve (NNP&TR) lies close to the Indo-Myanmar-China trijunction in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is located between the Dapha Bum range of the Mishmi Hills and the Patkai range.
- It is the fourth-largest national park in India.
- It is located in the Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh, surrounded by Myanmar on the Southeast.
- It has a sub-tropical climate in which the mountainous part has a mountain type of climate while the low-lying plains and valleys experience a tropical climate.
- It is the only park in the world to have the **four Feline species of big cat** namely the Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*), Leopard (*Panthera Pardus*), Snow Leopard (*Panthera Uncia*), and Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis Nebulosa*). **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It has a mixture of evergreen forests, moist deciduous forests, sub-tropical forests, temperate forests, and alpine.
- Namdapha is the name of a river originating in the park and it meets the Noa-Dehing River.
- The Noa-Dehing, a tributary of the Brahmaputra River flows through the middle of the National Park. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

#### Q.94) Consider the following statements:

**Statement I:** Wolbachia bacteria have the potential to emerge as a groundbreaking strategy for vector-borne disease control.

**Statement II:** Wolbachia bacteria interferes with the reproduction process of mosquitos through a phenomenon called cytoplasmic incompatibility.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

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

**Q.94) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Dengue, a familiar threat in India, imposes a tremendous burden on the economy, estimated at around ₹28,300 crore in direct costs per year and 5.68 lakh years of young life lost annually which makes it necessary for developing innovative vector control methods with naturally occurring bacterium (**Wolbachia**) in fruit flies (**Drosophila melanogaster**).

- Wolbachia bacteria have the potential to emerge as a groundbreaking strategy for vector-borne disease control. **Hence statement I is correct.**
- The flies and mosquitos infected with Wolbachia bacteria are more resistant to RNA viruses such as West Nile virus, Chikungunya virus, cricket paralysis virus, flock house virus, and Norovirus.
- Because it interferes with the reproduction process of mosquitos through a phenomenon called cytoplasmic incompatibility. This incompatibility reduces the number of viable offspring of the mosquitos. Thus, the result is a potential decline in the mosquito population. **Hence statement II is correct.**
- **Hence, Both statements are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I**

**Q.95) Consider the following statements about Sri Aurobindo:**

1. His major works include The Life Divine and The Ideal of Human Unity.
2. He was involved in the Meerut Conspiracy Case.
3. He contributed articles to the English weekly called New India.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

**Q.95) Solution (b)****Explanation:**

**Context:** The Prime Minister paid homage to the revered philosopher, thinker, and spiritual leader, Sri Aurobindo, on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

- Sri Aurobindo's major works include The Life Divine, The Ideal of Human Unity, Essays on the Gita, Collected Poems and Plays, The Synthesis of Yoga, The Human Cycle, Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol, and On the Veda. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- He was the first political leader in India to openly put forward, in his newspaper Bande Mataram, the idea of complete independence for the country.
- He was involved in the **Alipore Conspiracy Case**. It is an attempt to murder the district judge of Muzaffarpur. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Alipore conspiracy case is referred to as the Murarupukur conspiracy or the Maniktala bomb scheme.
- In 1910, he left British India and found refuge in the French colony of Pondichéry (now called 'Puducherry') in southeastern India.
- He founded a community of spiritual seekers, which took shape as the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926.
- He devoted himself for the rest of his life to the development of his "integral" yoga. The main objective of his teachings was to increase the level of consciousness of people and to aware people of their true selves.
- He contributed articles to the **Bengali weekly Yugantar**. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- He used to write fearless articles for the English newspaper **Bande Mataram**.
- He started the **weekly English journal titled Dharma**, in which he tried to convey the message of Swaraj, or freedom from British rule.

**Q.96) With reference to Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a 3-stage launch vehicle configured with three Solid Propulsion Stages and a liquid propulsion-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM).

2. It is used to launch small-sized satellites weighing between 10 to 500kg into the Low Earth Orbit.
3. It is high cost with high turn-around time and cannot accommodate multiple satellites.

How many of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

**Q.96) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Hyderabad-based Ananth Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (ATL) announced that the EOS-8 satellite, successfully placed into orbit by the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), is the 100th satellite to which the firm has contributed parts.

*Here the question is asking for incorrect statements.*

- Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is a 3-stage launch vehicle configured with three Solid Propulsion Stages and a liquid propulsion-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- SSLV is 2m in diameter and 34m in length with a lift-off weight of around 120 tonnes.
- It is used to launch small-sized satellites weighing between 10 to 500kg into the Low Earth Orbit. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- SSLV is perfectly suited for launching multiple microsatellites at a time and supports multiple orbital drop-offs. They are best suited for commercial and on-demand launches.

It is low cost with low turn-around time and can accommodate multiple satellites. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Q.97) Consider the following statements:**

1. It poses a significant public health risk and affects more than one country.
2. It requires immediate global coordination.

Which of the above statement/s is/are criteria to be declared as a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization (WHO)?



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

**Q.97) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

**Context:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared mpox as a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC).

- A “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC) is a formal declaration by the WHO under the International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005.
- It refers to an “extraordinary event” posing a public health risk through the international spread of disease, potentially requiring a coordinated global response.
- PHEIC represents the highest level of alert issued by WHO under IHR.
- Since 2009, WHO has declared seven international public health emergencies, including the H1N1 influenza pandemic, polio outbreak, Ebola outbreak (West Africa), Zika epidemic, Ebola outbreak (Congo), COVID-19 and Mpox.

Criteria to be declared as a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization (WHO):

- It poses a significant public health risk and affects more than one country. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It requires immediate global coordination. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.98) With reference to the Krishi Decision Support System (DSS), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a geospatial platform **developed jointly** by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) **and the Department of Space**.
2. It provides near real-time information about soil moisture, water storage, crop conditions, dry spells, etc.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.98) Solution (b)****Explanation:**

**Context:** The Union Agriculture Ministry has launched a digital geospatial platform, Krishi-Decision Support System (DSS) which will share real-time data-driven insights on weather patterns, soil conditions, crop health, crop acreage, and advisories with all stakeholders — such as farmers, experts, and policymakers.

- The Krishi Decision Support System (DSS) is a geospatial platform developed jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and the Department of Space. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It captures minute details from the vast expanse of fields to the smallest soil particle.
- The platform provides seamless access to comprehensive data including satellite images, weather information, reservoir storage, groundwater levels, and soil health information, which can be easily accessed from anywhere at any time.
- It provides near real-time information about soil moisture, water storage, crop conditions, dry spells, etc. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **One nation-one soil information system** of Krishi-DSS will give comprehensive soil data with embedded information on soil type, soil pH (potential of hydrogen), soil health, etc.

**Q.99) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** El Nino is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

**Statement II:** El Nino leads to drier conditions in the Southern U.S., heavy floods in Australia, and good rainfall during the monsoon season.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to 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 Statement II is correct

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

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's latest data shows that the world has experienced its hottest July ever recorded. Some of the warming is due to El Nino and there is a distinct possibility that September will be cooler if La Nina keeps its date.

- El Nino is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- El Nino causes intense droughts in regions such as Australia, Indonesia, India, and southern Africa and heavy rainfall in places like California, Ecuador, and the Gulf of Mexico and triggers convective storms and hurricanes in the central Pacific.
- La Nina is a climate pattern characterized by the cooling of surface ocean waters along the tropical west coast of South America, resulting in a cooler surface in the eastern Pacific.
- La Nina leads to drier conditions in the Southern U.S., heavy floods in Australia, and good rainfall during the monsoon season. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Q.100) Consider the following countries:**

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Turkey
3. Yemen
4. Libya
5. Eritrea

How many of the above countries border the Red Sea?

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Context:** With no signs of a letup in threat to ships transiting the Red Sea, India's petroleum product exports to Europe have shifted entirely to the significantly longer and costlier, albeit safer, route around Africa via the Cape of Good Hope.

The Red Sea is bordered by six countries - Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, and Djibouti. **Hence option b is correct.**



**Q.101) Consider the following pairs:**

Island	Ocean/Sea
1. Spratly Island	South China Sea
2. Seychelles Island	Atlantic Ocean
3. Phi Phi Island	Andaman Sea
4. Canary Island	Indian Ocean

How many pair/s is/are correctly matched?

- a) One pair
- b) Two pairs

- c) Three pairs
- d) Four pairs

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

**Context:** China's coast guard accused the Philippines of deliberately crashing one of its ships into a Chinese vessel near Sabina Shoal, a new flashpoint in the increasingly alarming territorial disputes between the countries in the South China Sea.

Island	Ocean/Sea
1. Spratly Island	South China Sea
2. Seychelles Island	Indian Ocean
3. Phi Phi Island	Andaman Sea
4. Canary Island	Atlantic Ocean

Hence option b is correct.

**Q.102) Which of the following organisms perform a waggle dance for others of their kin to indicate the direction and the distance to a source of their food?**

- a) Butterflies
- b) Dragonflies
- c) Honey Bees
- d) Wasps

**Q.102) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

**Context:** Two scientists have flagged what they have called evidence of “problematic behaviour” in multiple scientific papers co-authored by Mandyam Srinivasan, emeritus professor of visual neuroscience at Queensland University, Brisbane. The papers are concerned with the honeybee waggle dance, a mode of communication between bees that plays a crucial role in pollination.

Honeybees live in colonies with one queen running the whole hive. Worker honeybees are all females and are the only bees most people ever see flying around outside of the hive. They forage for food, build the honeycombs, and protect the hive. Honeybees perform a waggle dance for others of their kin to indicate the direction and the distance to a source of their food. Hence option c is correct.

**Q.103) With reference to India-Malaysia Relations, consider the following statements:**

1. India and Malaysia have established a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
2. India and Malaysia are members of both BRICS and the ASEAN.
3. India will establish an Ayurveda Chair at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman in Malaysia.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

**Q.103) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** India and Malaysia decided to upgrade ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' during talks between the Prime Minister and Malaysian Prime Minister as part of a visit aimed at moving beyond several years of tensions over several issues.

- The existing Enhanced Strategic Partnership between India and Malaysia which was established in 2015, was upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2024. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- BRICS is an intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- The members of the ASEAN are Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- Malaysia is not a member of the BRICS and India is not a member of the ASEAN. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- India has noted Malaysia's designation of 2026 as Visit Malaysia Year.
- India will establish an Ayurveda Chair at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman in Malaysia to promote traditional medicine education and research. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.104) Consider the following statements regarding Ethanol Blending:**

1. Ethanol is an organic compound that is a clear, colourless, flammable liquid.
2. Ethanol blending can reduce India's oil imports and increase its energy self-reliance.
3. Ethanol is a less polluting fuel and offers equivalent efficiency at a lower cost than petrol.
4. India has set a target of blending 10% of petrol with ethanol by 2025-26.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

d) 1, 2 and 3 only

#### Q.104) Solution (d)

##### Explanation:

**Context:** India is on its way to achieving its target of blending 20% of petrol with ethanol by 2025-26, going by the milestones on blending percentages crossed so far and the increase in ethanol production capacity.

- Ethanol is an organic compound that is a clear, colourless, flammable liquid. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is one of the principal biofuels, which is naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration.
- Ethanol blending can reduce India's oil imports and increase its energy self-reliance. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **The Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP)** is aimed at **reducing the country's dependence on crude oil imports**, cutting **carbon emissions**, and **boosting farmers' incomes**.
- Ethanol is a less polluting fuel and offers equivalent efficiency at a lower cost than petrol. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- India has set a target of blending 20% of petrol with ethanol by 2025-26. **Hence statement 4 is incorrect.**

#### Q.105) Consider the following statements:

1. It aims to explore Saturn and its three large moons.
2. It has been initiated by the European Space Agency (ESA).

Which of the above-given statement/s is/are correct regarding the JUICE Mission?

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

#### Q.105) Solution (b)

##### Explanation:

**Context:** In a novel double manoeuvre, the JUICE probe will use the gravity of the moon to swing towards the earth and then use the earth's gravity to slow down.

- Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) mission is to explore Jupiter and its three large moons - Callisto, Europa, and Ganymede. These moons are of particular interest because they may harbour conditions that could support life. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is the first-ever lunar-Earth flyby combined with the first-ever double gravity assist manoeuvre.
- JUICE Mission has been initiated by the European Space Agency (ESA). **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It was launched in 2023 and will reach Jupiter and its moons by 2031, after an eight-year journey.

**Q.106) With reference to the National Geoscience Awards, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the most prestigious national award in the field of geosciences established by the Ministry of Mines.
2. Any citizen of India with a significant contribution in any field of geosciences is eligible for the award.
3. Its objective is to honour only teams and not individuals for extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in various fields of geosciences.
4. It is conferred once in five years in three categories - the National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement, the National Geoscience Award, and the National Young Geoscientist Award.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.106) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the National Geoscience Awards-2023 to 21 geoscientists at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre.

- The National Geoscience Awards are the most prestigious national awards in the field of geosciences established by the Ministry of Mines. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**



- It is a symbol of recognition and appreciation for exceptional individuals and organizations who have demonstrated excellence, dedication, and innovation in the realm of geosciences.
- Any citizen of India with a significant contribution in any field of geosciences is eligible for the award. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Its objective is to honour both teams and individuals for extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in various fields of geosciences. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- It is conferred every year in three categories – the National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement, the National Geoscience Award, and the National Young Geoscientist Award. **Hence statement 4 is incorrect.**

**Note:**

- Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering work in phosphorites and Precambrian geology.
- Dr. Ashutosh Pandey was honoured as the National Young Geoscientist for his research on the Eastern Dharwar Craton.

**Q.107) Recently, the PROMOT Portal was launched with the aim to**

- monitor railway projects online
- monitor hydropower projects online
- monitor thermal power projects online
- monitor road projects online

**Q.107) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Union Minister of Power and Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects – Thermal (PROMPT).

Recently, the PROMOT Portal was launched to monitor thermal power projects online. It was developed with the assistance of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). It offers a centralized platform to monitor all aspects of project execution, allowing for quick identification and resolution of potential issues. **Hence option c is correct.**

**Q.108) Consider the following pairs:**

River Water Disputes Tribunal	States
1. Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal	Chhattisgarh and Odisha

2. Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal	Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka
3. Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal	Maharashtra, Goa, and Karnataka
4. Ravi and Beas Water Disputes Tribunal	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan

How many pair/s is/are correctly matched?

- a) One pair
- b) Two pairs
- c) Three pairs
- d) Four pairs

**Q.108) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Karnataka Chief Minister has urged the union government to clear the decks for increasing the height of the Almatti dam by issuing a notification of the award of Justice Brijesh Kumar Krishna River Water Disputes Tribunal, enabling the riparian States to utilise additional allocation of waters.

River Water Disputes Tribunal	States
1. Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal	Chhattisgarh and Odisha
2. Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal	Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka
3. Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal	Maharashtra, Goa, and Karnataka
4. Ravi and Beas Water Disputes Tribunal	Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan

Hence option b is correct.

**Q.109) With reference to Poland, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It shares borders with eight countries.
- 2. Its capital city is Warsaw.
- 3. Its major mountain ranges are the Carpathians and Sudetens.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

**Q.109) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Indian Prime Minister visited Poland, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Poland in 45 years.

- Poland shares borders with seven countries. They are Germany, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Poland is a parliamentary republic with a prime minister who is the head of government and a president who is the head of state.
- Its capital city is Warsaw. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Polish is its official language.
- Its major mountain ranges are the Carpathians and Sudetens. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Its major rivers are Vistula and Oder.

**Q.110) With reference to the India-KLEMS Database, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an academic exercise financed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. It is used to measure industry-level total factor productivity (TFP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.110) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Recently, the Prime Minister claimed that India created “eight crore new jobs in the last three to four years”. The Prime Minister was using data from the India-KLEMS database hosted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- The India-KLEMS Database is an academic exercise financed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- KLEMS stands for Capital (K), Labour (L), Energy (E), Material (M), and Services (S).
- The RBI does not directly collect data on any inputs, including employment. Instead, it sources data from official sources like the Central Statistics Office, Census of India, Annual Survey of Industries, and Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS).
- It is used to measure industry-level total factor productivity (TFP). It is considered a measure of input efficiency in producing output by mainstream economists. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.111) Consider the following:**

1. Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary
2. Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary
3. Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve
4. Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary
5. Longwood Shola Reserve Forest
6. Tawa Reservoir

**How many of the above-given places are designated as Ramsar Sites?**

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

**Q.111) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Union Environment Minister announced three new Ramsar sites in Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh earlier this month, taking the total of such sites in India to 85. The new additions are the Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary the Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, and the Tawa Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh.

The sites/places designated as Ramsar Sites are:

- Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary
- Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary
- Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve
- Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary
- Longwood Shola Reserve Forest
- Tawa Reservoir

**Hence option d is correct.**

**Q.112) Consider the following statements:**

1. It is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India for the medical devices industry.
2. It works under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) is the head of the CDSCO.

**Which of the following is true regarding the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two

- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.112) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has granted approval to Siemens Healthineers for the manufacture of RT-PCR testing kits for the detection of Mpox, a senior Health Ministry official said.

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India for the medical devices industry. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is constituted under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, **CDSCO is responsible for,**
  - **Approval of New Drugs;**
  - **Conduct of Clinical Trials;**
  - **Laying down the standards** for Drugs;
  - **Control over the quality of imported Drugs** in the country;
  - **Coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations;**
- It works under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- CDSCO, along with state regulators, is jointly **responsible for the grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs** such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine, and Sera.
- Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) is the head of the CDSCO. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.113) Consider the following countries:**

1. Uruguay
2. Paraguay
3. Argentina
4. Peru
5. Suriname

**How many of the following countries border Brazil?**

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

## Q.113) Solution (d)

## Statement Analysis:

**Context:** The India-Brazil strategic partnership has "deepened and diversified" over the years and now spans a very wide range of domains, including defence, space, security, technology, and people-to-people relations, the External Affairs Minister said.

Brazil is bordered by Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana. **Hence option d is correct.**



**Q.114) With reference to Fixed-Dose Combination Drugs, consider the following statements:**

1. They are combinations of two or more active drugs in a single dosage form.
2. They reduce the number of pills the patient needs to take each day, and help improve adherence to the treatment.

3. They are meant for patients with conditions such as tuberculosis and diabetes for which they need to take multiple medicines regularly.

**Select the correct answer using the codes below:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The government has banned 156 fixed-dose combinations (FDC) drugs, including popular medicines such as Cheston Cold and Foracet, used for cold fever and pain respectively.

- Fixed-Dose Combination Drugs are combinations of two or more active drugs in a single dosage form. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- They reduce the number of pills the patient needs to take each day, and help improve adherence to the treatment. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- They are meant for patients with conditions such as tuberculosis and diabetes for which they need to take multiple medicines regularly. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.115) Consider the following statements about Tuberculosis (TB):**

1. It is caused by a bacterium known as Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
2. Isoniazid (INH), Rifampicin, Pyrazinamide, and Ethambutol (HRZE) are used to treat it.
3. The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) aims to strategically reduce the TB burden in India by 2030.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

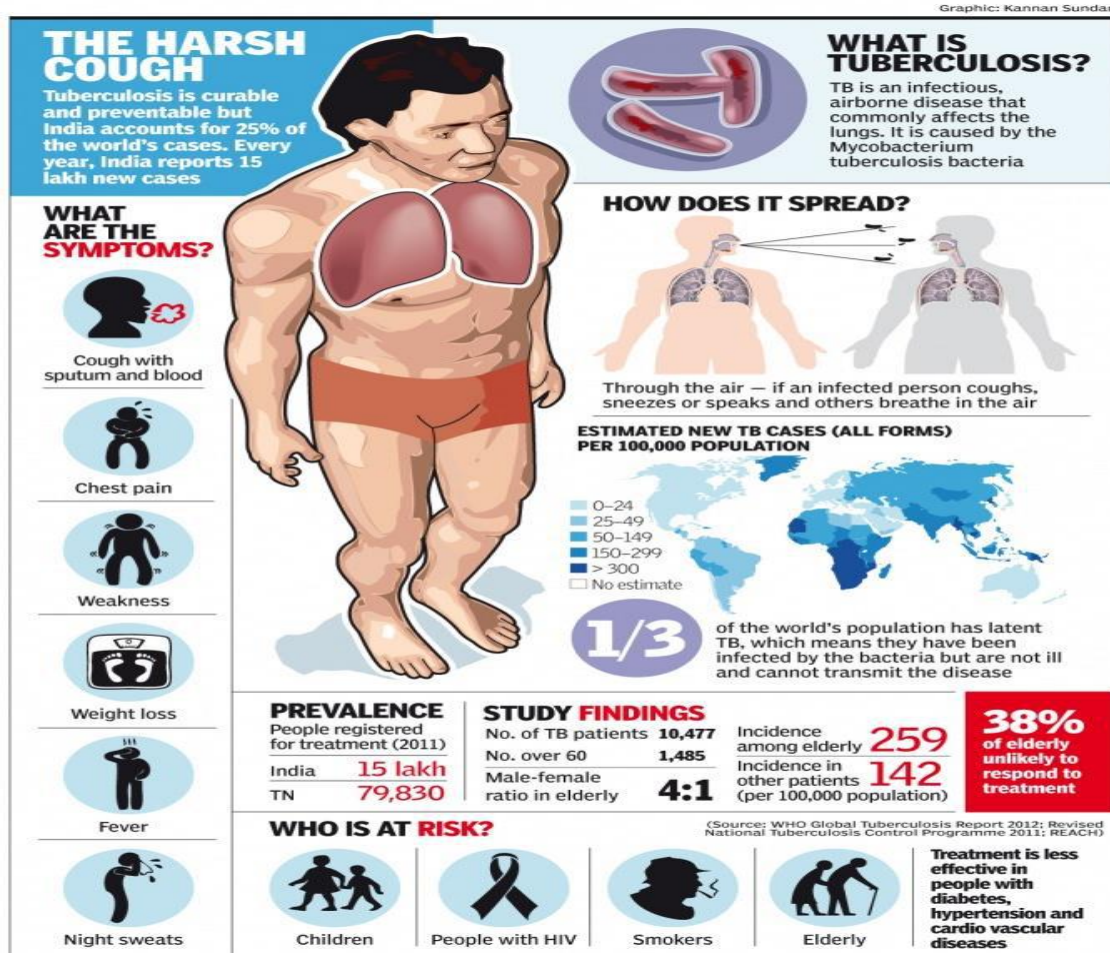
**Q.115) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**



**Context:** With the availability of game-changing new treatments, India must recast its TB-elimination programmes.

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium known as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a serious infectious and contagious disease that generally affects the lungs.
- TB bacteria spread through the air from one person to another.
- Isoniazid (INH), Rifampicin, Pyrazinamide, and Ethambutol (HRZE) are used to treat it. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) aims to strategically reduce the TB burden in India by 2025. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**



**Q.116)** With reference to the Chandipura Virus (CHPV) Infection, consider the following statements:

1. It is transmitted by various species of mosquitos.
2. It primarily affects elderly people aged above 50 years.
3. Currently, there is no specific antiviral treatment or vaccine for CHPV.



Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Context: The current outbreak of Chandipura virus (CHPV) infection in India is considered the largest in the past 20 years and while authorities are making efforts to control the transmission of CHPV, further transmission is possible in the coming weeks, considering the favourable conditions for vector populations during the monsoon season in affected areas, warned the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its latest disease outbreak news on acute encephalitis syndrome due to Chandipura virus (India).

- Chandipura Virus (CHPV) Infection is transmitted by various species of sandflies. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The CHPV is an arbovirus that belongs to the Vesiculovirus genus in the Rhabdoviridae family.
- CHPV was first identified in Chandipura village of Maharashtra in 1965 during a dengue outbreak.
- The infection remains endemic in central India, especially in rural and tribal areas with higher sandfly populations.
- It primarily affects children under 15 years old. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The virus resides in the salivary glands of these insects and is transmitted through their bites. CHPV can infect the central nervous system, potentially leading to encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain's active tissues.
- Symptoms resemble flu, including fever, body aches, and headache. It can cause altered mental state, seizures, encephalitis, respiratory distress, bleeding tendencies, and anaemia in advanced stages.

Currently, there is no specific antiviral treatment or vaccine for CHPV. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.117) Which of the following species is known as “killer whales”?**

- a) Humpback whale
- b) Orcas
- c) Blue whale
- d) Beluga whale

**Q.117) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The orcas have struck again — this time ramming a sailboat off Spain's northwest coast.

Orcas were given the name 'killer whale' by ancient sailors' observations of groups of orcas hunting and preying on larger whale species. They are the largest member of the Delphinidae family or dolphins. They are highly social, and most live in social groups called pods. They rely on underwater sound to feed, communicate, and navigate. **Hence option b is correct.**

**Q.118) With reference to the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP), consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to facilitate investments from both large anchor industries and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
2. It is serving as a catalyst to achieve the government's ambitious goal of \$20 trillion in exports by 2025.
3. It is implemented by the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.118) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** India will soon wear a grand necklace of Industrial Smart Cities as in a landmark decision, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister has approved 12 new project proposals under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) with an estimated investment of Rs. 28,602 crore.

- The National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) aims to facilitate investments from both large anchor industries and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is India's most ambitious infrastructure programme aiming to develop new industrial cities as "Smart Cities" and converge next-generation technologies across infrastructure sectors.

- It is serving as a catalyst to achieve the government's ambitious goal of \$2 trillion in exports by 2030. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Under this programme, the newly sanctioned industrial areas are Khurpia in Uttarakhand, Rajpura-Patiala in Punjab, Dighi in Maharashtra, Palakkad in Kerala, Agra and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, Gaya in Bihar, Zaheerabad in Telangana, Orvakal and Koppurthy in Andhra Pradesh, and Jodhpur-Pali in Rajasthan.
- The development of these industrial cities is envisioned as greenfield smart cities built to global standards, embodying the 'plug-n-play' and 'walk-to-work' concepts. This innovative approach ensures that the cities will be equipped with advanced infrastructure designed to support sustainable and efficient industrial operations.
- It is implemented by the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT). **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.119) With reference to the Gender Budget Statement, consider the following statements:**

1. It was introduced in the 2005-06 Budget and is structured into three main parts.
2. In the 2024-25 budget, the share of allocations to pro-women schemes has decreased to approximately 18% of the total budget expenditure.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.119) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Government has adopted Gender Budgeting as a strategy to incorporate a gender perspective in all stages of policymaking.

- The Gender Budget Statement was introduced in the 2005-06 Budget and is structured into three main parts. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- They are:
  - Part A: This section includes schemes and programs that have 100% allocation specifically for women.
  - Part B: This part covers schemes with more than 30% but less than 100% of their allocations directed towards women.
  - Part C: Introduced recently, this section reports pro-women schemes that have less than 30% provisioning for women.
- In the 2024-25 budget, the share of allocations to pro-women schemes has increased to approximately 6.8% of the total budget expenditure. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Q.120) Recently in the news, Waldrapp is a**

- a) Frog
- b) Snake
- c) Fish
- d) Bird

**Q.120) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Waldrapp has been on the brink of extinction over the past few decades. However, conservationists have recently employed an innovative method known as the "Airborne Foster Parents Approach" to reintroduce these birds into the wild.

Recently in the news, Waldrapp is a bird. It is also known as the Northern Bald Ibis and is a unique and rare bird with a distinctive look and important conservation status. It is a Medium-sized bird, about 70 to 80 cm long. It has a wingspan ranging from 125 to 135 cm. It has a bald red head and a long, curved red bill. Its feathers are mostly black with a shiny green or purple tint. It was originally found across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Now, they are mostly found in small areas of Morocco and Turkey. They prefer semi-dry areas near rivers or coastal cliffs and like open spaces with little vegetation to find food easily. They live in groups and are known for their grunting and croaking sounds. They feed mainly on the ground, using their long bill to find insects, worms, and other small animals. Sometimes, they also eat small reptiles, amphibians, and plants. They breed in colonies, often on cliffs or high places. They also build nests with sticks and line them with grass. They form strong, lasting pairs with a single mate. They are listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List due to major population declines. **Hence option d is correct.**

**Q.121) With reference to the Battle of Haldighati, consider the following statements:**

1. The Battle of Haldighati was fought between Babur and Rana Sanga.
2. It led to the establishment of Mughal Empire in India.

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

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

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

- Recently, there has been some political remarks on the basis of contesting arguments made by some historians regarding the outcome of Battle of Haldighati. In this context, this battle becomes important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The Battle of Haldighati was fought on 18 June 1576 between the army of Mughal Emperor Akbar and Maharana Pratap of Mewar. Akbar's army was led by Raja Man Singh I of Amber, while Maharana Pratap was supported mainly by the Bhil tribe in this war. **Hence, statement 1 is INCORRECT.**
- The First Battle of Panipat was fought between the invading forces of Babur and the Lodi Empire, which took place on 21 April 1526 in North India. It marked the beginning of the Mughal Empire. It was one of the earliest battles involving gunpowder firearms and field artillery. **Hence, statement 2 is INCORRECT.**

**Q.122) Consider the following countries:**

1. Iran
2. Syria
3. Egypt
4. Israel

Arrange these countries from West to East:

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

**Q.122) Solution (d)****Context:**

- Recently, the region of West Asia-North Africa (WANA) has been witnessing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. In this context, this entire region becomes important for UPSC from the perspective of mapping.

**Explanation:**

- The West Asia-North Africa (WANA) region is a geopolitical and cultural area that encompasses countries in the western part of Asia and the northern part of Africa. It includes countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, etc. This region is home to some of the world's oldest civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, and the Persian Empire. **Hence, option d is the correct answer.**

**Q.123) With reference to POSHAN Abhiyaan, consider the following statements:**

1. The POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to improve the nutritional status of children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
2. Under the scheme, PoshanVatikas are established to facilitate cost-effective access to a variety of fruits, vegetables, and herbs to promote proper nourishment.
3. The scheme targets the unique 1,000-day window of childbirth and pre and post-delivery support to mothers to reduce malnutrition.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

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

**Context:**

- September marks 'Poshan Maah 2024', and a nationwide celebration was dedicated to promoting nutrition awareness and driving action towards building a healthier India. In this context, the scheme of POSHAN Abhiyaan becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- To curb the malnutrition crises across the country, the Government of India in 2018 launched the POSHAN Abhiyaan (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic

Nutrition) to improve to improve nutritional status of children (0-6 years), adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The key elements of the POSHAN Abhiyaan include leveraging technology, fostering collaboration, and promoting behaviour change through public participation. Additionally, the establishment of PoshanVatikas or Nutri-gardens nationwide is a vital aspect, facilitating convenient and cost-effective access to a variety of fruits, vegetables, medicinal plants, and herbs to promote proper nourishment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to target the unique 1,000-day window of childbirth and pre- and post- delivery support to mothers to reduce malnutrition. Implementation of the POSHAN Abhiyaan is hinged on key pillars of supporting development of services for the vulnerable populations: Technology (ICDS-Computer application software), Convergence Action Planning, Behavioural Change Communication and Capacity Building. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.124) Which of the following statements are correct about India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):**

1. The India Semiconductor Mission aims for the development of sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem in the country.
2. It was launched under the aegis of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
3. Silicon and Germanium are the examples of semiconductors.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.124) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- According to a statement by the US Department of State, it will partner with the India Semiconductor Mission, Ministry of Electronics and IT, Government of India to explore opportunities to grow and diversify the global semiconductor ecosystem under the International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) Fund, created by the CHIPS Act of 2022. In this context, India Semiconductor Mission becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The India Semiconductor Mission is a comprehensive program for the development of sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem in the country. It aims to provide financial support to companies investing in semiconductors, display manufacturing and design ecosystem. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The India Semiconductor Mission was launched in 2021 with a total financial outlay of Rs. 76,000 crores under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY). It has been setup as an Independent Business Division within Digital India Corporation having administrative and financial autonomy to formulate and drive India's long-term strategies for developing semiconductors and display manufacturing facilities and semiconductor design ecosystem. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Semiconductors are materials which have a conductivity between conductors (generally metals) and non-conductors or insulators (such as ceramics). These are employed in the manufacture of various kinds of electronic devices, including diodes, transistors, and integrated circuits. Germanium and silicon are the most common examples of semiconductors. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.125) With respect to the Law Commission of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Law Commission of India is a constitutional body.
2. Its recommendations are binding on the government.
3. The first Law Commission of independent India was headed by M.C. Setalvad.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.125) Solution (a)**

**Context:**



- Recently, the Union government set up the 23rd Law Commission for three years to identify laws that have become obsolete and can be repealed. In this context, the Law Commission of India becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Union government. It can be referred to as an ad hoc body, which is constituted for the fulfilment of a particular purpose. It is not defined under the Indian Constitution and works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Commission is headed by a chairperson, usually a retired Supreme Court judge, and comprises legal experts, academicians, and senior advocates. The members are appointed for a term of three years, during which they focus on different areas of legal reforms. Its recommendations are not binding on the government. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The first pre-independence law commission was established in 1834 by the British Government in India. It was established by the Charter Act of 1833 and was chaired by Lord Macaulay. The first Law Commission of independent India was established in the year 1955 which was headed by M.C. Setalvad. Since the independence of India, there have been 22 Law Commissions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.126) Consider the following statements:**

- The historic fortified city of Jaipur was founded in 18<sup>th</sup> century by the Kachwaha Rajput ruler of Amber, Sawai Jai Singh II.
- Sawai Jai Singh II built Jantar Mantar (astronomical observatory) at New Delhi.
- Jantar Mantar situated in New Delhi is included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Q.126) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- Recently, it was announced that Jaipur's UNESCO heritage status will be strengthened with ₹100 crore expenditure on the project. In this context, Jaipur as a UNESCO World Heritage Site becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The historic fortified city of Jaipur was founded in 1727 by the then Kachwaha Rajput ruler of Amber, Sawai Jai Singh II. The city was established on the plains and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Sawai Jai Singh II built five astronomical units in North India and named them Jantar Mantar. He built five Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, Ujjain, Jaipur, Mathura, and Varanasi. These days Jai Singh's observatories at Jaipur, Varanasi, and Ujjain are functional. Only the one at Delhi is not functional and the one at Mathura disappeared a long time ago. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Jantar Mantar located in Jaipur (not in New Delhi) was completed in 1734 and it was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2010. It features the world's largest stone sundial, and attracts tourists, historians, astronomers, architects, mathematicians, and geographers. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.127) Consider the following fields:**

- Literature and education
- Sports
- Civil service
- Trade and industry

In which of above fields and disciplines, the Padma awards can be given?

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

**Q.127) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- Nominations for the Padma Awards-2025 will be closed after 15th September. In this context, questions can be asked by UPSC about Padma Awards in general.

**Explanation:**

- Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, is announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997. The award is given in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The awards seek to recognise “work of distinction”, and are given for distinguished and exceptional achievements and service in all fields and disciplines such as art, literature and education, sports, medicine, social work, science and engineering, public affairs, civil service, trade and industry among others. **Hence, option d is the correct answer.**

**Q.128) With respect to food irradiation, consider the following statements:**

1. Food irradiation involves exposing food, whether packaged or in bulk, to ionising radiation in a controlled environment.
2. It extends the shelf life of agrifood products, ensuring they reach consumers in optimal condition while reducing food losses.
3. It reduces the risk of food-borne illnesses by eliminating harmful microorganisms.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.128) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- To discourage hoarding and curb price volatility often sparked by supply disruptions, the government plans to use radiation technology on a large scale to increase shelf life of food items like onions. In this context, the concept of food irradiation becomes relevant for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Food irradiation involves exposing food, whether packaged or in bulk, to ionising radiation in a controlled environment. While the concept of using radiation for food preservation is not new — traditional methods like drying fruits, vegetables, shrubs, meat, fish, etc., under the sun have been used for preservation for centuries — modern interest in food irradiation technology surged after the Codex Alimentarius Commission, part of the Joint Food Standard Programme of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, established global standards. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The process of food irradiation typically requires just one exposure treatment to achieve the desired effects, which simplifies food safety practices, and contributes to cost savings in the food supply chain. It reduces the risk of food-borne illnesses by eliminating harmful microorganisms. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- This method reduces the risk of food-borne illnesses by eliminating harmful microorganisms. It also prevents spoilage by slowing down the process of decay and minimises food loss by delaying premature ripening, germination, or sprouting. It also reduces the need for chemical preservatives, contributing to a more sustainable food supply chain. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.129) The India Development Update Report, sometime seen in news is released by?**

- a) World Bank (WB)
- b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- c) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- d) International Labour Organisation (ILO)

**Q.129) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Recently, India Development Update Report was released by World Bank giving trends about performance of Indian economy. In this context, the basic information about this report becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The India Development Update Report is released by World Bank. According to World Bank's latest India Development Update: India's Trade Opportunities in a Changing

Global Context, the Indian economy continues to grow at a healthy pace despite challenging global conditions. But to reach its \$1 trillion merchandise exports goal by 2030, India needs to diversify its export basket and leverage global value chains. **Hence, option a is the correct answer.**

**Q.130) Consider the following statements about Loss and Damage Fund (LDF):**

1. The Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) was established at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP26 in Glasgow.
2. It aims to provide financial support to regions suffering both economic and non-economic losses caused by climate change.
3. It is overseen by a Governing Board, with the World Bank serving as the interim trustee.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.130) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- In the wake of the devastating landslides that recently struck Kerala's Wayanad district, a crucial conversation has emerged around whether subnational entities can seek compensation through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s Loss and Damage Fund (LDF). In this context, this fund becomes important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) was established at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP27 in Egypt. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) aims to provide financial support to regions suffering both economic and non-economic losses caused by climate change. These include extreme weather events and slow-onset processes, such as rising sea levels. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) is overseen by a Governing Board that determines how the Fund's resources are disbursed, with the World Bank serving as the interim trustee. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.131) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Cassini spacecraft was launched to explore the planet Saturn and its rings.
2. The Cassini spacecraft was jointly launched by NASA and ISRO.
3. Saturn is the only planet in our Solar System which has rings.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.131) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- According to new researches, the majestic rings of Saturn will disappear; though only briefly in March 2025. In this context, Saturn as a planet and the space missions launched to study Saturn become important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Cassini was a sophisticated robotic spacecraft sent to study Saturn and its complex system of rings and moons in unprecedented detail. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Cassini was one of the most ambitious efforts ever mounted in planetary exploration. It was a joint endeavour of NASA, ESA (the European Space Agency), and the Italian space agency (ASI). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Saturn is not the only planet in our Solar System that has rings. Interestingly, each of the four gas giants, viz. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune possess their own ring system. But Saturn's rings are the biggest and the brightest. Even the Earth had a small ring system in the distant past, and Mars may be getting one in the far future. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.132) With reference to the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), recently seen in news, consider the following statements:**

1. Unified Lending Interface facilitates the seamless flow of a customer's digitised financial and non-financial data from multiple data service providers to lenders.

2. It will bring down the time taken for credit appraisal, especially for smaller and rural borrowers without any credit history.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.132) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- Recently, RBI introduced the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) platform for seamless credit access, leveraging digital data for quick loan approvals and disbursements. In this context, the features of ULI become important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Unified Lending Interface (ULI) is a platform that facilitates the seamless flow of a customer's digitised financial and non-financial data from multiple data service providers to lenders, making credit underwriting seamless and customer journeys frictionless for a diverse range of borrowers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It will bring down the time taken for credit appraisal, especially for smaller and rural borrowers without any credit history. It will also will reduce the complexity of multiple technical integrations besides enabling borrowers to get the benefit of seamless delivery of credit and quicker turnaround time without requiring extensive and time-consuming documentation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.133) With respect to Global Digital Compact (GDC), sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements:**

1. The Global Digital Compact is proposed under the aegis of the United Nations to address the digital divide and foster a safe and inclusive digital environment.
2. The GDC aims to build a collaborative multi-stakeholder framework that strives to address the digital divide, advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.133) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- The increased focus of Global Digital Compact (GDC) on digital trust and security is referred as the key to the future of internet. In the context of its recently held meeting, the GDC becomes an important topic for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The Global Digital Compact is part of the Pact for the Future, which will be discussed and adopted at the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024. The objective of this compact is to ensure that digital technologies are used responsibly and for the benefit of all, while addressing the digital divide and fostering a safe and inclusive digital environment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The GDC aims to build a collaborative multi-stakeholder framework that strives to address the digital divide, advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and create a secure and inclusive digital environment. It also seeks to strengthen the international governance of emerging technologies, including AI, to ensure that they align with fundamental rights and values. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.134) The Goods Trade Barometer, sometimes seen in news is related to?**

- a) World Trade Organization
- b) World Economic Outlook
- c) European Union
- d) G-20

**Q.134) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Recently, Goods Trade Barometer was released by WTO which gave inputs about trends regarding world trade. In this context, basic information about it can be asked by UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The Goods Trade Barometer was formerly known as the World Trade Outlook Indicator. It is developed by the World Trade Organization and provides “real-time” information on trends in world trade. A reading of 100 indicates trade expansion in line with recent



trends. Readings greater than 100 suggest above-trend growth while readings below 100 indicate below-trend growth. This Barometer is updated on a quarterly basis. **Hence, option a is the correct answer.**

**Q.135) With respect to collegium system of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The First Judges Case (1981) introduced the Collegium system, which presently forms the basis of appointment of judges in higher judiciary.
2. Under the collegium system, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) has to consult 6 seniormost judges of Supreme Court while appointing judges of the Supreme Court.
3. The collegium system replaced the National Judicial Appointments Commission.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.135) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- Recently, the Supreme Court asked Himachal Pradesh HC collegium to reconsider names of two judicial officers for elevation as Judges.

**Explanation:**

- In the Second Judges Case, 1993 (Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association Vs Union of India), a nine-judge Constitution Bench overruled the decision given in First Judges Case, 1981 (SP Gupta Case) and devised a specific procedure called 'Collegium System' for the appointment and transfer of judges in the higher judiciary. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the CJI (Chief Justice of India) and comprises four other senior most judges of the court. A High Court collegium is led by the incumbent Chief Justice and two other senior most judges of that court. Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was a constitutional body proposed to replace the long-standing Collegium system of appointing judges. The NJAC was established by amending the Constitution [The Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014] but in 2015, the Supreme Court rejected the National Judicial Appointments Commission and the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.136) With reference to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), consider the following statements:**

1. Archaeological Survey of India was founded in 1904 by Lord Curzon, who also became its first Director-General.
2. It is governed under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act).
3. It functions under the supervision of Ministry of Culture.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.136) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- Quoting the examples of Fatehpur Sikri in Agra and Atala Masjid in Jaunpur, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) told a Parliamentary panel that having protected monuments which are also notified as Waqf property give rise to conflicts and administrative issues. The ASI made this argument during its submission to a joint committee holding consultations on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

**Explanation:**

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham- the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the "Father of Indian Archaeology." During the time of Lord Curzon, the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1904 was passed. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- For the maintenance of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance the entire country is divided into 36 Circles. These carry out archaeological fieldwork, research activities and implement the various provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 and Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It functions under the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation. It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance. Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, exploration and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and maintenance of protected monuments etc. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.137) Consider the following statements about National Board for Wildlife:**

1. National Board for Wildlife is a statutory Board constituted under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. It is chaired by Prime Minister of India.
3. The recommendations of the board are not binding on the government.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.137) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- In its first post-election meeting, held after a gap of five months in July end, the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has cleared projects such as a transmission line in Little Rann of Kutch, a controversial transmission line project in Goa's Mollem national park as well as a clutch of infrastructure projects in tiger corridors of central India, among others.

**Explanation:**

- National Board for Wildlife is a statutory Board constituted officially in 2003 under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. It serves as an apex body for the review of all wildlife-related matters and for the approval of projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The National Board for Wildlife is chaired by the Prime Minister and is responsible for promotion of conservation and development of wildlife and forests. The standing committee of the board is chaired by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The National Board for Wildlife is 'advisory' in nature and can only advise the Government on policy making for conservation of wildlife. However, without the approval or recommendation of the NBWL, construction of tourist lodges, alteration of the boundaries of Protected Areas, destruction or diversion of wildlife habitat and de-notification of Tiger Reserves, cannot be done. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.138) With reference to Polaris Dawn mission, recently seen in news, consider the following statements:**

1. The Polaris Dawn mission aims to revolutionise commercial spaceflight with a high-orbit mission.
2. It is launched by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in association with ESA (European Space Agency).
3. This mission aims to explore the possibility of water and oxygen on Mars.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.138) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Recently, SpaceX launched its daring Polaris Dawn mission, a multiday orbital expedition carrying a four-member civilian crew for the first spacewalk by non-professional astronauts.

**Explanation:**

- The Polaris Dawn mission aims to revolutionise commercial spaceflight with a high-orbit mission and the first-ever private spacewalk by non-professional astronauts. It is set to be the first non-governmental mission to conduct a spacewalk, reaching an unprecedented altitude of approximately 700 kilometres (435 miles) above Earth. This altitude surpasses that of the International Space Station (ISS), which orbits at about 400 kilometres. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- SpaceX will provide the Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon capsule for the mission. The spacecraft will attempt to break the altitude record set by NASA's Gemini 11 mission in 1966, which reached 1,373 kilometres. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Polaris Dawn is set to be the first of three missions under the Polaris program, a collaboration between Isaacman, the founder of tech company Shift4 Payments, and billionaire Elon Musk's SpaceX. The mission is spearheaded by billionaire entrepreneur Jared Isaacman, who previously financed and flew on SpaceX's Inspiration4 mission, the first civilian mission to orbit Earth. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.139) The 'BPaLM regimen' sometimes seen in news is related to?**

- a) Treatment of Hepatitis-B
- b) Treatment of HIV-AIDS
- c) Treatment of Polio
- d) Treatment of MDR-TB

**Q.139) Solution (d)****Context:**

- The Union Health Ministry has approved the introduction of a new treatment regimen known as BPaLM regimen for drug-resistant tuberculosis in India.

**Explanation:**

- The BPaLM regimen consisting of four drugs- Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid and Moxifloxacin has proven to be a safe, more effective and quicker treatment option than the previous Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) treatment procedure. It will help India to achieve the target of TB elimination by 2025, five years ahead of the global target for eliminating the disease under the Sustainable Development Goals. **Hence, option d is the correct answer.**

**Q.140) With reference to technical textiles, consider the following statements:**

1. Technical textiles are used primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than their aesthetic or decorative characteristics.
2. The technical textiles can be manufactured using man-made fibres only.
3. The Technical textile industry is recognised by government as a sunrise sector within the clothing segment.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.140) Solution (b)****Context:**

- Recently, the Union Minister for Textiles, while inaugurating a conference and exhibition on technical textiles in New Delhi, said that the Annual export of technical

textiles is likely to cross \$10 billion by 2030. In this context, the technical textiles become important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Technical textiles are defined as textile materials and products used primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than their aesthetic or decorative characteristics. The other terms used for defining technical textiles include industrial textiles, functional textiles, performance textiles, engineering textiles, invisible textiles, and hi-tech textiles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The technical textiles can be manufactured using natural (cotton, wood, jute, silk, etc.) as well as man-made fibres (nomex, kevlar, spandex, twaron, etc). These are classified into 12 major groups based on their application areas, viz. Agrotech, Geotech, Buildtech, Mobiltech, Hometech, Clothtech, Indutech, Meditech, Sportstech, Protech, Packtech, and Oekotech. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The government of India has recognized the Technical Textile industry as a Sunrise sector within the other segments of textiles & Clothing in India. Technical textile accounts for approximately 13% of India's total textile and apparel market and contributes to India's GDP at 0.7%. There is a huge potential to fulfil a large demand gap as the consumption of technical textiles in India is still only at 5-10% against 30-70% in some of the advanced countries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.141) Which of the following best describes 'Zorawar' recently developed by Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO)?**

- It is an indigenously developed Satellite System
- It is an indigenously developed Light Tank
- It is an indigenously developed Aircraft Carrier
- It is an indigenously developed Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

**Q.141) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the preliminary automotive trials of the Indian light tank, Zorawar, meant for deployment in high-altitude areas. In this context, the fundamental features of the tank become important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Zorawar is an indigenously designed and developed Light Tank. It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro Limited. It is designed to operate in varying terrain, from high-altitude areas and marginal terrains to island territories. It will be equipped with all the modern technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, Drone Integration, a high degree of situational awareness, and amphibious operation capability. **Hence, option b is the correct answer.**

**Q.142) With respect to the Battle of Saragarhi, consider the following statements:**

1. The Battle of Saragarhi is considered one of the finest naval battles in history of the world.
2. This battle took place between Mughals and Portuguese in the early 16th<sup>th</sup> century.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.142) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- September 12 marks the 127th anniversary of the Battle of Saragarhi, regarded today as one of the finest last stands in global military history. In 2017, the Punjab government decided to observe Saragarhi Day on September 12 as a holiday. In this context, a question can be framed by UPSC regarding this battle.

**Explanation:**

- The Battle of Saragarhi is considered one of the finest last stands in the military history of the world. Saragarhi was the communication tower between Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan. The two forts in the rugged North West Frontier Province (NWFP), now in Pakistan, were built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh but renamed by the British. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In this battle, 21 soldiers were pitted against over 8,000 Afridi and Orakzai tribals but they managed to hold the fort for seven hours. Though Saragarhi was usually manned by a platoon of 40 soldiers, on that fateful day, it was being held by only 21 soldiers

from 36th Sikh Regiment (now 4th Sikh in Indian Army) and a non-combatant called Daad, a Pashtun who did odd jobs for the troops. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q.143) With reference to PM E-DRIVE Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles through substantial upfront incentives and the development of crucial charging infrastructure.
2. It will be implemented by Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.143) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister India has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) for implementation of a scheme titled 'PM E-DRIVE Scheme'. In this context, this scheme becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme has an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over a period of two years for promotion of electric mobility in the country. This scheme aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles through substantial upfront incentives and the development of crucial charging infrastructure. It also intends to reduce the environmental footprint, improve air quality, and build a competitive and resilient EV manufacturing industry. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Ministry of Heavy Industries will implement the scheme, offering subsidies through a dedicated portal to both buyers and manufacturers. An additional fund will be provided to public transport agencies for procuring around 14,000 e-buses, with demand aggregation managed by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) in nine major cities. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**



**Q.144) Consider the following statements about Port Blair:**

1. Port Blair will now be known as Sri Vijaya Puram.
2. It served as the naval base of the Chola Empire.
3. The Cellular Jail, also known as Kala Pani (Black Waters) was built by the British here.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.144) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- The Centre has decided to rename Port Blair as Sri Vijaya Puram. In this context the history as well as geography of the region becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Port Blair will be renamed by Union government as Sri Vijaya Puram. This move is aimed at shedding the colonial legacy associated with the former and to recognise Andaman and Nicobar Islands' contribution to the Indian freedom struggle. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Historical records suggest that the Andaman Islands were used as a strategic naval base by the Chola emperor Rajendra I in the 11th century. It was used to launch an attack on the Srivijaya Empire, located in present-day Indonesia. Chola invasion of Srivijaya was unique, marking a rare conflict in India's otherwise peaceful relations with Southeast Asia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The British built the Cellular Jail, also known as Kala Pani (Black Waters), to house Indian convicts, mostly political prisoners, in solitary confinement. With the strengthening of the Indian Independence Movement in the late 19th century, a huge cellular jail was established here by 1906. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.145) With reference to Mpox disease, consider the following statements:**

1. The Mpox, also known as monkeypox is a bacterial disease.

2. The first human case of mpox was recorded in 2020 in Europe.
3. The common symptoms of mpox are skin rash or mucosal lesions, which can last 2–4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, etc.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.145) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

- The Mpox, also known as monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus. There are two known types (clades) of mpox virus — one that originated in Central Africa (Clade I) and one that originated in West Africa (Clade II). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The first human case of mpox was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The human-to-human transmission of mpox can occur through direct contact with body fluids, lesions, prolonged face-to-face contact, including sexual contact, and indirect contact with contaminated clothing or bedding. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The common symptoms of mpox are a skin rash or mucosal lesions, which can last up to 2–4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes. There are no specific treatments for monkeypox virus infection. Early and supportive care is important to help manage symptoms and avoid further problems. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.146) The Chief Minister of Delhi submits his/her resignation to whom among the following?**

- a) The Prime Minister
- b) The President
- c) The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi
- d) The Supreme Court Judge

**Q.146) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Mr. Kejriwal met Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) V.K. Saxena and submitted this resignation.

- The Chief Minister of Delhi submits his/her resignation to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. **Hence option c is correct.**
- Article 239 AA was inserted in the Constitution by **The Constitution (69th Amendment) Act, 1991** to give **Special Status to Delhi** following the recommendations of the S Balakrishnan Committee that was set up to look into demands for statehood for Delhi.
- It says that the NCT of Delhi will have an **Administrator and a Legislative Assembly.**
- Article 239AA also notes that **L-G has to either act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers**, or he is bound to implement the decision taken by the President on a reference being made by him.
- **Article 239AA empowers the L-G to refer a difference of opinion** on 'any matter' with the Council of Ministers to the President.

**Q.147) With reference to the Nipah virus (NiV), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a zoonotic virus and can also spread from humans to humans.
2. It is a double-stranded, enclosed, negative-sense DNA virus.
3. There is currently no known treatment or vaccine available for humans or animals.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.147) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** NiV, with its periodic outbreaks in Kerala (fourth, now), has come to symbolise the fear and paralysis that encircle emerging diseases in modern times.

- The Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic virus and can also spread from humans to humans. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Humans can contract this virus through direct contact with infected animals, like bats, and pigs or it can spread through contaminated food.
- In Bangladesh and India, the main source of the Nipah virus is eating fruits, which are contaminated with the saliva of infected fruit bats.

- It is a single-stranded, enclosed, negative-sense RNA virus. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It is a member of the Henipavirus genus, which is part of the Paramyxoviridae family.
- The infected person shows **fever, head pain, muscle aches, nausea, and a scratchy throat.**
- It shows symptoms such as **dizziness, drowsiness**, and neurological signs suggestive of **acute encephalitis** may appear.
- Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), Immunohistochemistry (IHC), Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), and Serum neutralisation test (SNT) are some tests available to detect the virus.
- There is currently no known treatment or vaccine available for humans or animals. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- However, **Ribavirin**, an antiviral, may play a role in lowering mortality in patients with Nipah virus encephalitis. The main approach to managing the infection in people is **intensive supportive care** combined with symptom treatment.

**Q.148) Consider the following statements regarding the SUBHADRA Scheme:**

1. All eligible beneficiaries between the age group of 21-60 years would receive ₹50,000 over a period of five years between 2024-25 to 2028-29.
2. An amount of ₹10,000 per annum in two equal instalments will be credited directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Q.148) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Prime Minister launched Subhadra Yojana, a women-centric scheme of the Odisha government.

- Under the SUBHADRA Scheme, all eligible beneficiaries between the age group of 21-60 years would receive ₹50,000 over a period of five years between 2024-25 to 2028-29. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is named after Goddess Subhadra, the younger sibling of Lord Jagannath, the presiding deity of Odisha.
- The government has made e-KYC mandatory for the scheme. A **Subhadra Debit Card** will be issued to the beneficiaries.

- A total of 100 beneficiaries with the highest number of digital transactions in each gram panchayat and urban local body area will receive an additional incentive of Rs 500.
- Women from economically well-off families, government employees, and income-tax payees will not be eligible for the scheme.
- Women who receive assistance of Rs 1,500 or more per month (or Rs 18,000 or more per year) under any other government scheme will also be excluded.
- An amount of ₹10,000 per annum in two equal instalments will be credited directly to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-enabled and DBT-enabled bank account. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.149) With respect to the difference between a Hurricane and a Typhoon, consider the following statements:**

1. A hurricane is the name given to a tropical storm when it occurs in the Northwest Pacific Ocean.
2. A typhoon is the name given to a tropical storm when it occurs in the Northeast Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Q.149) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** While Typhoon Yagi has severely impacted multiple countries, including the Philippines, China, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand, it has hit Vietnam the hardest, where the death toll stands at around 233.

- NASA states that there is no actual difference between a cyclone, hurricanes, and typhoons. The three weather phenomena are the same thing, with each storm having a wind speed of more than 119 km/h (74 mph). The only difference between the three is that their names vary depending on where in the world the storm occurs.
- A hurricane is the name given to a tropical storm when it occurs in the Northeast Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Hurricanes frequently affect the Caribbean and the eastern coast of the United States.
- A typhoon is the name given to a tropical storm when it occurs in the Northwest Pacific Ocean. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Typhoons commonly affect Japan and the Philippines

- A cyclone is the name given to a tropical storm when it occurs in the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean.

**Q.150) With reference to Commons, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a term used to refer to resources that are not owned by any individual or group or the government, but belong to, and are shared by, the community as a whole.
2. Some examples of commons include forests, local ponds, grazing lands, rivers, and sacred sites.
3. No country is allowed to take ownership of these areas, even though everyone can use them for certain kinds of activities.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

**Q.150) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Delhi hosted a first-of-its-kind dialogue on the conservation, restoration, and governance of common resources such as forests, community lands, and water bodies like lakes or rivers, all usually referred to just as Commons.

- Commons is a term used to refer to resources that are not owned by any individual or group or the government, but belong to, and are shared by, the community as a whole. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Commons could be intangible too. Language, folk art or dance, local customs, and traditional knowledge are all shared resources and thus are Commons.
- Some examples of commons include forests, local ponds, grazing lands, rivers, and sacred sites. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- At the international level, the polar regions, the Arctic and Antarctica, are considered global Commons.
- Outer space, the Moon, and other planetary bodies are also global Commons.
- In the digital age, most Internet and open-source software are Commons.
- No country is allowed to take ownership of these areas, even though everyone can use them for certain kinds of activities. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.151) Precision Farming is a modern approach that uses smart technology such as the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, drones, and data analytics to boost production through maximal use of resources while minimising environmental impact.**

**Which of the following are the advantages of Precision Farming?**

1. It helps farmers to tailor inputs to meet the specific needs of crops, leading to improved yield and efficiency.
2. It requires significant investment in tools and infrastructure, which can be a barrier for small farmers.
3. It reduces the use of chemicals minimizes soil and water contamination, promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.151) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Centre is contemplating earmarking Rs 6,000 crore to promote precision farming, a modern approach that uses smart technology such as the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, drones, and data analytics to boost production through maximal use of resources while minimising environmental impact.

Precision Farming is a modern approach that uses smart technology such as the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, drones, and data analytics to boost production through the maximal use of resources while minimising environmental impact.

Advantages of Precision Farming:

- It helps farmers to tailor inputs to meet the specific needs of crops, leading to improved yield and efficiency. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It ensures judicious use of water, fertilizers, and pesticides, reducing waste and lowering production costs.
- It provides real-time data collection and analysis so farmers can make informed decisions, reducing risks related to unpredictable weather and crop diseases.
- It reduces the use of chemicals and minimizes soil and water contamination, promoting sustainable agricultural practices. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Challenges associated with Precision Farming:

- It requires significant investment in tools and infrastructure, which can be a barrier for small farmers. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Farmers need to be trained to use precision tools, interpret data, and implement the findings in their agricultural practices.
- Access to reliable internet connectivity, especially in rural areas, limits the adoption of precision farming in many regions.
- Processing and interpreting large amounts of data requires specialized software and skills, which are not always available to small-scale farmers.

**Q.152) Consider the following statements regarding Guru Amardas Ji:**

1. He divided the Sikh community into Manjis to facilitate the spread of Sikh teachings.
2. He abolished the custom of the Sati and Purdah system among the Sikhs.
3. He introduced the ceremony of the Anand Karaj Marriage.
4. He was a contemporary of the Mughal ruler Akbar.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.152) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Amid centenary events dedicated to the 450th Jyoti Jot Diwas (passing away day) of Sri Guru Amardas, the third Sikh Guru, a Nagar Kirtan (religious procession) was organised from Gurdwara Sri Tapiana Sahib, Sri Khadoor Sahib to Gurdwara Sri Baoli Sahib in Sri Goindwal Sahib as per ancient Sikh traditions.

- Guru Amardas Ji was born in 1479 at Basarke in Amritsar district, Sri Guru Amardas Ji was raised in an orthodox Hindu family.
- He was deeply inspired by the hymns of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji and adopted Sri Guru Angad Dev Ji as his spiritual guide.
- He was appointed as the third Guru (succeeding Guru Angad Ji) in March 1552 at the age of 73, he established his headquarters in Goindwal.
- He divided the Sikh community into Manjis to facilitate the spread of Sikh teachings. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- He reinforced the tradition of 'Guru ka Langar' (communal kitchen) by insisting that visitors eat before meeting him, promoting equality and community.
- He abolished the custom of the Sati and Purdah system among the Sikhs. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**



- He constructed a Baoli at Goindwal Sahib, making it a significant Sikh pilgrimage site.
- He introduced the ceremony of the Anand Karaj Marriage. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- He composed 869 verses (though some accounts state there were 709), including Anand Sahib, and Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji incorporated all these Shabads into the Guru Granth Sahib.
- He was a contemporary of the Mughal ruler Akbar. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- His interaction with Emperor Akbar led to the abolition of toll-tax (pilgrim's tax) for non-Muslims.

**Q.153) With reference to Telescope, consider the following statements:**

1. The primary function of a telescope is to enhance the brightness of celestial objects, measured by their light-gathering power.
2. Most telescopes are erected atop mountains because the higher we go, the less the air is disturbed.
3. The largest telescope to date is the Large Binocular Telescope (LBT) located in the Mauna Kea Observatory in Hawaii.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.153) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The modern telescope is a window into the universe, a sophisticated paintbrush in the hands of skilled astronomers that brings the fantastical wonders of the cosmos into view.

- The primary function of a telescope is to enhance the brightness of celestial objects, measured by their light-gathering power. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The brightness of celestial objects is quantified by their apparent magnitude. Its values are logarithmic, meaning each step represents 2.512 times more brightness than the earlier. The lower the apparent magnitude, the brighter the object; the larger the magnitude, the dimmer it is.
- Most telescopes are erected atop mountains because the higher we go, the less the air is disturbed. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The earth's tumultuous atmosphere interferes with the telescope's functioning and when starlight passes through the turbulence of air, it twinkles.
- Space telescopes are more than 400 km above sea level, allowing them to entirely escape atmospheric disturbances.

- The largest telescope to date is the Large Binocular Telescope (LBT) located at the Mount Graham International Observatory in Arizona, USA. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- It has two 8.4-m-wide mirrors and an effective combined aperture of 11.9 m.

**Note:**

- The Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) is under construction atop the Cerro Armazones in the Atacama Desert in Chile, as part of the European Southern Observatory. It has five mirrors and a combined aperture of 39.3 m. It is expected to be completed by 2028.
- The Subaru Telescope is an 8.2-m-wide Japanese telescope located at the Mauna Kea Observatory in Hawaii. It recently used 10 hours of exposure time to capture a faint celestial object with a visual magnitude of 27.7, which is 100 million times fainter than what any human eye can detect.

**Q.154) The Taiwan Strait also called as Formosa Strait is the gateway used by ships of almost every kind on passage to and from nearly all the important ports in Northeast Asia. It connects which of the following seas?**

- a) The Yellow Sea with the Sea of Japan
- b) The Sea of Okhotsk with the Sea of Japan
- c) The South China Sea with the Pacific Ocean
- d) The East China Sea with the South China Sea

**Q.154) Solution (d)****Statement Analysis:****Context:**

The Taiwan Strait also called as Formosa Strait is the gateway used by ships of almost every kind on passage to and from nearly all the important ports in Northeast Asia. It is a 180 km wide strait separating Taiwan and mainland China. The strait is currently part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north. The narrowest part is 130 km wide. The entire strait is on Asia's continental shelf. It connects the East China Sea with the South China Sea. **Hence option d is correct.**



**Q.155) With reference to Rapa Nui, consider the following statements:**

1. It is of volcanic origin located in the southeastern Indian Ocean.
2. It is part of Polynesia and is officially a territory of Peru.
3. It is famous for its large statues called moai.
4. Rapa Nui National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Select the correct answer using the codes below:**

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

**Q.155) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Rapa Nui genomes restore the real history of old, troubled people.

- Rapa Nui is a part of volcanic origin located in the southeastern Pacific Ocean. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**

- It also known as Easter Island, is one of the world's most isolated inhabited islands with a population of about 7,000.
- It consists mainly of three extinct volcanoes - Terevaka, Poike, and Rano Kau.
- It is part of Polynesia and is officially a territory of Chile. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It is a triangular island with an area of about 163.6 square kilometers.
- It has a temperate climate, with relatively cool temperatures throughout the year.
- It is famous for its large statues called moai. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Moai are shaped like large human heads and erected on stone pedestals. Some moai stand 40 feet tall and weigh 75 tonnes. They were carved in volcanic stone at quarries and then moved to their current locations across the island.
- Rapa Nui National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- This recognition helps preserve the island's cultural and natural heritage.

**Q.156) With respect to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), consider the following statements:**

1. It gives the armed forces special powers and immunity to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".
2. It can be applied only after an area has been declared "disturbed" under section 2 of the Act.
3. Only the President of India can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.

**How many of the above statements is/are incorrect?**

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

**Q.156) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** As ethnic violence continues, the Centre and the Manipur government are set to review the scope of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in the northeastern State.

*Here the question is asking for an incorrect answer.*

- The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) gives the armed forces special powers and immunity to maintain public order in "disturbed areas". **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- An area can be considered to be disturbed due to differences or disputes among different religious, racial, language, or regional groups or castes or communities.
- It can be applied only after an area has been declared “disturbed” under section 2 of the Act. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- A disturbed area is one that is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA. It can be invoked in places where the use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary.
- Under AFSPA, armed forces have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force, or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant, enter or search a premises without a warrant, and ban the possession of firearms.
- Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.
- The Central Government, or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory, can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Once declared ‘disturbed’, the region is maintained as disturbed for a period of three months straight, according to the Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1976. The government of the state can suggest whether the Act is required in the state or not.

**Q.157) Consider the following statements regarding “One Nation, One Election”:**

1. It means holding elections to Lok Sabha, all State Legislative Assemblies, and urban and rural local bodies at the same time.
2. The High-level Committee (HLC) on One Nation, One Election was chaired by Former President Ram Nath Kovind.

**Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Q.157) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Union Cabinet has cleared the proposal to hold simultaneous elections in India, as recommended by a high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

- One Nation, One Election means holding elections to Lok Sabha, all State Legislative Assemblies, and urban and rural local bodies at the same time. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The idea is to streamline the electoral process and reduce the frequency of elections, thus saving time and resources.
- The High-level Committee (HLC) on One Nation, One Election was chaired by Former President Ram Nath Kovind. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Note:**

One Nation one election was the norm in India until 1967. Simultaneous elections were conducted for the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies in 1952, 1957, 1962, and 1967. However, due to the premature dissolution of some Legislative Assemblies in 1968 and 1969, the simultaneous election cycle was disrupted. Further, in 1970, the Lok Sabha was dissolved prematurely, and fresh elections were held in 1971. All these events led to the breakdown of the cycle of simultaneous elections in India.

**Q.158) Pulikkali is a recreational folk art in which of the following Indian state?**

- a) Odisha
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Kerala

**Q.158) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Preparations are almost over for Pulikkali, the grand finale of Onam celebrations in Thrissur.

Pulikkali is a recreational folk art in the Indian state of Kerala. It is mainly practiced in the Thrissur district of Kerala. It is performed on the fourth day of Onam celebrations. The main theme of this folk art is tiger hunting with participants playing the role of tiger and hunter. Performers paint their bodies like tigers and hunters and dance on streets to the beats of traditional percussion instruments such as thakil, udukku, and chenda. It was introduced by Maharaja Rama Varma Sakthan Thampuran, the then Maharaja of Cochin. **Hence option d is correct.**

**Q.159) India and Pakistan signed the 'Indus Water Treaty (IWT)' in September, 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory to the pact. As per the IWT, on which rivers water does India have an absolute claim?**

- a) Indus, Chenab and Jhelum

- b) Jhelum, Sutlej and Chenab
- c) Ravi, Beas and Sutlej
- d) Chenab, Beas and Jhelum

**Q.159) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** India and Pakistan are at odds over renegotiating the 64-year-old Indus Water Treaty, risking the future of the Permanent Indus Commission.

The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan signed on September 19, 1960. It was signed by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan. According to the treaty, all the water of eastern rivers- Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej shall be available for unrestricted use in India. The waters of the Western rivers - Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab were allocated to Pakistan except for specified domestic, non-consumptive, and agricultural use permitted to India as provided in the Treaty. **Hence option c is correct.**

**Q.160) With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an umbrella scheme aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.
2. It has two components and states can choose whichever one they wish to implement.

**Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Q.160) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of schemes of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA).

- The Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) is an umbrella scheme aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It has three components and states can choose whichever one they wish to implement. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The three components are:



- Price Support Scheme (PSS): Under this physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds, and copra is to be done by Central Nodal Agencies in collaboration with state governments. Both the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) take up PSS operations in states.
- Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS): This is based on the recommendations of NITI Aayog which suggested "Price Deficiency Payment" for implementation of MSP in crops where procurement is poor.
- Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS): Under this scheme, participation of the private sector in procurement operations will be piloted. States have the option to roll out the scheme on a pilot basis in selected districts/APMCs involving private stockists.

**Q.161) Consider the following statements about Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM):**

1. It is a disease caused usually by infection with *Naegleria fowleri*, a microscopic amoeba.
2. It destroys brain tissue, causing severe brain swelling and death in most cases.
3. It does not spread from person to person, nor does it manifest symptoms when contracted in other forms.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

**Q.161) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Despite reporting an unusually high number of 19 cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis in five months, Kerala also managed to create a medical history of sorts because it managed to save 14 out of the 19 cases, bringing down the mortality rate of amoebic encephalitis, from the global rate of 97% to 26%.

- Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a disease caused usually by infection with *Naegleria fowleri*, a microscopic amoeba. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- *Naegleria fowleri*, commonly known as "brain-eating amoeba," is a single-cell organism. It is found in a warm freshwater environment such as lakes, hot springs, and even in poorly maintained swimming pools.
- It destroys brain tissue, causing severe brain swelling and death in most cases. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**



- The amoeba enters the human body through the nose and then travels up to the brain. This can usually happen when someone goes for a swim, or dive, or even when they dip their head in a freshwater body.
- It does not spread from person to person, nor does it manifest symptoms when contracted in other forms.
- The infection is primarily associated with a warm freshwater environment, especially during hot summer months when water temperatures are higher. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.162) With reference to Yamuna River, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the major tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
2. It flows through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana.
3. It passes through Delhi, where it feeds the Agra Canal.
4. Its tributaries include the Hindon, Sarda, and Giri Rivers.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.162) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) observed that “not even a single effective step has been taken at the ground level for demarcation of the Yamuna floodplain on the 22-km stretch” from Wazirabad to Palla.

- Yamuna River is the major tributary of the Ganges River. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It rises in the high Himalayas, in the Yamunotri Glacier, at a height of 4,421 meters.
- The 1,376 km long Yamuna flows solely through India.
- It flows through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Near Prayagraj (Allahabad)**, after a course of about 855 miles (1,376 km), the Yamuna **joins the Ganges River**. The confluence of the two rivers is an especially **sacred place** to Hindus and is the site of annual festivals as well as the **Kumbh Mela**, which is held every 12 years.
- It passes through Delhi, where it feeds the Agra Canal. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

- Near Dehradun, the capital city of Uttarakhand, the Yamuna is **joined by its biggest tributary, the Tons River.**
- The **Chambal River** is Yamuna's biggest tributary on the right.
- Its tributaries include the Hindon, Sarda, and Giri Rivers. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

**Q.163) Consider the following statements regarding Amur Falcons:**

1. They breed in South-Eastern Siberia and Northern China before migrating across India.
2. They are known as 'Kahuaipuina' in Manipur and 'Molulem' in Nagaland.
3. They are listed as critically endangered under IUCN's Red Data List.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.163) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** As Manipur's Tamenglong district gears up to welcome its winged guests, the Amur falcon (*Falco Amurensis*), the district administration imposed a ban on hunting, catching, killing, and selling of the bird, locally known as 'Kahuaipuina', with immediate effect.

- Amur Falcons are small raptors (predatory birds) of the falcon family.
- They breed in South-Eastern Siberia and Northern China before migrating across India and over the Arabian Sea to winter on Southern and East African coasts. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- They get their name from the Amur River which forms the border between Russia and China.
- They are known as 'Kahuaipuina' in Manipur and 'Molulem' in Nagaland. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- They are locally known as Akhuipuina, and they arrive in northeastern parts mainly in Manipur and Nagaland of India, from Siberia and stay about two months in India before they head for warmer climates in Kenya and South Africa in a non-stop flight over the Arabian Sea.
- Doyang Lake in Nagaland is better known as a stopover for the Amur falcons during their annual migration from their breeding grounds to warmer South Africa. Thus, Nagaland is also known as the "Falcon Capital of the World".
- They are listed as least concern under IUCN's Red Data List. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

- They are protected under **the Wildlife Protection Act 1972** and included under its **Schedule IV**.
- They are also listed in Appendix II of CITES.

**Q.164) Consider the following pairs:**

Revolution	Product
1. White Revolution	Milk
2. Yellow Revolution	Fish
3. Black Revolution	Petroleum
4. Grey Revolution	Fertilizers

How many pair/s is/are correctly matched?

- One pair
- Two pairs
- Three pairs
- Four pairs

**Q.164) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Home Minister said White Revolution 2.0 will help the inclusion of women engaged in the procurement of milk in formal employment as the money will be deposited in their bank accounts.

Revolution	Product
1. White Revolution	Milk
2. Yellow Revolution	Oilseed
3. Black Revolution	Petroleum
4. Grey Revolution	Fertilizers
5. Green Revolution	Food grains
6. Pink Revolution	Onion/Prawn
7. Round Revolution	Potato
8. Blue Revolution	Fish
9. Brown Revolution	Leather/Cocoa
10. Golden Revolution	Fruits/Honey/Horticulture
11. Silver Revolution	Poultry/Egg
12. Silver Fiber Revolution	Cotton
13. Golden Fiber Revolution	Jute
14. Red Revolution	Meat/Tomato

**Hence option c is correct.**

**Q.165) With reference to the TRISHNA Mission, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a collaborative endeavour between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
2. It is engineered to deliver high spatial and temporal resolution observations of Earth's surface temperature, vegetation health, and water cycle dynamics.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Q.165) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The President of the French Space Agency, Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES), who is in India to participate in the Bengaluru Space Expo 2024, spoke on the sidelines of the event on a wide range of topics from celebrating 60 years of French-India space cooperation to the Gaganyaan and the TRISHNA missions.

- The Thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment (TRISHNA) Mission is a collaborative endeavour between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the French Space Agency CNES. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The satellite will operate in a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 761 km, with a local time of 12:30 PM at the equator. This orbit will provide a spatial resolution of 57 meters for land and coastal areas and 1 km for oceanic and polar regions. The mission is designed for a 5-year operational life.
- It is engineered to deliver high spatial and temporal resolution observations of Earth's surface temperature, vegetation health, and water cycle dynamics. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It helps in a comprehensive assessment of urban heat islands, detection of thermal anomalies linked to volcanic activity and geothermal resources, and precise monitoring of snow-melt runoff and glacier dynamics.
- It will also provide valuable data on aerosol optical depth, atmospheric water vapor, and cloud cover.

**Q.166) Consider the following statements about Pheromones:**

1. They are endo-hormones.
2. They are present in all bodily secretions.
3. They are used by fungi as attractants in reproduction.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

**Q.166) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Indian scientists developed a sustainable pheromone dispenser with a controlled release rate which could bring down costs of pest control and management.

- Pheromones are ecto-hormones, meaning they are secreted outside the body. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- They are chemical substances that are secreted on the outside by an individual, and received by another individual of the same species.
- They are present in all bodily secretions, and especially in the axillary sweat — which can be detected by the olfactory system. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Animals, with their heightened senses and **vomerol nasal organ**, are known to secrete pheromones to trigger many kinds of behaviours like raising an alarm, **signalling a food trail**, warning another animal to back off, and bonding with an offspring.
- They are used by fungi, **slime molds, and algae** as attractants in reproduction. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.167) With reference to Mali, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a landlocked country in West Africa.
2. Its capital is Bamako.
3. It is bordered by five countries.
4. Niger River flows through its interior.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only one

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

**Q.167) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

**Context:** An elaborate attack by an Al Qaeda affiliate in Mali's capital killed some 70 people, diplomatic and security sources.

- Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It has a monotonous landscape, with plains and plateaus dominating the country's topography.
- The landscape transitions from the Sahara Desert in the north through the Sahel to the zone of Sudanian savanna in the south.
- Its capital is Bamako. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It is **one of the hottest nations** on earth with an average temperature of 114.8 °F (46 °C) in the summer months.
- It is bordered by seven countries. They are Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Algeria, and Mauritania. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The languages spoken are Bambara, Dogon, Fulfulde, Manding, Arabic, Tuareg, French, etc.
- Niger River flows through its interior. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- There are **many ethnic groups** in Mali. The **largest of them is Bambara**, making up 36.5% of the population.
- It **gained independence from France** in 1960.

**Q.168) Consider the following statements about the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL):**

1. It is a statutory board constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972.
2. It is responsible for **issuing approvals for projects in protected areas (PAs)**.
3. It is **headed by the Prime Minister** and the **Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** as **vice chairperson**.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.168) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

**Context:** In its first post-election meeting, the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has cleared projects such as a transmission line in Little Rann of Kutch, a controversial transmission line project in Goa's Mollem National Park as well as a clutch of infrastructure projects in tiger corridors of central India, among others.

- The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is a statutory board constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The WLPA mandates that without the approval/recommendation of the NBWL, construction of tourist lodges, alteration of the boundaries of PAs, destruction or diversion of wildlife habitat, and de-notification of Tiger Reserves, cannot be done.
- It is responsible for issuing approvals for projects in protected areas (PAs). **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- While the act envisaged the board and the committee as advisory bodies, their powers, and responsibilities were increased in 2002 after the **Supreme Court ruled** that the **SC-NBWL had to approve all proposals** that sought permission for **“any activity” within a wildlife sanctuary.**
- The SC-NBWL **also makes recommendations on the setting up of and management of National Parks, Sanctuaries, and other PAs** and on matters relating to restriction of activities in those areas.
- In addition to offices and institutions directly involved in the conservation and protection of wildlife, the NBWL also has the **chief of army staff, defence secretary, and expenditure secretary** to the Government of India **as members.**
- Further, the central government **nominates 10 members** who are eminent **conservationists, ecologists, and environmentalists.**
- It is headed by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change as vice chairperson. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

**Q.169) Which of the following are the objectives of the Venus Orbiter Mission?**

1. Study of Venusian surface and subsurface
2. Study of Venus's atmospheric processes
3. Study of the influence of the Sun on the Venusian atmosphere
4. Study of the underlying causes of the transformation of Venus

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

**Q.169) Solution (d)****Explanation:**

**Context:** The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the development of the Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM), which will be a significant step towards the Government's vision of exploring and studying Venus, beyond the moon and Mars.

Venus Orbiter Mission is envisaged to orbit a scientific spacecraft in the orbit of planet Venus. India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be responsible for the development of the spacecraft and its launch. The mission is expected to be accomplished on the opportunity available during March 2028. The realization of the spacecraft and launch vehicle is through various industries. The total fund approved for the VOM is Rs.1236 Cr out of which Rs 824.00 Crore will be spent on the spacecraft. The objectives of the Venus Orbiter Mission:

- Study of Venusian surface and subsurface
- Study of Venus's atmospheric processes
- Study of the influence of the Sun on the Venusian atmosphere
- Study of the underlying causes of the transformation of Venus

**Hence option d is correct.**

**Q.170) With reference to Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024 (VSV 2.0), consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to reduce ongoing litigations related to income tax.
2. It excludes cases of undisclosed foreign income.
3. No prosecution will be initiated for cases resolved under the scheme.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.170) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

**Context:** The second edition of the Direct Tax Vivad se Viswas scheme 2024 (VSV 2.0) will be operational from October 1, the Finance Ministry has said in a notification.

- Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024 (VSV 2.0) aims to reduce ongoing litigations related to income tax. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**



- The primary goal of VSV 2.0 is to provide a cost-effective mechanism for settling disputed issues, thereby alleviating the burden of litigation on taxpayers and the judicial system.
- VSV 2.0 will enable taxpayers and the Income Tax Department to resolve disputes through a streamlined appeals process.
- It will provide a mechanism for filing appeals across various appellate forums, including the Joint Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals), the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), and higher courts.
- It covers cases with objections filed before the Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) where no final assessment order has been issued and pending revision applications before the Commissioner.
- Under the scheme, certain cases are excluded from eligibility, including those involving searches, prosecutions, and undisclosed foreign income. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- The scheme covers appeals, writ petitions, and special leave petitions pending as of July 22, 2024, and will waive penalties and interest for settlements, ensuring no prosecution will be initiated for cases resolved under the scheme. Hence statement 3 is correct.

Q.171) Match the following:

Geographical indication (GI) Tag	State
1. Tirupati Laddu	A. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Sadananda Shawl	B. West Bengal
3. Ancho Wooden Craft	C. Odisha
4. Kalo Nunia Rice	D. Andhra Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- 1-D;2-A;3-B;4-C;
- 1-D;2-A;3-B;4-C;
- 1-D;2-C;3-B;4-A;
- 1-D;2-C;3-A;4-B;

**Q.171) Solution (d)****Explanation:**

**Context:** The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) expressed anger over the reports of adulteration of animal fat in the Laddu prasad distributed at Tirupati temple and reiterated its position that Hindu temples and places of worship should be handed over to society rather than be controlled by governments.

Geographical indication (GI) Tag	State
1. Tirupati Laddu	Andhra Pradesh
2. Sadananda Shawl	Odisha
3. Ancho Wooden Craft	Arunachal Pradesh
4. Kalo Nunia Rice	West Bengal

Hence option d is correct.

**Q.172) With reference to the Food Import Rejection Alert Portal, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an online portal for notification of food import rejections at Indian borders.
2. It has been developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Q.172) Solution (a)****Explanation:**

**Context:** Various initiatives including Food Import Rejection Alerts (FIRA)- an online portal for notification of food import rejections at Indian borders and FICS 2.0 – an advanced website for the Food Import Clearance System, were launched during the 2-Day Global Food Regulators Summit.

- The Food Import Rejection Alert Portal is an online portal for notification of food import rejections at Indian borders. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is designed to notify the public and relevant food safety authorities about food import rejections at Indian borders.
- It will facilitate the rapid exchange of information among authorities worldwide on food safety and health risks stemming from rejected food.
- It will also enable relevant food authorities to **take immediate action** for the prevention and control of risks before they cause harm.
- It has been developed by the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- FSSAI is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.

**Q.173) Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) are specialized judicial bodies established under the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act of 1993 (DRT Act). DRT has which of the following powers?**

1. summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath
2. requiring the discovery and production of documents;
3. issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;
4. dismissing an application for default or deciding it ex parte;

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.173) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Finance Ministry asked banks to put in place effective monitoring and oversight mechanisms for efficient management of pending cases in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs).

Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) are specialized judicial bodies established under the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act of 1993 (DRT Act). Its primary mandate is to adjudicate and resolve disputes concerning debt recovery from banks, financial institutions, and other specified entities. DRTs can take cases from banks for disputed loans above Rs 20 Lakh. DRTs have the following powers:

- summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath
- requiring the discovery and production of documents;

- issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;
- dismissing an application for default or deciding it ex parte;
- receiving evidence on affidavits;

**Hence option d is correct.**

**Q.174) Consider the following statements regarding Paliparan Marshland:**

1. It is a freshwater marsh and partly saline wetland situated in Kerala.
2. It is one of **the Ramsar sites in India.**

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Q.174) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The bathymetric study is underway in and around Paliparan marshland to assess the volume of sludge that can be dredged to enhance the marsh's water-holding capacity and ecological functions.

- Paliparan Marshland is a freshwater marsh and partly saline wetland situated in Tamil Nadu. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It serves as an aquatic buffer of the flood-prone Chennai and Chengalpattu districts.
- It encompasses 65 wetlands, through two outlets, viz., Okiya Kadavu and the Kosalam Creek, and falls into the Bay of Bengal.
- On its eastern periphery, the Marsh is flanked by the Buckingham Canal.
- It is one of the Ramsar sites in India. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Ramsar Sites in India	State/U. T
Kalavati Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Longwood Shola Reserve Forest	Tamil Nadu
Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve	Karnataka
Anka Samudra Bird Conservation Reserve	Karnataka
Aghanashini Estuary	Karnataka
Tamara Lake	Odisha
Hikaru Reservoir	Odisha
Ansupa Lake	Odisha
Yashwant Sagar	Madhya Pradesh
Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex	Tamil Nadu
Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Thane Creek	Maharashtra
Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve	Jammu and Kashmir
Shellbug Wetland Conservation Reserve	Jammu and Kashmir
Nanda Lake	Goa
Karikili Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest	Tamil Nadu
Pichavaram Mangrove Forest	Tamil Nadu
Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve	Tamil Nadu
Vembanur Wetland Complex	Tamil Nadu
Vellode Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Udayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary	Karnataka
Sakhya Sagar	Madhya Pradesh
Sirpur Wetland	Madhya Pradesh
Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Satkosia Gorge	Odisha
Pala Wetland	Mizoram
Bakhira Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary	Haryana
Sultanpur National Park	Haryana
Haiderpur Wetland	Uttar Pradesh
Vadhvana Wetland	Gujarat
Thol Lake	Gujarat
Khijadiya Wildlife Sanctuary	Gujarat
Tso Kar Wetland Complex	Union Territory of Ladakh
Sur Sarovar	Uttar Pradesh
Asan Conservation Reserve	Uttarakhand
Kabartal Wetland	Bihar
Lonar Lake	Maharashtra
Saman Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh

Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Beas Conservation Reserve	Punjab
Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve	Punjab
Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	Punjab
Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Sandi Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Sarsai Nawar Jheel	Uttar Pradesh
Nandur Madhameshwar	Maharashtra
Sundarban Wetland	West Bengal
Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary	Gujarat
Upper Ganga River	Uttar Pradesh
Chandertal Wetland	Himachal Pradesh
Hokera Wetland	Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Renuka Wetland	Himachal Pradesh
Rudrasagar Lake	Tripura
Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Ashtamudi Wetland	Kerala
Bhitarkanika Mangroves	Odisha
Bhoj Wetland	Madhya Pradesh
Deepor Beel	Assam
East Calcutta Wetlands	West Bengal
Kanjli Wetland	Punjab
Kolleru Lake	Andhra Pradesh
Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Pong Dam Lake	Himachal Pradesh
Ropar Wetland	Punjab
Tsomoriri	Union Territory of Ladakh
Vembanad-Kol Wetland	Kerala
Sasthamkotta Lake	Kerala
Wular Lake	Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Harike Wetland	Punjab
Loktak Lake	Manipur
Sambhar Lake	Rajasthan
Chilika Lake	Odisha
Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan
Nagi Bird Sanctuary	Bihar
Nakti Bird Sanctuary	Bihar
Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Tawa Reservoir	Madhya Pradesh

**Note:**

The bathymetric study involves measuring underwater topography and is essential for developing comprehensive maps that can aid in determining the water storage capacity and flood patterns.

**Q.175) With reference to Sustainable Aviation Fuel, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a solid fuel made from renewable biomass and waste resources.
2. Its carbon footprint is significantly lower than aviation turbine fuel (ATF).
3. It can be produced from waste oil and fats, green and municipal waste, and non-food crops.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

**Q.175) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** India and Brazil, two leading biofuel producers, are well-positioned to collaborate on the production and use of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), by leveraging their existing ethanol and biodiesel production infrastructure, growing aviation market, and vast feedstock potential, including their agricultural resources.

- Sustainable Aviation Fuel is a liquid fuel made from renewable biomass and waste resources. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is 'sustainable' because the raw feedstock does not compete with food crops or water supplies, or is responsible for forest degradation.
- It has the potential to deliver the performance of petroleum-based jet fuel.
- Its carbon footprint is significantly lower than aviation turbine fuel (ATF). **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It is currently used in commercial aviation which reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 80%.
- It can be produced from waste oil and fats, green and municipal waste, and non-food crops. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- It can also be produced synthetically via a process that captures carbon directly from the air.

**Q.176) Falkland Islands is an archipelago located in the South Atlantic Ocean, some 500 km from mainland South America. It is an internally self-governing overseas territory of which of the following country?**

- a) Chile
- b) France
- c) Brazil
- d) United Kingdom

**Q.176) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Researchers have found evidence that the treeless, rugged, grassland landscape of the Falkland Islands was home to a lush, diverse rainforest up to 30 million years ago.

The Falkland Islands is an archipelago located in the South Atlantic Ocean, some 500 km from mainland South America. It is an internally self-governing overseas territory of the United Kingdom. It comprises two large islands (East Falkland and West Falkland) and several hundred smaller ones. The two large islands are separated by Falkland Sound (strait). The islands are positioned both in the southern and western hemispheres of the Earth. It has a cool temperate oceanic climate that is characterised by its lack of extremes. Stanley (also, Port Stanley) is the capital of the Falkland Islands. The population of the Falkland Islands is English-speaking and consists primarily of Falklanders of African-Irish descent (88% of the population). **Hence option d is correct.**

**Q.177) With reference to the Cancer Multi-Omics Data Portal, consider the following statements:**

1. It is India's first platform providing open access to data from Indian cancer patients.
2. It is launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. It will be the first in India to offer data that includes DNA, RNA, and protein profiles of breast cancer patients.
4. Its data is freely accessible to the global research community under India's PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) guidelines.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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



**Q.177) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

**Context:** In a step towards improving understanding of the genetic variations of cancer in the Indian population, the Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) foundation has launched a portal that expects to be a repository of information on multiple aspects of cancer.

- Cancer Multi-Omics Data Portal is India's first platform providing open access to data from Indian cancer patients. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is aimed at transforming cancer research and treatment for Indian populations.
- It is launched by the India Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) **Foundation. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It will be the first in India to offer data that includes DNA, RNA, and protein profiles of breast cancer patients. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Currently, the platform consists of data from 50 breast cancer patients, with plans to expand to over 500 patients in the coming year.
- Its data is freely accessible to the global research community under India's PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) guidelines. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- It promotes ethical sharing and collaboration in cancer research.

**Q.178) Consider the following statements about Mahakaleshwar Temple:**

1. It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
2. It is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
3. It is situated on the banks of River Shipra.
4. It is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

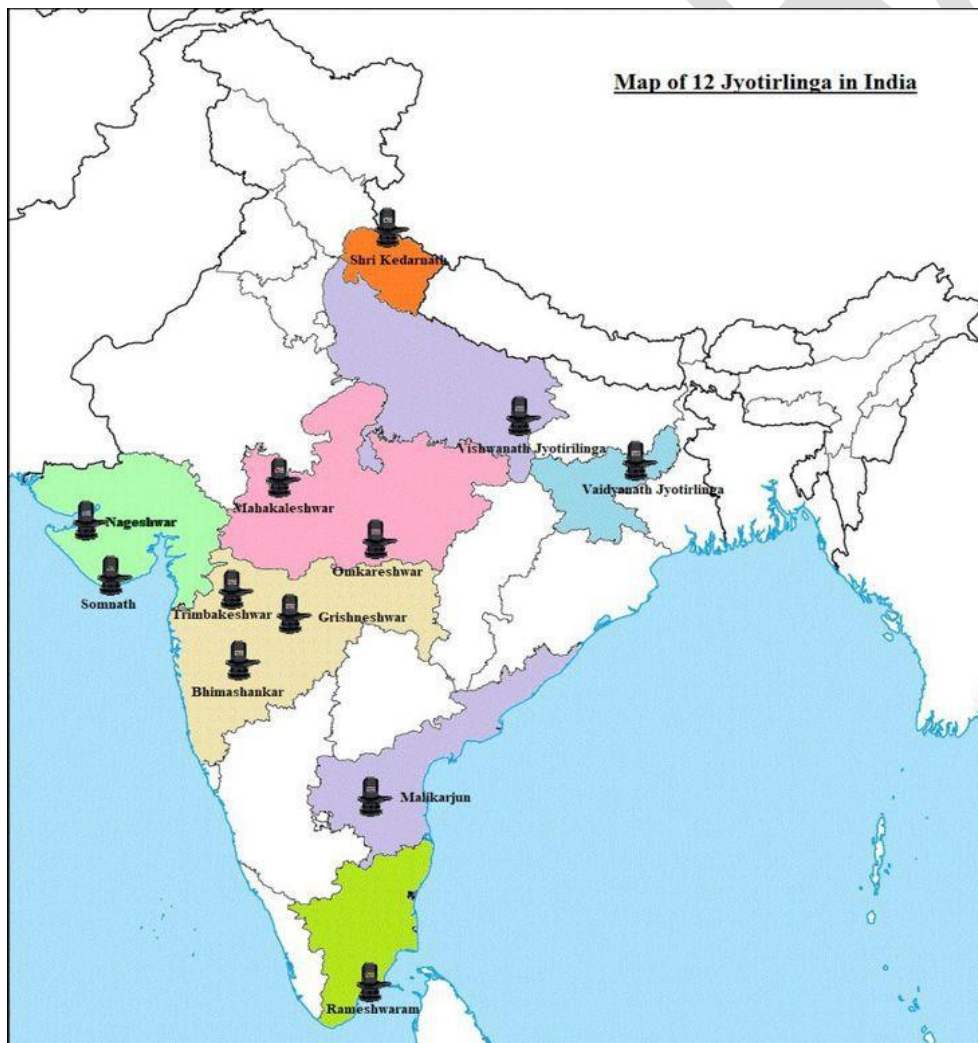
- a) 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2, and 4 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Q.178) Solution (a)****Explanation:**

**Context:** Two people died and two more, including a child, were injured after the boundary wall of a government school-turned-heritage hotel near the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain collapsed following incessant rain.

- Mahakaleshwar Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is a five-storied establishment. The main shrine is located underground.
- The temple complex comes with a spacious courtyard that is adorned with the finest sculptures that are believed to be influenced by Chalukya, Maratha, and Bhumiya styles of structural design.
- It is located in the ancient city of Ujjain in the state of Madhya Pradesh. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The images of Ganesh, Parvati, and Karttikeya are installed in the west, north, and east of the sanctum sanctorum.
- It is situated on the banks of River Shipra. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- It also houses a tank constructed in the Sarvatobhadra style.
- It is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

**Note:**



**Q.179) Consider the following statements:**

1. It is used in papermaking
2. It is used as shelterbelts in coastal areas
3. It is used in reclaiming mined areas

Which of the following above are the uses of Casuarina Tree?

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

**Q.179) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Six years after the devastation caused by Cyclone Gaja, Vedaranyam taluk, once known for its flourishing casuarina (savukku) plantations, is seeing a revival as farmers prepare for their first harvest in five years.

The Casuarina Tree is native to Australia and it was introduced in India around the 19th century. It is also known as kattadi and savukku. Casuarinas are widely planted in the tropics, subtropics, and Mediterranean countries because of their ready adaptability to a variety of environmental conditions and also for their rapid growth performance. The trees are suited to a wide range of temperatures from 10°C-33°C, from sea level up to 1500m, and mean annual rainfall between 700 and 2000 mm. The nitrogen-fixing ability and adaptability to grow in a wide range of soil and climatic conditions including moisture and nutrient-limited sites make Casuarina a preferred choice for commercial and environmental planting programme.

Uses of Casuarina Tree:

- It is used in papermaking
- It is used as shelterbelts in coastal areas
- It is used in reclaiming mined areas
- It is a preferred choice for biomass-based power generation
- It is used in afforesting nutrient-poor sites
- It is used as a windbreak for protecting agricultural crops

**Hence option d is correct.**

**Q.180) With reference to Marburg Virus Disease, consider the following statements:**

1. It is caused by the Marburg virus, a genetically unique zoonotic DNA virus.
2. The reservoir host of the Marburg virus is the African fruit bat.
3. There is no treatment or vaccine for Marburg disease.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.180) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Rwanda says eight people have died so far from the Ebola-like and highly contagious Marburg virus, just days after the country declared an outbreak of the deadly hemorrhagic fever that has no authorized vaccine or treatment.

- Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) is caused by the Marburg virus, a genetically unique zoonotic RNA virus. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is earlier known as Marburg hemorrhagic fever, is a rare but severe hemorrhagic fever that affects both people and non-human primates.
- The virus takes its name from the German city of Marburg, where it was first identified in 1967 in a lab where workers had been in contact with infected green monkeys imported from Uganda.
- The reservoir host of the Marburg virus is the African fruit bat. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The virus can be transmitted from bats to primates, including humans, and then spread through direct contact with blood or other body fluids from infected individuals.
- The average MVD case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 24% to 88% in past outbreaks depending on virus strain and case management.
- There is no treatment or vaccine for Marburg disease. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.181) With reference to Hirakud dam, consider the following statements:**

1. It is built across the river Kaveri.
2. It is the longest dam in India.
3. It is the longest earthen dam in the world.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.181) Solution (b)****Context:**

- Built six decades ago, the canal network connected to Hirakud Dam, one of the biggest projects in eastern India, is all set to be renovated. In this context, the dam becomes important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Hirakud dam is built across the river Mahanadi at about 15 km upstream of Sambalpur town in the state of Odisha. Mahanadi rises from Raipur district of Chhattisgarh and flows for about 851 km before its outfall into the Bay of Bengal. Its main tributaries are the Seonath, the Jonk, the Hasdeo, the Mand, the Ib, the Ong and the Tel. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Hirakud dam is the longest dam in India. It is one of the first major multipurpose river valley projects started after India's independence. It was inaugurated in the year 1957, and it was declared a Ramsar site in 2021. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is the longest earthen dam in the world and its length is more than 25 km. The dam forms a vast reservoir known as the Hirakud Reservoir or Hirakud Lake. It is the biggest artificial lake in Asia, with an area of 746 sq km. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.182) Recently 'Bodo Jou Gwran' and 'Bodo Napham' were given GI tags. They belong to the state of:**

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Manipur
- d) Assam

**Q.182) Solution (d)****Context:**

- Recently, the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has granted the GI tag to eight products from the Assam region, including traditional food items and several unique varieties of rice beer. In this context, the names of these products and the state to which they belong become important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Bodo Jou Gwran is a unique variety of rice beer, which has the highest percentage of alcohol (about 16.11%) when compared with other varieties of rice beer made by the Bodo community. Bodo Napham is an important and favourite dish of fermented fish prepared anaerobically in a tightly sealed container in a process that requires about

two-three months. Both these products belong to Assam and were recently given GI tag. **Hence, option d is the correct answer.**

**Q.183) The term 'Progeria' seen recently in news is a/an?**

- a) African lake which dried up
- b) Advanced missile developed by Israel
- c) Rare genetic disorder
- d) Tool used in Artificial Intelligence technology

**Q.183) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- Sammy Basso, who was the longest living survivor of the rare genetic disease progeria, recently died at the age of 28. So, the basic details about the disease becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Progeria, also known as Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome, is an extremely rare, progressive genetic disorder. It causes children to age rapidly. It is reported to occur in 1 in 4 million newborns worldwide. Newborns with the disorder appear to be healthy at birth but usually start to show signs of premature aging during their first one to two years of life. **Hence, option c is the correct answer.**

**Q.184) With reference to Global Strategic Preparedness, Readiness and Response Plan (SPRP), consider the following statements:**

1. The Global Strategic Preparedness, Readiness and Response Plan (SPRP) was launched by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
2. It is aligned with the Global Vector Control Response 2017-2030.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.184) Solution (c)****Context:**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global Strategic Preparedness, Readiness and Response Plan (SPRP) which aims at reducing the burden of disease, suffering and deaths from dengue and other Aedes-borne arboviral diseases such as Zika and chikungunya, by fostering a global coordinated response. In this context, the plan becomes important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Recently, the Global Strategic Preparedness, Readiness and Response Plan (SPRP) to tackle dengue and other Aedes-borne arboviruses was launched by the World Health Organisation. It aims at reducing the burden of disease, suffering and deaths from dengue and other Aedes-borne arboviral diseases such as Zika and chikungunya, by fostering a global coordinated response. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is aligned with the Global Vector Control Response 2017–2030, a global strategy to strengthen vector control worldwide, and the Global Arbovirus Initiative, launched in 2022, which focuses on tackling mosquito-borne arboviruses with epidemic potential. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.185) Consider the following statements about Fattah-2:**

1. It is a ballistic missile which can manoeuvre and glide at hypersonic speed.
2. It was developed by Saudi Arabia to strengthen its military capability.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.185) Solution (a)****Context:**

- Iran recently fired more than 180 ballistic missiles, including its hypersonic medium-range Fattah-2, in a major offensive aimed at overwhelming Israel's air defences. In this context, prominent missiles like Fattah become important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Fattah, which means conqueror in Farsi, is a hypersonic ballistic missile. It is equipped with a hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV) warhead that can manoeuvre and glide at hypersonic speed. It uses a liquid-fuel rocket propellant. The liquid fuel engine has the ability to adjust the thrust force. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Fattah-2 was developed by Iran. It is a new version of its first domestically made hypersonic ballistic missile named 'Fattah.' It is capable of significant trajectory changes during flight to evade defence systems. While the missile can accelerate outside the Earth's atmosphere, its aerodynamic control surfaces allow for steering within the atmosphere. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q.186) Consider the following statements about Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS):**

1. VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) developed for neutralising low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges.
2. It has been designed and developed indigenously by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
3. It has a range of up to 600 km.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.26) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- The DRDO recently announced the completion of the development trials of the ingeniously developed 4th Generation miniaturised Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORAD). In this context, basic details about VSHORAD becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) developed for neutralising low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges. The VSHORADS missile incorporates many novel technologies, such as the miniaturised Reaction Control System (RCS) and integrated avionics. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**



- It has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and industry partners. The design of the missile, including launcher, has been highly optimized to ensure easy portability, and it doesn't require a lot of personnel to operate. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The missile system, being man-portable and specifically optimised for lightweight compared to other missile systems, can be deployed quickly in the mountains close to the Line of Actual Control, with China in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. It has a range of up to 6 km. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.187) Consider the following statements about Rani Durgavati:**

1. Rani Durgavati was the descendant of the Chandela dynasty of Mahoba.
2. She became the queen of the Gond kingdom of Garha-Katanga.
3. She is remembered for defending Gondwana against the Delhi Sultanate.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.187) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- The Madhya Pradesh cabinet recently approved the formation of a panel to develop a memorial and garden dedicated to Gond queen Rani Durgavati for Rs 100 crore. So, Rani Durgavati as a historical figure becomes important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Rani Durgavati (1524-2024) was the descendant of the famous Chandela dynasty of Mahoba. She was born on 5th October 1524 A.D. in the family of famous Chandel emperor Keerat Rai. The Chandel Dynasty is famous in Indian history for the valiant king Vidyadhar, who repulsed the attacks of Mehmood Gaznavi. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 1542, she was married to Dalpatshah, the eldest son of King Sangramshah of the Gond Dynasty. Chandel and Gond dynasties got closer as a consequence of this marriage. Dalpatshah died in about 1550 A.D. As Vir Narayan was too young at that time, Durgavati took the reins of the Gond kingdom in her hands. In this way, she became the queen of the Gond kingdom of Garha-Katanga. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- In the year 1562, Akbar vanquished the Malwa ruler Baj Bahadur and annexed the Malwa with Mughal dominion. Consequently, the state boundary of Rani touched the Mughal kingdom. She is chiefly remembered for defending Gondwana against the Mughal Empire. She took on the might of the Mughal Empire with great courage and leadership. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.188) Consider the following statements about Pashtuns:**

1. The Pashtuns constitute the largest ethnic group of the population of Afghanistan.
2. The Pashtuns are united primarily by a common language, Pashto.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.188) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- The Pakistan government recently banned the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), a group which fights for the rights of ethnic Pashtuns, citing it as a threat to national security. In this context, the Pashtun community becomes important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Pashtuns, also known as "Pathans" and "Pakhtuns" are an ethnic group of people found throughout Afghanistan and Pakistan. They are the largest ethnic group of the population of Afghanistan (40-50 percent of the population) and bore the exclusive name of Afghan before that name came to denote any native of the present land area of Afghanistan. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Pashtuns are united primarily by a common language, Pashto (an official language of Afghanistan). They are generally able to speak Farsi (Persian), when necessary, often relying on the language in the context of trade dealings in the region. Other commonalities include Sunni Islam and a common social code (Pashtunwali) that governs both ethical behaviour and custom. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.189) With reference to Eco-Sensitive Zones, consider the following statements:**

1. Eco-sensitive zones are notified under the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016).
2. Areas beyond 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries cannot be notified as eco-sensitive zones.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.189) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Many leaders of both the ruling and opposition parties in Gujarat have protested against the proposed Eco-Sensitive Zones around Gir forest. In this context, information about eco-sensitive zones become important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- As per the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016), issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, land within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While the 10-km rule is implemented as a general principle, the extent of its application can vary. Areas beyond 10-km can also be notified by the Union government as ESZs, if they hold larger ecologically important "sensitive corridors." **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q.190) Consider the following statements about Co-district Initiative:**

1. Co-districts' are smaller administrative units below the districts led by an officer of the rank of Assistant District Commissioner.
2. The objective of this first-of-its-kind initiative in the country is to take governance one step closer to people.
3. This initiative was recently launched by Andhra Pradesh.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.190) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Recently, Margherita Sub-Division in Assam was officially renamed as the Co-District Commissioner Office Margherita. In this context, the concept of co-district becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Co-districts are smaller administrative units below the districts led by an officer of the rank of Assistant District Commissioner. The co-district commissioners will have powers and responsibilities similar to those of the district commissioners. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The objective of this first-of-its-kind initiative in the country is to take governance one step closer to people. It is expected to address the administrative challenges being faced by the administration in the districts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Recently, the Assam government launched this new concept of “co-district” within a district administration by doing away with the existing system of civil sub-divisions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.191) With reference to Mudumalai National Park, consider the following statements:**

1. Mudumalai National Park is situated in Tamilnadu.
2. It is a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
3. It was declared as a Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger in 1973.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.191) Solution (b)****Context:**

- Recently, a survey of herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) within the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR), led to the identification of 33 reptiles and 36 amphibians that were recorded from the region for the first time. In this context, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve becomes important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Mudumalai National Park is a national park in the Nilgiri Mountains in Tamil Nadu in southern India. It covers 321 sq km (124 sq mi) at an elevation range of 850–1,250 m in the Nilgiri District and shares boundaries with the states of Karnataka and Kerala. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is the largest protected forest area in India, spreading across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. It includes the protected areas of Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu; Nagarhole National Park, Bandipur National Park, in Karnataka; Silent Valley National Park, Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, and Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Project Tiger is a wildlife conservation movement initiated in India to protect the endangered tiger. The project was initiated in 1973 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Government of India. In 1973, only 9 protected areas were designated as tiger reserves and Mudumalai National Park was not one of them. It was declared as a Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger in April 2007 and notified as 'Critical Tiger Habitat' in December 2007. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.192) Consider the following statements about BharatGen Initiative:**

- It is an initiative to make generative AI available to citizens in different Indian languages.
- It is the world's first Government supported Multimodal Large Language Model Initiative.
- It is implemented by IIT Bombay under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three

d) None

**Q.192) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- Recently, the BharatGen initiative was launched by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology. In this context, details about the initiative becomes important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- BharatGen is an initiative which will create generative AI systems that can generate high-quality text and multimodal content in various Indian languages. It aims to make generative AI available to citizens in different Indian languages. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the world's first State-funded project of its kind. It is designed to process and generate multiple modalities, including text, images, and sometimes audio and video. These models are trained on large datasets containing text and image data, allowing them to learn the relationships between different modalities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Spearheaded by IIT Bombay under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), the initiative will create generative AI systems that can generate high-quality text and multimodal content in various Indian languages. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.193) With reference to Five-Hundred Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST), consider the following statements:**

- It is the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope.
- It is located in the Great Basin Desert of United States of America.
- It can detect neutral hydrogen at the edge of the universe and reconstruct the images of the early universe.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.193) Solution (b)****Context:**

- China has kicked off the second phase of construction to enhance the capabilities of the Five-Hundred Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST). In this context, the basic details about FAST become important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Five-Hundred Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) is the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope, with a receiving area equivalent to 30 football fields. A radio telescope is an astronomical instrument that is used to detect radio-frequency radiation between wavelengths of about 30 megahertz and 300 gigahertz emitted by extraterrestrial sources, such as stars, galaxies, and quasars. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Five-Hundred Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) is located in the Dawodang depression, a natural basin in Pingtang County, Guizhou, southwest China. It has a 500 m (1,640 ft) diameter dish constructed in a natural depression in the landscape. It is the world's largest filled-aperture radio telescope and the second-largest single-dish aperture, after the sparsely-filled RATAN-600 in Russia. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Five-Hundred Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) can detect neutral hydrogen at the edge of the universe and reconstruct the images of the early universe. It can discover pulsars, establish a pulsar timing array, and participate in pulsar navigation and gravitational wave detection in the future. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.194) Consider the following statements about Swallowtail butterflies:**

- The swallowtail butterflies are special because they are found only in the Arctic region.
- They are named for the characteristic tail-like extensions of the hindwings.

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

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

**Q.194) Solution (a)****Context:**

- A new study has found that overexploitation of 25 species of host plants valued for their medicinal properties has affected swallowtail butterflies in forests on the Brahmaputra's northern bank. Thus, some of the peculiar characteristics of these butterflies become important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Swallowtail butterflies are a group of butterflies in the family Papilionidae (order Lepidoptera). The swallowtail butterflies (Papilio) are found worldwide except in the Arctic. India hosts 77 of the 573 swallowtail butterfly species recorded across the world so far. Many swallowtails mimic the coloration and patterns of butterflies that are protected by a bad taste. **Hence, statement 1 is INCORRECT.**
- They are named for the characteristic tail-like extensions of the hindwings, although many species are tailless. Illegal cattle farming within the protected areas, agriculture and tea cultivation near the habitats, illegal tree felling, and pesticide use to be among the crucial factors contributing to the decline in the number of these Swallowtail butterflies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.195) With reference to Solar eclipse, consider the following statements:**

1. During a solar eclipse, sun comes in the middle of earth and moon.
2. A solar eclipse can be witnessed only during the new moon.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.195) Solution (b)****Context:**



- An annular solar eclipse was visible in parts of South America on October 2 while a partial solar eclipse was visible in parts of South America, Antarctica, North America, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Pacific Ocean. So, a question can be asked by UPSC about solar eclipse.

**Explanation:**

- Solar eclipse takes place when the Moon moves in the middle of the Earth and the Sun. The Moon blocks the light of the Sun, either fully or partially, which casts a huge shadow on some parts of the world. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Solar eclipses happen only at the new moon phase, when the Moon is between Earth and the Sun. During a solar eclipse, the Moon casts a shadow on Earth, and blocks or partially blocks our view of the Sun. A new moon occurs about 29.5 days because that is how long it takes the Moon to orbit Earth. It takes place only between two to five times annually. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.196) Consider the following statements about Sickle Cell Disease (SCD):**

1. Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an inherited blood disorder marked by flawed haemoglobin.
2. In this disease, white blood cells (WBCs) assume a sickle or crescent shape rather than their normal round shape.
3. India aims to eliminate sickle cell disease as a public health concern by 2030.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.196) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- The pharmaceutical giant Pfizer recently announced it would voluntarily withdraw its sickle cell disease therapy, Oxbryta, from worldwide markets, owing to the emergence of clinical data that links “fatal events” to the drug. In this context, the SCD becomes important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an inherited blood disorder. It is marked by flawed hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is the molecule in red blood cells (RBCs) that carries oxygen to the tissues of the body. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Normally, RBCs are disc-shaped and flexible enough to move easily through the blood vessels. People with SCD have atypical hemoglobin molecules called hemoglobin S, which can distort RBCs (not WBCs) into a sickle, or crescent, shape. These sickled RBCs do not bend or move easily and can block blood flow to the rest of the body. SCD interferes with the delivery of oxygen to the tissues. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India ranks third globally in terms of the number of SCD births, following Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission is aimed at enhancing the care for all Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) patients and targets complete elimination of sickle cell disease as a public health concern by 2047. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.197) With reference to Sahara Desert, consider the following statements:**

1. The Sahara Desert is the largest hot desert in the world.
2. The highest peak in the Sahara Desert is Emi Koussi.
3. It occupies more than 50% of the area of African continent.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.197) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- Recently, Sahara Desert witnessed first floods in 50 years. In this context, the geography and mapping around the desert becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The Sahara, located in Northern Africa, is the world's largest hot desert and the third most extensive desert after the polar deserts of Antarctica and the northern Arctic. The countries within the Sahara Desert are Morocco, Mali, Mauritania, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Chad, the Niger Republic, some parts of Sudan, a small portion of Nigeria, and a small part of Burkina Faso. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Sahara Desert encompasses a major portion of North Africa, occupying about 31% of the entire African continent. It spans over 9,200,000 sq. km (8% of the earth's land area). The majority of the Sahara is made up of barren, rocky plateaus, as well as salt flats, sand dunes, mountains, and dry valleys. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The highest peak in the Sahara is Emi Koussi (3,415m), a volcano located in the Tibesti Mountains, Chad. The Sahel region serves as a transition zone between the hot desert in the north and the humid savannas of Sub-Saharan Africa in the south. The large Nile and Niger rivers, along with the seasonal lakes and aquifers, provide the main source of water for the major desert oases. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.198) Consider the following statements about National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):**

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. A retired judge of the Supreme Court is the is the patron-in-chief of NALSA.
3. It has a mandate to provide legal aid to disadvantaged groups and spread legal literacy.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.198) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- Recently, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE), Government of India, and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) launched the SARTHIE 1.0. In this context, a question can be asked by UPSC about the initiative or NALSA itself.

**Explanation:**

- The NALSA was founded in 1995 under the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987 to monitor and review the effectiveness of legal aid programs and to develop rules and

principles for providing legal services under the Act. So, it is a statutory body (not a constitutional body). It also distributes funding and grants to state legal services authorities and non-profit organisations to help them execute legal aid systems and initiatives. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The Chief Justice of India is the patron-in-chief of NALSA, while the second senior most judge of the Supreme Court of India is the Executive Chairman. It is housed at the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi. In every State, a State Legal Services Authority and in every High Court, a High Court Legal Services Committee has been constituted. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In consonance with Art 39A, it has a mandate to provide legal aid to disadvantaged groups and spread legal literacy. Articles 14 and 22(1) also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before law and a legal system which promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity to all. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.199) With reference to Honey Badgers, consider the following statements:**

1. Honey badgers are herbivorous mammals and are found only in Asia.
2. They are known for their solitary nature and their ability to twist and turn to escape predators.
3. They are classified as 'Least Concern' as per the IUCN Red list.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.199) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Recently, for the first time a honey badger has been captured on camera in the Terai East Forest Division (TEFD) of Uttarakhand. So, a question can be asked about honey badger by UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Honey badgers are also known as the Ratel, and is related to skunks, otters, ferrets, and other badgers. They are omnivorous and nocturnal mammals that belong to the

weasel family. These creatures are found in parts of Africa and Asia. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Honey badgers are known for their solitary nature and their ability to twist and turn to escape predators. They have powerful, curved claws, which they use to dig burrows for shelter. Their diet is diverse, consisting of small animals, fruit and honey. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Honey badgers play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance by preying on smaller animals and pests, helping to control populations and protect crops. They are classified as 'Least Concern' as per the IUCN Red list. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.200) Consider the following statements about Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):**

1. Finance Minister acts as the chairperson of Monetary Policy Committee.
2. MPC consists of 8 members and the quorum for a meeting of MPC is of 5 members.
3. The decisions of the MPC are not binding on the RBI.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.200) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- The Central government recently appointed new monetary policy committee members with immediate effect. In this context, MPC becomes an important topic from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) has been amended by the Finance Act, 2016 to provide for a statutory and institutionalized framework for an MPC. The MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level. The MPC is chaired by RBI Governor. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered to constitute a six-member MPC. Monetary Policy Committee consists of

six members. The quorum for a meeting shall be four Members, at least one of whom shall be the Governor and, in his absence, the Deputy Governor, who is the Member of the MPC. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The MPC takes decisions based on a majority vote. In case of a tie, the RBI governor will have the second or casting vote. The decisions of the MPC would be binding on the RBI. RBI's Monetary Policy Department (MPD) assists the MPC in formulating the monetary policy. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.201) The 2024 Nobel Prize for medicine has been awarded for?**

- a) For discovery of micro-RNA
- b) For developing mRNA vaccines against mpox
- c) For discovery of genomes of extinct hominins
- d) For discovery of receptors for temperature and touch

**Q.201) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- The Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institutet has decided to award the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun "for the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation." In this context, the Nobel prizes become important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The 2024 Nobel Prize for Medicine has been awarded to scientists Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun for their discovery of microRNA — tiny molecules which play a crucial role in how genes function. MicroRNAs, or miRNAs, are small, non-coding molecules of RNA. These microRNAs act as molecular switches, fine-tuning the expression of genes in different cell types and under varying conditions. **Hence, option a is the correct answer.**

**Q.202) With reference to Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), consider the following sentences:**

1. Central Consumer Protection Authority is a statutory body.
2. It works under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
3. It has the power to impose imprisonment of up to 20 years and a fine of up to Rs. 10 crores.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- a) 1 only

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

**Q.202) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- Recently, Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) Issued Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Greenwashing and Misleading Environmental Claims. In this context, CCPA as an institution becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is a statutory body. It was established under Consumer Protection Act 2019, which came into effect in July 2020. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CCPA aims to protect the rights of consumers by cracking down on unfair trade practices and false and misleading advertisements that are detrimental to the interests of the public and consumers. It works under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Section 21 of CPA, 2019 grants the CCPA the power to issue directions and penalties against false or misleading advertisements. It provides definition of Misleading Advertisement, Powers of the CCPA and Penalties (imprisonment of up to 2 years and a fine of up to Rs. 10 lakh). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.203) With reference to Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory, consider the following statements:**

1. The Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory is the largest imaging Cherenkov telescope in Asia.
2. It is indigenously built by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).
3. It is situated in Hanle, Ladakh.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.203) Solution (d)****Context:**

- Recently, the MACE Observatory has been inaugurated by the Secretary DAE & Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, at Hanle, Ladakh. So, the basic details about the observatory becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory is the largest imaging Cherenkov telescope in Asia. It is Asia's Largest and World's Highest Imaging Cherenkov Observatory. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is indigenously built by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) with support from Electronics Corporation of India (ECIL), Hyderabad, and other Indian industry partners. It will help the scientific community enhance its understanding in the fields of astrophysics, fundamental physics, and particle acceleration mechanisms. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is located at an altitude of ~4,300 m, at Hanle, Ladakh. It will observe high-energy gamma rays, contributing to global efforts to understand the most energetic phenomena in the universe, such as supernovae, black holes, and gamma-ray bursts. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.204) With reference to Godavari River, consider the following statements:**

- Godavari is India's second-longest river after the river Ganga.
- The origin of the Godavari River is at Trimbakeshwar in the Nashik district of Maharashtra.
- Harangi, Hemavati, Kabini and Suvarnavathi are some of the tributaries of Godavari River.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.204) Solution (a)****Context:**



- The Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) has planned to outsource 60 sanitary workers through a private agency to clean the Godavari River and its tributaries. In this context, Godavari river and its tributaries become important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Godavari is India's second-longest river after the Ganga and the third-largest in India, drains about 10% of India's total geographical area. It is also called Dakshina Ganga, which translates into South Ganges River. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The origin of the Godavari River is in Brahmagiri Mountain at Trimbakeshwar in the Nashik district of Maharashtra. It runs for a length of about 1,465 kilometers. It finally empties itself into the Bay of Bengal at Narasapuram in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The principal tributaries of the river are the Pravara, the Purna, the Manjra, the Penganga, the Wardha, the Wainganga, the Pranhita (combined flow of Wainganga, Penganga, Wardha), the Indravati, the Maner, and the Sabri. Harangi, Hemavati, Lakshmana Tirtha, Kabini, Suvarnavathi, etc. are the tributaries of Kaveri River. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.205) National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC), seen in news recently is developed at?**

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Vishakhapatnam
- c) Lothal
- d) Mumbai

**Q.205) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- The Union Cabinet recently approved the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, Gujarat. In this context, NMHC becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Under the Sagarmala programme, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways is developing the NMHC, a world-class facility at Lothal, Gujarat. It is set to become an international tourist destination, showcasing India's maritime heritage from ancient to modern times through an edutainment approach utilizing the latest technology. **Hence, option c is the correct answer.**

**Q.206) The Living Planet Report 2024 was recently released by?**

- a) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- b) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- c) United Nations Development Program (UNEP)
- d) Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

**Q.206) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- Recently, the 2024 Living Planet Index reported a 73% average decline in wildlife populations. In this context, the index becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The Living Planet Report is published biennially by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). It is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet. The Living Planet Report 2024 is the 15th edition of the report. The WWF uses the Living Planet Index (LPI), which tracks the average trends in wildlife populations rather than focusing on increases or declines in individual species numbers. **Hence, option b is the correct answer.**

**Q.207) Consider the following statements about Auroras:**

1. An aurora is a natural light display in Earth's sky, predominantly seen in low-latitude regions.
2. Auroras are caused by the interaction of energetic particles of the solar wind with atoms of the upper atmosphere.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.207) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- The night sky was illuminated recently by the northern lights, or aurora borealis, visible in parts of the world including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and even Hanle village in Ladakh. In this context, auroras become important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- An aurora is a natural light display in Earth's sky, predominantly seen in high-latitude regions (around the Arctic and Antarctic). They are also commonly known as the northern lights (aurora borealis) or southern lights (aurora australis). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Auroras are caused by the interaction of energetic particles (electrons and protons) of the solar wind with atoms of the upper atmosphere. They display dynamic patterns of brilliant lights that appear as curtains, rays, spirals, or dynamic flickers covering the entire sky. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.208) Consider the following statements about Kalleshwar temple:**

1. It is located in the state of Telangana.
2. The temple is dedicated to Goddess Kali.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.208) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- A 13th-century stone inscription, or Veeragallu, has been recently uncovered during the renovation of the ancient Kalleshwar temple. In this context, basic details about the temple can be asked by UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Kalleshwar temple is a Hindu temple located in the town of Bagali in the Davangere district of Karnataka. The construction of the temple spans the rule of two Kannada dynasties: the Rashtrakuta Dynasty during the mid-10th century, and the Western Chalukya Empire, during the reign of founding King Tailapa II around 987 AD. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is one of the oldest temples in the region and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple is a single shrine construction with an adjoining hall (mantapa). The Shikara of the temple is a perfect example of early Cholan architecture. The temple houses a large

Shivalinga, which is believed to be more than a thousand years old. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q.209) With reference to Haber-Bosch Process, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a process that fixes nitrogen with hydrogen to produce ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>).
2. It was the first industrial chemical process to use high pressure for a chemical reaction.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.209) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- A hundred million tonnes of nitrogen are now removed from the atmosphere and converted into fertilizer via the Haber-Bosch process, adding 165 million tonnes of reactive nitrogen to the soil. In this context, a question can be asked by UPSC about the Haber-Bosch process.

**Explanation:**

- Haber-Bosch Process is a process that fixes nitrogen with hydrogen to produce ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), a critical part in the manufacture of plant fertilizers. The process was developed in the early 1900s by Fritz Haber and was later modified to become an industrial process to make fertilizers by Carl Bosch. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was the first industrial chemical process to use high pressure for a chemical reaction. It is extremely important because it was the first of the processes developed that allowed people to mass-produce plant fertilizers due to the production of ammonia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.210) With reference to Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), consider the following statements:**

1. It is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India for the medical devices industry.
2. It works under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
3. It is headquartered in Hyderabad.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.210) Solution (a)****Context:**

- Recently, The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) flagged over 50 drugs, including Paracetamol, as 'not of standard quality'. In this context, CDSCO becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India for the medical devices industry under the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It works under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and, Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) is the head of the CDSCO. CDSCO, along with state regulators, is jointly responsible for the grant of licenses for certain specialized categories of critical drugs, such as blood and blood products, Vaccines and Sera. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is headquartered in New Delhi. It serves a similar function to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the United States or the European Medicines Agency of the European Union. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.211) With reference to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) consider the following statements:**

1. It is a convention that seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services.
2. Conference of the Parties (COP) is its governing body.
3. Its CoP meeting takes place every year.
4. The Secretariat of the CBD is based in Montreal, Canada.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.211) Solution (b)****Explanation:**

**Context:** The 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is set to begin in Cali, Colombia. The meeting, starting on October 21, is the first time the Parties are meeting since the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was adopted in 2022.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with currently 196 contracting parties, is the most comprehensive binding international agreement in the field of nature conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- It covers biodiversity at all levels: ecosystems, species, and genetic resources. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It was opened for signing at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- It has three overarching objectives:
  - The conservation of biological diversity (genetic diversity, species diversity, and habitat diversity).
  - The sustainable use of biological diversity.
  - The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
- Conference of the Parties (COP) is its governing body. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The meeting of CoP takes place every two years. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The Secretariat of the CBD is based in Montreal, Canada. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

**Q.212) With reference to African Baobabs, consider the following statements:**

1. They are long-lived evergreen trees.
2. The oldest baobab tree on record was the Panke baobab in Zimbabwe.
3. They help keep soil conditions humid, aid nutrient recycling, and slow soil erosion.

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

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

**Q.212) Solution (b)****Explanation:**

**Context:** New research by South African ecologists has refuted the claim that the African Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) tree is dying due to climate change.

- African Baobabs are long-lived deciduous trees. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- They are small to large trees from 20 to 100 feet tall with broad trunks and compact tops.
- These trees can live to become thousands of years old.
- The oldest baobab tree on record was the Panke baobab in Zimbabwe. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- These solitary trees are also incredibly resilient, thriving in dry, open areas such as the savannas of southern Africa and western Madagascar.
- They help keep soil conditions humid, aid nutrient recycling, and slow soil erosion with their massive root systems. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- It absorbs and stores water from the rainy season in its massive trunk, producing a nutrient-dense fruit in the dry season, which can grow up to a foot long.
- The fruit contains tartaric acid and Vitamin C, serving as a vital nutrient and food source for many species.

**Q.213) Consider the following statements regarding Moonlight Programme:**

1. It is the USA's first-ever dedicated satellite constellation for telecommunication services for the Moon.
2. Its prime focus is to offer coverage at the Moon's North Pole.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Q.213) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The European Space Agency (ESA) at the International Astronautical Congress, launched its Moonlight Lunar Communications and Navigation Services (LCNS) programme.

- Moonlight Programme is Europe's first-ever dedicated satellite constellation for telecommunication services for the Moon. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It will have a constellation of about five lunar satellites that will allow accurate autonomous landings, high-speed communication, and surface mobility.
- As part of the programme, the first step will be the launch of Lunar Pathfinder, a communications relay satellite built by Surrey Satellite Technology LTD, in 2026.
- The initial services of the programme will reportedly begin by the end of 2028, and the system is said to be fully operational by 2030.
- Its prime focus is to offer coverage at the Moon's South Pole. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The South Pole of the Moon is a key area for many missions owing to lighting conditions and the potential presence of water ice within craters that perpetually remain in the shadows.

**Q.214) With reference to National Water Awards, consider the following statements:**

1. Its first edition was introduced by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation in 2018.
2. It focuses on the good work and efforts made by individuals and organizations across the country in attaining the government's vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat'.
3. The 5th National Water Awards of 2023, Uttar Pradesh secured first place in the category of Best State.

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**Q.214) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu will confer the 5th National Water Awards 2023 on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



- The first edition of the National Water Awards was introduced by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation in 2018. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It creates awareness among the people about the importance of water and motivates them to adopt the best water usage practices.
- It focuses on the good work and efforts made by individuals and organizations across the country in attaining the government's vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat'. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The 5th National Water Awards, 2023, is given for 09 categories viz Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best School or College, Best Industry, Best Water User Association, Best Institution (other than school or college), and Best Civil Society.
- In the 5th National Water Awards of 2023, Odisha secured first place in the category of Best State followed by Uttar Pradesh at the second position, and Gujarat and Puducherry jointly securing the third position. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Q.215) Consider the following pairs:**

Naval Exercise	Countries
1. Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr	India and Oman
2. Indra	India and USA
3. Samudra Shakti	India and Sri Lanka
4. Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr	India and Qatar

How many pair/s is/are correctly matched?

- a) One pair
- b) Two pairs
- c) Three pairs
- d) Four pairs

**Q.215) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** INS Trikand and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, participated in the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr with the Royal Navy of Oman Vessel Al Seeb off Goa from 13 to 18 October 24.

Naval Exercise	Countries
1. Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr	India and Oman
2. Indra	India and Russia
3. Samudra Shakti	India and Indonesia
4. Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr	India and Qatar

Hence option b is correct.

**Q.216) Recently in the news, NNC2215 is related to which of the following disease?**

- a) Dengue
- b) Osteoporosis
- c) Diabetes
- d) Cancer

**Q.216) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Scientists have made a breakthrough in developing what has been long called the “holy grail” diabetes treatments — a “smart” insulin that responds in real-time to fluctuations in one’s blood sugar level.

NNC2215 is the newly developed insulin to treat diabetes. It comprises two parts: a ring-shaped structure, and a molecule with a similar shape to glucose called a glucoside. When blood sugar levels are low, the glucoside binds to the ring, keeping the insulin in an inactive state to prevent further lowering of blood sugar. But, as blood glucose rises, the glucoside is replaced by glucose itself, triggering the insulin to shift its shape and become active, helping bring blood sugar levels down to safer ranges. **Hence option c is correct.**

**Q.217) With reference to Sri Singeeswarar Temple, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.

2. It is located in Tamil Nadu.
3. It was built by Rajaraja Chola in the year 976 AD.

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

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

**Q.217) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** A set of copper plate inscriptions with two leaves dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century CE have been discovered at the Sri Singeeswarar temple at Mappedu village in Tiruvallur district recently.

- Sri Singeeswarar Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is located at Mappedu Village near Perambakkam in Thiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It is built in the Dravidian architecture style, and the Rajagopuram consists of 5 tiers.
- The temple was built by Aditya Karikalan II in the year 976 AD. He is the father of the great Chola emperor Rajaraja Cholan, who built the Thanjavur Big Temple. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Later, during the reign of Krishnadevaraya, his viceroy, Dalavai Ariyanadha Mudaliar, used his influence and built the Rajagopuram-Main Tower, compound wall, and 16-pillar Mandap in the year 1501.
- The presiding deity is called Singeeswarar. Singeeswarar is found in the form of a slightly big Shiva Lingam in the sanctum.

**Q.218) With respect to Malaria, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a bacterial disease spread to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
2. It is not contagious and cannot spread from one person to another.
3. Egypt was officially declared 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2024.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- a) 1 and 2

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

**Q.218) Solution (b)****Explanation:**

**Context:** Egypt is the 5th African nation to receive 'malaria-free' certification from the World Health Organization, bringing the total number of certified malaria-free countries and territories to 44.

- Malaria is an acute febrile illness caused by Plasmodium parasites that is spread to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Five species of parasites can cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax – pose the greatest threat.
- It is a life-threatening disease primarily found in tropical countries.
- It is not contagious and cannot spread from one person to another. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The first symptoms of malaria usually begin within 10–15 days after the bite from an infected mosquito.
- Fever, headache, and chills are typically experienced, though these symptoms may be mild and difficult to recognize as malaria.
- Egypt was officially declared 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2024. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- It is preventable and curable. Vector control is the main approach to prevent malaria and reduce transmission.

**Q.219) Which of the following organization released the Climate Change and Nuclear Power Report?**

- a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- c) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- d) World Trade Organization

**Q.219) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The 2024 edition of the IAEA's Climate Change and Nuclear Power Report has been released on the margins of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) in Brazil.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released the Climate Change and Nuclear Power Report. It highlighted the need for a significant increase in investment to achieve goals for expanding nuclear power. According to the report, global investment in nuclear energy must increase to 125 billion USD annually, up from the around 50 billion USD invested each year from 2017-2023, to meet the IAEA's high case projection for nuclear capacity in 2050. **Hence option c is correct.**

**Q.220) With reference to Bioluminescence, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a natural phenomenon produced primarily by microscopic plankton called dinoflagellates.
2. In general, it is widespread among surface marine animals either to evade predators, attract prey, or during mating.
3. It is exhibited by many marine creatures like sponges, jellyfish, worms, species of fish, arthropods, echinoderms, and unicellular alga.

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

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

**Q.220) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Residents of Thiruvananthapuram and Neelankarai experienced a stunning spectacle on Friday night as stretches of the beach glowed with bioluminescence.

- Bioluminescence is a natural phenomenon produced primarily by microscopic plankton called dinoflagellates. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- This occurs when the luciferase enzyme reacts with the luciferin compound in the presence of oxygen to produce a cold light.
- In general, it is widespread among deep marine animals either to evade predators, attract prey, or during mating. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It is widespread in lagoons and sometimes breakwaters and is particularly visible during warm weather conditions.

- It is exhibited by many marine creatures like sponges, jellyfish, worms, species of fish, anthropods, echinoderms, and unicellular alga. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.221) With reference to Diphtheria, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a contagious fungal infection of the nose and throat.
2. It can spread from person to person through respiratory droplets.
3. It affects children from newborns to 16 years of age.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.221) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** To contain the diphtheria outbreak in the Deeg district after seven deaths were reported within a month and 24 samples tested positive, teams of the state health department and World Health Organization (WHO) have landed in the district and started vaccination.

- Diphtheria is a contagious bacterial infection of the nose and throat. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is caused by strains of bacteria called *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* that make a toxin.
- When the bacteria get into and attach to the lining of the respiratory system, they can cause weakness, sore throat, mild fever, and swollen glands in the neck.
- The bacteria make a toxin that kills healthy tissues in the respiratory system. Within two to three days, the dead tissue forms a thick, grey coating that can build up in the throat or nose.
- It can spread from person to person through respiratory droplets. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- People can also get sick from touching infected open sores or ulcers.
- It can infect the skin, causing open sores or ulcers. However, diphtheria skin infections rarely result in severe disease.
- Symptoms include sore throat, fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes, skin sores, and weakness.
- It affects children from newborns to 16 years of age. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Treatments include antibiotics, vaccine, and an antitoxin that neutralizes the diphtheria toxin.

**Q.222) Consider the following statements regarding e-Migrate Portal:**

1. It promotes safe and legal mobility channels for Indian migrants.
2. It offers 24/7 multilingual helpline support to Indian workers abroad.
3. It integrates with Digilocker, enabling secure, paperless document submission.

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**Q.222) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** India launched a revamped e-Migrate portal and mobile app to facilitate Indians to travel overseas legally with safety.

- e-Migrate Portal promotes safe and legal mobility channels for Indian migrants. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is an online platform launched by the Government of India to facilitate and manage the migration of Indian workers seeking employment abroad.
- It aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 10, promoting orderly and responsible migration.
- It offers 24/7 multilingual helpline support to Indian workers abroad. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It aims to provide a safe and transparent framework for migrant workers by offering various services, including information access, documentation, helpline support, integration with services, and awareness campaigns
- It integrates with Digilocker, enabling secure, paperless document submission. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- It supports job-seekers by offering a one-stop marketplace for overseas employment opportunities.

**Q.223) Recently in the news, the Ossification Test is a medical procedure that helps in detecting which of the following?**

- a) Ebola Virus Disease
- b) Determines blood group
- c) Cryptosporidiosis
- d) Determines age

**Q.223) Solution (d)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The latest example of the use of the ossification test came when one of those accused of killing Baba Siddique told a court in Mumbai that he should be tried as a juvenile, claiming he was 17 years old.

An Ossification Test is a medical procedure that analyses bones to determine age. This test involves taking X-rays of certain bones in the body, such as the clavicle, sternum, and pelvis, to determine the degree of growth in our bones. It is commonly used in forensic science and legal contexts to accurately determine an individual's age when needed. **Hence option d is correct.**

**Note:**

- Ebola virus disease is a severe, often fatal illness in humans caused by the Ebola virus. It is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads through human-to-human transmission.
- Cryptosporidiosis is a parasitic disease caused by the protozoan *Cryptosporidium*, which can be transmitted to humans through contaminated water, food, or contact with infected animals.

**Q.224) Consider the following pairs:**

Lake	State
1. Vembanad Lake	Tamil Nadu
2. Chilika Lake	Odisha
3. Roopkund Lake	Himachal Pradesh
4. Loktak Lake	Manipur

**How many pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

- One pair
- Two pairs
- Three pairs
- Four pairs

**Q.224) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**



**Context:** There have been reports of landslides in the Kedarnath hills, the sinking of the Varunavat mountain, the melting of snow from Om Parvat, and the latest to the litany of bad news is the shrinking of the glacial lake Roop Kund.

Lake	State
1. Vembanad Lake	Kerala
2. Chilika Lake	Odisha
3. Roopkund Lake	Uttarakhand
4. Loktak Lake	Manipur

Hence option b is correct.



**Q.225) Nihon Hidankyo has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2024. In this context, which of the following statements explains the word 'Hibakusha'?**

- Fighters for women's rights against the Iranian theocracy.
- Advocates of human rights and civil liberty in Ukraine.
- Survivors of the 1945 atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Fighters for freedom of expression in the Philippines and Russia.

**Q.225) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Seventy-nine years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki were subject to unprecedented devastation following the U.S.'s act of dropping atomic bombs on these cities, Nihon Hidankyo, the organization that worked for the welfare of the survivors — called the hibakusha — and steadfastly sought to build consensus on the need for the abolition of nuclear weapons, has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2024.

- Hibakusha is the Japanese word for survivors of the 1945 atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. **Hence option c is correct.**
- On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped the Little Boy atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, the US dropped a second atomic bomb, known as Fat Man, on Nagasaki, Japan. By the end of 1945, more than 200,000 people died as a direct result of these bombings.
- Currently, the combined number of 'hibakusha' who are alive is officially 1,06,825, according to Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

**Q.226) With reference to Hellfire Missile, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a long-range air-to-ground tactical missile.
2. It is used by the Russian military as well as 30 of its allies.
3. It is used to target armoured vehicles.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.226) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** India recently concluded a deal with the US for the procurement of 170 AGM-114R Hellfire missiles.

- Hellfire Missile is a short-range air-to-ground tactical missile. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is a laser-guided and subsonic tactical missile.
- It is used by the United States military as well as 30 of its allies. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It has a length of 1.62 m, a diameter of 17.7 cm, and a wingspan of 0.71 m.
- Each Hellfire weighs 45.4 kg-49 kg including an 8 kg-9 kg multipurpose warhead.
- It is propelled by a single-stage solid-propellant solid-fuel rocket motor and has a maximum velocity of 950 mph.
- It is used to target armoured vehicles. It includes tanks, bunkers, radar systems and antennas, communications equipment, soft targets, or hovering helicopters. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.227) The “Kaizen method” is well-known as the**

- It is a business philosophy that emphasizes building quality into processes by empowering workers to stop production and address problems.
- It is a business philosophy that encourages continuous improvement involving employees at all levels of a company.
- It is a business philosophy that encourages continuous improvement by ensuring that everyone in the organization is aware of and working towards the same objectives.
- It is a business philosophy that emphasizes continuous growth and improvement through progression from following rules to breaking them and finally transcending them.

**Q.227) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The month-long strike at Samsung’s manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu has brought to the spotlight the stressful working conditions in these factories shaped and determined by their management philosophy, which draws inspiration from the Japanese production method called Kaizen.

The “Kaizen method” is well-known as the business philosophy that encourages continuous improvement involving employees at all levels of a company. **Hence option b is correct.**

The concept of kaizen encompasses a wide range of ideas. Those include making the work environment more efficient by creating a team atmosphere, improving processes and procedures, ensuring employee engagement, and making jobs more fulfilling, less tiring, and safer. The goal of Kaizen is to make small changes over a period of time to drive continuous improvement within a company.

**Note:**

- Jidoka is a business philosophy that emphasizes building quality into processes by empowering workers to stop production and address problems.
- Hoshin Kanri is a business philosophy that encourages continuous improvement by ensuring that everyone in the organization is aware of and working towards the same objectives.
- Shuhari is a business philosophy that emphasizes continuous growth and improvement through progression from following rules to breaking them and finally transcending them.

**Q.228) With reference to the Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a financial arrangement in which a third party in a legal dispute provides funding to support the plaintiff's pursuit of a legal claim.
2. Disputes that attract TPLF generally include commercial contracts, international commercial arbitration, class action suits, etc.

**Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Q.228) Solution (c)**

#### **Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** In the heart of India's legal system, from the Supreme Court in Delhi to modest district courts in rural Bihar, a quiet revolution has been in the making for decades. This revolution is not about abrogating colonial laws, drafting new laws, or ensuring speedier verdicts. Instead, it centres on the question — who foots the bill for justice? In this context, the idea of Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) has quickly emerged as a game-changer, potentially opening courtroom doors for many who felt they had been shut out.

- Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) often referred to as litigation finance, is a financial arrangement in which a third party (with no prior connection to the litigation) in a legal dispute provides funding to support the plaintiff's pursuit of a legal claim. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- In return, the third-party funder receives a portion of the proceeds if the case is successful.
- Plaintiffs do not have to repay the funding if their lawsuit is not successful.
- This funding model allows entities to bring lawsuits without shouldering the financial risks associated with litigation.

- The emergence of TPLF has been driven by various factors, including the escalating costs of legal proceedings, the complexity of modern litigation, and the desire to level the playing field between parties with disparate financial resources.
- Disputes that attract TPLF generally include commercial contracts, international commercial arbitration, class action suits, tortious claims like medical malpractice and personal injury claims, anti-trust proceedings, insolvency proceedings, and other like claims that have a calculated chance of resulting in a substantial monetary award. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- TPF is not expressly prohibited in India. Several judgments highlight its benefits and express that there is a need for its regulation.

**Q.229) Consider the following statements regarding the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB):**

1. It is the highest executive decision-making body on technical matters related to drugs in India.
2. It is established as per the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940.**
3. It does not advise state governments on technical matters arising out of the administration of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940.
4. It works under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

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

**Q.229) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), the highest statutory decision-making body on technical matters related to drugs in the country, has recommended the inclusion of all antibiotics in the definition of new drugs in the New Drugs and Clinical Trial (NDCT) Rules of 2019.

- The Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) is the highest statutory decision-making body on technical matters related to drugs in India. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is established as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It advises both the central government and state governments on technical matters arising out of the administration of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

- It works under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

**Q.230) Consider the following reports:**

1. Energy Technology Perspectives
2. World Energy Investment
3. Global EV Outlook
4. World Energy Outlook
5. Oil Market Report

**How many of the given reports are released by the International Energy Agency (IEA)?**

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

**Q.230) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** In its latest World Energy Outlook, the International Energy Agency said India will see the largest energy demand growth of any country or region in the world over the next three decades.

Reports released by the International Energy Agency (IEA):

- Energy Technology Perspectives
- World Energy Investment
- Global EV Outlook
- World Energy Outlook
- Oil Market Report
- Net Zero Roadmap
- Electricity Market Report

**Hence option d is correct.**

**Q.231) With reference to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.
2. It was founded by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in 1950.
3. It administers various scholarship programs annually.



Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Q.231) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) held a conference of Buddhist monks and scholars in Colombo on bequeathing Pali the status of a classical language by the Indian government.

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of External Affairs. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is involved in India's external cultural relations through cultural exchange with other countries and their people.
- It promotes, through its network of cultural centres, Indian culture abroad.
- It was founded by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in 1950. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Its objectives:**
  - to actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations;
  - to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries;
  - to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people;
- It administers various scholarship programs annually under 21 different schemes to foreign students from about 180 countries. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Amongst these 21 schemes, six are funded by ICCR from its grant, and others are administered on behalf of MEA and the Ministry of Ayush.
- The scholarships offer studies in a variety of courses **from undergraduate to postdoctoral level** in different leading universities and educational institutions spread all over India.

**Q.232) Consider the following statements about the EOS-06:**

1. It is an Earth observation satellite developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
2. It was launched using ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C54).
3. It has applications in ocean surface studies, coastal zone management, and marine weather forecasting.



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

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

**Q.232) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said its polar-orbiting satellite EOS-06 and geostationary satellite INSAT-3DR had been tracking the cyclone, Dana.

- EOS-06 is an Earth observation satellite developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is part of the Oceansat series of satellites, which are designed to monitor and study various aspects of the Earth's oceans and coastal zones.
- The primary objective of EOS-06 is to provide continuity to the services of its predecessors (Oceansat-1 and Oceansat-2) with enhanced payload capabilities to support oceanographic and atmospheric studies.
- It was launched using ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C54). **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It has applications in ocean surface studies, coastal zone management, and marine weather forecasting. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.233) Consider the following pairs regarding nutrient deficiency diseases:**

Vitamin/Mineral	Disorder
1. Iron	Anaemia
2. Vitamin A	Night blindness
3. Vitamin D	Scurvy
4. Iodine	Goitre

How many pair/s is/are correctly matched?

- a) One pair
- b) Two pairs
- c) Three pairs
- d) Four pairs

**Q.233) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Scurvy is often considered a historical ailment, conjuring images of sailors on long sea voyages suffering from a lack of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Vitamin/Mineral	Disorder
1. Iron	Anemia
2. Vitamin A	Night blindness
3. Vitamin D	<b>Rickets and Osteomalacia</b>
4. Iodine	Goiter
5. Vitamin C	Scurvy, <b>Swelling of Gums</b>
6. Vitamin B1	<b>Beriberi</b>
7. Vitamin B2	Ariboflavinosis
8. Vitamin B3	Pellagra
9. Vitamin B7	Dermatitis, Enteritis
10. Vitamin B5	Paresthesia
11. Vitamin B9 and B12	Megaloblastic anemia
12. Vitamin E	Less fertility
13. Vitamin K	<b>Non-clotting of blood</b>
14. Calcium	Bone and tooth decay

Vitamin/Mineral	Deficiency disease/disorder	Symptoms
Vitamin A	Loss of vision	Poor vision, loss of vision in darkness (night), sometimes complete loss of vision
Vitamin B1	Beriberi	Weak muscles and very little energy to work
Vitamin C	Scurvy	Bleeding gums, wounds take longer time to heal
Vitamin D	Rickets	Bones become soft and bent
Calcium	Bone and tooth decay	Weak bones, tooth decay
Iodine	Goiter	Glands in the neck appear swollen, mental disability in children
Iron	Anaemia	Weakness

Hence option c is correct.

**Q.234) With reference to Kadar Tribes, consider the following statements:**

1. They are an indigenous community residing primarily in the southern parts of India.
2. They are classified as a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) by the Government of India.
3. They are traditionally a nomadic group, known for their hunter-gatherer lifestyle.

4. They speak a Dravidian language known as Kadar or Kadars, which is influenced by Tamil and Malayalam.

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

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

**Q.234) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Kadar tribe of Vazhachal, Kerala, has taken on active restoration of natural forests degraded by invasive alien species.

- Kadar Tribes are an indigenous community residing primarily in the southern parts of India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- They are predominantly found in the forests of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- They are classified as a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) by the Government of India. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- They are **traditionally a nomadic group**, known for their **hunter-gatherer lifestyle**. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- They have a profound knowledge of the forest and its resources, relying on **gathering honey, fruits, tubers, and medicinal plants** for their sustenance.
- They are traditionally a nomadic group, known for their hunter-gatherer lifestyle.
- They are known for their **traditional medicinal knowledge**, particularly in the use of herbs and plants for healing.
- They have a **symbiotic relationship with nature**, and they believe in the coexistence of Kadar and Kaadu (forest).
- They speak a Dravidian language known as Kadar or Kadars, which is influenced by Tamil and Malayalam. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- They **live in small settlements called "hamlets" or "oorus,"** usually comprising a few **huts made of bamboo, leaves,** and other forest materials.

**Q.235) Consider the following statements about the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM):**

1. It was established by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India.
2. Its mandate is to document, conserve, and disseminate the knowledge preserved in the manuscripts.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Q.235) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Union Ministry of Culture is set to “revive and relaunch” the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) and is mulling the formation of an autonomous body to help preserve ancient texts in India.

- The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was established by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Its motto is ‘Conserving the past for the future’.
- It seeks to unearth and preserve the vast manuscript wealth of India.
- Its mandate is to document, conserve, and disseminate the knowledge preserved in the manuscripts. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Its objectives are:
  - Locate manuscripts through a national-level survey and post-survey.
  - Document every manuscript and manuscript repository, for a National Electronic Database that currently contains information on four million manuscripts making this the largest database on Indian manuscripts in the world.
  - Conserve manuscripts incorporating both modern and indigenous methods of conservation and training a new generation of manuscript conservators.
  - To train the next generation of scholars in various aspects of Manuscript Studies like languages, scripts critical editing and cataloguing of texts, and conservation of manuscripts.
  - To promote access to manuscripts by digitizing the rarest and most endangered manuscripts.
  - To promote access to manuscripts through the publication of critical editions of unpublished manuscripts and catalogues.
  - To facilitate the public's engagement with manuscripts through lectures, seminars, publications, and other outreach programmes.

**Q.236) With reference to Great Indian Bustard, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a bustard found only in India.
2. It inhabits dry grasslands and scrublands.
3. It is protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.
4. It is listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.236) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The birth of a great Indian bustard through artificial insemination at the Sudasari Great Indian Bustard Breeding Centre in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district is an "extremely important step" in the conservation of the critically endangered species, authorities said.

- Great Indian Bustard is a bustard found in India and Pakistan. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is the State bird of Rajasthan.
- It inhabits dry grasslands and scrublands. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It is considered the flagship grassland species, representing the health of the grassland ecology.
- It is protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- It is kept under the species recovery programme under the **Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats** of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- **Project Great Indian Bustard** has been launched by the Rajasthan government to construct breeding enclosures for the species and develop infrastructure to reduce human pressure on its habitats.
- It is listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

**Q.237) Recently in the news, Triton Island is located in which of the following Sea?**

- a) Mediterranean Sea
- b) Black Sea
- c) Caspian Sea
- d) South China Sea

**Q.237) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Triton is one of the major islands in the Paracel group, which is roughly equidistant from the coast of Vietnam and China's island province of Hainan.

Triton Island is a tiny island that's part of the Paracel Islands chain located in the South China Sea. Although Triton Island is uninhabited, it plays a strategic role due to its location in the South China Sea, an area known for its rich fishing grounds and potential oil and gas reserves. **Hence option d is correct.**

**Q.238) With respect to Flue Gas Desulphurisation, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a technology to eliminate sulphur compounds from exhaust emissions.
2. It uses absorbents like ammonia, sodium sulphite, lime, and limestone slurry.

**Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Q.238) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy (NRE) recently presided over a high-profile meeting to review the results of a study conducted by IIT-Delhi on ambient atmospheric sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations and the effect of installing flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) technology on SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in various categories of cities, as defined by them.

- Flue gas is the emitted material produced when fossil fuels such as coal, oil, natural gas, or wood are burned for heat or power.
- Flue Gas Desulphurisation is a technology to eliminate sulphur compounds from exhaust emissions. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is done through the addition of absorbents, which can remove up to 95% of the sulphur dioxide from the flue gas.
- It uses absorbents like ammonia, sodium sulphite, lime, and limestone slurry. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.239) Consider the following statements regarding Cybersquatting:**

1. It is an act of registering or using a domain name to profit from a trademark or corporate or personal name of an individual.
2. In India, **there are no specific laws** that condemn, prohibit, or penalize the act of cybersquatting.

Which of the above statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

**Q.239) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Recently, a Delhi-based developer registered the domain, 'JioHotstar,' which ignited a debate on cybersquatting.

*Here the question is asking for an incorrect answer.*

- Cybersquatting is an act of registering or using a domain name to profit from a trademark or corporate or personal name of an individual. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is seen as a form of extortion or even as an attempt to take over business from its rival.
- In India, there are no specific laws that condemn, prohibit, or penalize the act of cybersquatting. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- However, domain names are considered trademarks under the Trademark Act, of 1999.

**Q.240) With reference to Pandemic Fund Project, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a \$25 billion initiative funded by the World Health Organisation.
2. It is designed to enhance the country's animal health security.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Q.240) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the Pandemic Fund Project on "Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response" in New Delhi.

- The Pandemic Fund Project is a \$25 million initiative funded by the G20 Pandemic Fund. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is to be implemented in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and is to be utilized by August 2026.
- It is designed to enhance the country's animal health security. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It supports the existing initiatives of the department by enhancing disease surveillance, including genomic and environmental surveillance for early warning, laboratory infrastructure development, and cross-border collaboration, and will create a more integrated system for monitoring and managing zoonotic diseases.
- It is aimed at developing human capacity-building initiatives to enhance the skills and capabilities of animal health human resources.

**Q.241) With reference to Central Water Commission (CWC), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a premier technical organization of India in the field of water resources.
2. It functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
3. The National Water Academy, which is responsible for training of central and state in-service engineers is located in Chennai.

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

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

**Q.241) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Glacial lakes and other water bodies across the Himalayan region saw a 10.81% increase in area from 2011 to 2024 due to climate change, signalling a heightened risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), according to a Central Water Commission's (CWC) report. In this context, a question about Central Water Commission can be asked by UPSC.

**Explanation:**



- The Central Water Commission (CWC) is a premier technical organization of India in the field of water resources. It is entrusted with the general responsibilities of initiating, coordinating, and furthering, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, schemes for control, conservation, and utilization of water resources throughout the country for purposes of Flood Control, Irrigation, Navigation, Drinking Water Supply, and Water Power Development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Central Water Commission (CWC) is presently functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The National Water Academy, located in Pune, is responsible for training of central and state in-service engineers and it functions directly under the guidance of the Chairman. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.242) With reference to International Energy Agency (IEA), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation established within the framework of G-20.
2. It was created in response to the 2008 financial crisis.
3. India is a founding member of International Energy Agency.

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

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

**Q.242) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- The global market for clean energy technologies is set to rise from \$700 billion in 2023 to more than \$2 trillion by 2035 – close to the value of the world's crude oil market in recent years, says a first of its kind study by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

**Explanation:**

- International Energy Agency (IEA) is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

framework. It works with governments and industry to shape a secure and sustainable energy future for all. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- It was created in response to the 1973-1974 oil crisis when an oil embargo by major producers pushed prices to historic levels and exposed the vulnerability of industrialised countries to dependency on oil imports. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is made up of 31 member countries, 13 association countries, and 5 accession countries. India joined this organization in 2017 as an Associate member. Some of the reports published by it include World Energy Outlook, World Energy Balances, Energy Technology Perspectives, World Energy Statistics. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.243) Consider the following statements about Ningol Chakkouba Festival:**

1. The festival is mainly celebrated by the Meiteis but nowadays many other communities also have started to celebrate it.
2. During the festival, married women are invited to their parents' home for a feast and joyous reunion followed by giving away the gifts.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.243) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- Recently, Ningol Chakkouba festival was held with religious fervour and gaiety across the State of Manipur. In this context, UPSC can ask a question about the festival.

**Explanation:**

- The festival is held every year on the second day of the lunar month of Hiyangei of the Meitei calendar. The festival is mainly celebrated by the Meiteis but nowadays many other communities also have started to celebrate it as it emphasises the importance of happiness and reunion of a family in bringing peace and harmony in a society. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Ningol means 'married woman' and Chakouba means 'invitation for feast'; so the festival is the one where the married women are invited to their parents' home for a feast. The main component of the festival is the visit of married sisters to their maternal homes for grand feast and joyous reunion followed by giving away the gifts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.244) Consider the following statements about Yanadi tribe, seen in news recently:**

1. Yanadis are one of the major scheduled tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. They have rich traditional health knowledge, including knowledge for everyday healthcare and specialized knowledge.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.244) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- Recently 3 children of Yanadi tribe were missing in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. In this context, a question about the tribe can be asked by UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Yanadis are one of the major scheduled tribes of Andhra Pradesh. They are among the most vulnerable tribal groups in India. They live in extreme conditions of poverty and social exclusion. A significant population of Yanadis live in the plains of Nellore, a district in the eastern coastal state of Andhra Pradesh. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- They have rich traditional health knowledge, including knowledge for everyday healthcare and specialized knowledge (e.g., snakebite cures). They harness the medicinal potential of plants for treating gastrointestinal disorders, respiratory ailments, skin conditions, and reproductive health issues. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.245) Gobind Sagar Lake, one of the deepest man-made lakes in the world is located in?**

- a) Punjab
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Jammu & Kashmir

**Q.245) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- Recently, Sukhvinder Sukhu launched water sports at Bilaspur's Gobind Sagar Lake. In this context, some basic questions can be asked by UPSC about the lake.

**Explanation:**

- Gobind Sagar Lake is a manmade reservoir located in the Una and Bilaspur districts of Himachal Pradesh. It is named in honour of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru. Its source is the Bhakra Dam on the Sutlej River. Gobind Sagar reservoir is 90 k.m. long and encompasses an area of approximately 170 sq. km. The maximum and mean depths of the reservoir are 163.07 m and 55 m, respectively, making it one of the deepest man-made lakes in the world. **Hence, option c is the correct answer.**

**Q.246) Recently, 'Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki volcano' which erupted for the second time in a week is located in?**

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) Myanmar
- d) Indonesia

**Q.246) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- Recently, Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki erupted again, spewing a column of hot clouds from its peak three days after a midnight eruption killed nine people and injured dozens of others. In this context, the location of the volcano becomes important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki is a volcanic mountain situated in East Nusa Tenggara province of Indonesia. The volcano is part of a twin-volcano system that the local residents perceive as male and female mountains. The ongoing volcanic eruption has occurred at the male counterpart of the system (Lewotobi Lakilaki) while the female mountain is known as Lewotobi Perempuan. The two mountains are classified as stratovolcanoes which are the most commonly occurring volcanoes around the world and are formed by the layers of lava that repeatedly oozes out of the crater. **Hence, option d is the correct answer.**

**Q.247) With reference to Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), consider the following statements:**

- It is the primary payload of the Aditya-L1 Mission.

2. It is built by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru.
3. It will observe the solar corona and study Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.247) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- Scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) Bengaluru recently reported the “first significant” results from the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) payload onboard the ADITYA-L1 Mission. In this context, basic details about VELC become important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- It is the primary payload of the Aditya-L1 Mission-India’s first mission to observe the Sun from a vantage point 1.5 million kilometres from the earth. It is an internally occulted solar coronagraph capable of simultaneous imaging, spectroscopy, and spectro-polarimetry close to the solar limb. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The VELC consists of a coronagraph, spectrograph, polarimetry module, and detectors, aside from auxiliary optics. It is built by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru at its CREST (Centre for Research and Education in Science and Technology) campus in Hosakote. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It will observe the solar corona, which is the tenuous, outermost layer of the solar atmosphere. It can image the solar corona down to 1.05 times the solar radius, which is the closest any such payload has imaged. It will analyze the coronal temperature, plasma velocity, density, etc. It will also study Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) and the solar wind. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.248) Consider the following statements about ‘Minuteman III’ seen in news recently:**

1. It is an American intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
2. It is the sole land-based component of the U.S. nuclear triad.
3. It was the first U.S. missile fitted with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs).

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

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

**Q.248) Solution (d)****Context:**

- The US army would be carrying out a test launch of a Minuteman III hypersonic nuclear missile hours after voting close on Election Day. In this context, the missile becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The LGM-30G Minuteman III is an American intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). "L" in LGM is the US Department of Defense designation for silo-launched; "G" means surface attack; and "M" stands for guided missile. It first became operational in the early 1970s. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the sole land-based component of the U.S. nuclear triad. Originally, it was only supposed to be kept in service for about ten years, but instead, it has been modernized as its replacement, the Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD), is due to become available for use in 2029. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It was the first U.S. missile fitted with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs). The United States currently has an estimated 440 Minuteman III missiles in its arsenal. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.249) Consider the following statements about Proba-3 Mission, which was seen in news recently:**

1. It is the first mission of ISRO dedicated to precision formation flying.
2. The core objective of the mission is to create an artificial eclipse by precisely coordinating two independent satellites.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.249) Solution (b)****Context:**

- Recently, the union minister of Science and Technology said that India will launch the European Space Agency's Proba-3 mission early next month from the spaceport at Sriharikota. In this context, a question about the mission can be asked by UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- It is the European Space Agency's (ESA) first mission dedicated to precision formation flying. It is the innovative mission which will demonstrate precision formation flying between two satellites to create an artificial eclipse, revealing new views of the Sun's faint corona. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The core objective of the mission is to create an artificial eclipse by precisely coordinating two independent satellites. This capability will enable scientists to observe the Sun's corona, a region typically obscured by the intense brightness of the Sun. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.250) With reference to Common Cat Snake, consider the following statements:**

- It is a species of rear-fanged snake, which is endemic to South Asia.
- In India, it is found only in the north-eastern states such as Sikkim, Assam and Meghalaya.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.250) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Recently, a rare 'Cat Snake' was spotted in Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve. In this context, a question can be asked by UPSC about the snake.

**Explanation:**

- Common Cat Snake, also known as Indian gamma snake, is a species of rear-fanged snake endemic to South Asia. While venomous, the Common Cat Snake's venom is not considered highly dangerous to humans. It primarily uses its venom to subdue prey. Unlike other cat snakes of its range, this species bears characteristic "gamma" or "Y"-shaped marking that helps in its quick identification on the field. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In India, it is found all over the country, excluding north-east states after Sikkim; it is also, not found in Indian islands. It can be found in almost all kinds of forests and wide

ranges of elevations. It is a medium-sized snake that is usually found in the 70-100 cm range. It comes in the category of least concern under IUCN Red list. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q.251) With reference to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a statutory body established by the Government of India to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.
2. It advises the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications, relevant policy and laws.
3. It is headquartered in Chennai.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.251) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change has constituted a team to investigate the death of ten elephants in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh. In this context, a question can be asked by UPSC about WCCB.

**Explanation:**

- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by the Government of India to combat organized wildlife crime in the country. It was constituted by amending the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It advises the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications, relevant policy and laws. It also assists and advises the Customs authorities in inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna as per the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and EXIM Policy governing such an item. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Bureau has its headquarter in New Delhi and five regional offices at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bhopal; three sub-regional offices at Guwahati, Amritsar and



Cochin; and five border units at Ramanathapuram, Gorakhpur, Motihari, Nathula and Moreh. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.252) Consider the following statements about Kodo millet:**

1. It is one of the hardiest crops, with high yield potential and excellent storage properties.
2. The tropical and subtropical regions are best suited for Kodo millet cultivation.
3. Kodo poisoning can affect the nervous and cardiovascular systems.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.252) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- Recently, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) said that the deaths of elephants in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve could have been caused by “mycotoxins associated with kodo millet”. So, UPSC can ask a question about kodo millet.

**Explanation:**

- Kodo millet (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*) is also known as Kodra and Varagu in India. It is one of the “hardiest crops, drought tolerant with high yield potential and excellent storage properties,” It is rich in vitamins and minerals. It is a staple food for many tribal and economically weaker sections in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The tropical and subtropical regions are best suited for Kodo millet cultivation. It is grown on poor soils, and widely distributed in arid and semi-arid regions. The millet is believed to have originated in India and Madhya Pradesh is one of the largest producers of the crop, according to a 2020 research paper. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- According to the research paper, “CPA (Cyclopiazonic acid) is one of the major mycotoxins associated with the kodo millet seeds causing kodo poisoning which was first recognised during the mid-eighties”. Kodo poisoning mainly affects the nervous and cardiovascular systems and the chief symptoms include “vomiting, giddiness, and

unconsciousness, small and rapid pulse, cold extremities, shaking of limbs and tremors." **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.253) With reference to Analogue Space Mission, consider the following statements:**

1. Analogue space missions are simulated missions conducted on Earth that mimic the conditions and challenges of actual space exploration.
2. Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) started the country's first analogue space mission in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.253) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation has launched its first analogue space mission in Leh, marking a significant milestone in the country's space exploration efforts. In this context, a question can be asked by UPSC about the mission.

**Explanation:**

- The Analogue space missions are simulated missions conducted on Earth that mimic the conditions and challenges of actual space exploration. These missions are crucial for testing technologies, studying human behaviour, and preparing for future long-duration space flights. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has started the country's first analogue space mission at Leh in Ladakh, where space agency will simulate life in an interplanetary habitat. The move assumes significance as India is planning to send a human to the Moon in the near future. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q.254) Consider the following statements about Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM):**

1. It is an independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.
2. The advice of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is binding on the government.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.254) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Bibek Debroy, chairman of Prime Minister's economic advisory council (EAC-PM) and a top economist, passed away recently. In this context, EAC-PM as a body becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is an independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister. It addresses issues of macroeconomic importance and presenting views thereon to the Prime Minister. These could be either suo-motu or on reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The role of EAC-PM is advisory in nature and not binding on the Government. In addition to its advisory role, the EAC-PM also plays an important role in fostering greater economic understanding and awareness among the public. The council regularly interacts with stakeholders and the public and communicates its findings and recommendations through reports, presentations, and public events. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q.255) Recently, Joint Exercise Garud Shakti 2024 was held between?**

- a) India and Nepal
- b) India and Bhutan
- c) India and Malaysia
- d) India and Indonesia

**Q.255) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- Recently, Indian Army contingent comprising 25 personnel departed for Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia to take part in the Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI 2024. In this context, this exercise becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Exercise Garud Shakti 2024 is the 9th edition of India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces exercise. The aim of Exercise is to acquaint both the sides with each other's operating procedures, enhance mutual understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the Special Forces of both armies. It is designed to develop bilateral military cooperation and strengthen bond between two armies through conduct of discussions and rehearsal of tactical military drills. **Hence, option d is the correct answer.**

**Q.256) The 'Hwasong-19' missile, recently seen in news was launched by?**

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) North Korea
- d) South Korea

**Q.256) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- North Korea recently declared that it successfully test-fired its latest intercontinental ballistic missile, the Hwasong-19. In this context, basic details about the missile can be asked by UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Hwasong-19 is a North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). As the latest addition to the Hwasong series, the Hwasong-19 incorporates solid-fuel propulsion, which allows it to be deployed more rapidly than liquid-fuelled missiles, making it harder to detect and intercept. It is estimated to be at least 28 meters long (92 feet), while advanced U.S. and Russian ICBMs are less than 20 meters long (66 feet). Analysts estimate that if launched on a standard trajectory, the Hwasong-19 could cover distances exceeding 13,000 kilometers, enough to target the U.S. mainland. **Hence, option c is the correct answer.**

**Q.257) With reference to 'First in the World Challenge', recently seen in news, consider the following statements:**

1. The First in the World Challenge aims to promote the development of groundbreaking technologies in the space sector.
2. It was recently launched jointly by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.257) Solution (d)**

**Context:**

- Recently, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched the "First in the World Challenge" initiative, aiming to foster groundbreaking innovations in the health sector. In this context, a question can be asked by UPSC about the initiative.

**Explanation:**

- The "First in the World Challenge" initiative aims to foster novel, out-of-the box, futuristic ideas, new knowledge generation, discovery/development of breakthrough health technologies (vaccines, drugs/therapeutics, diagnostics, interventions, etc.) that have never been thought of, tested, or tried in the world till date. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- This initiative was launched by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and it provides funding for projects at various stages, from proof-of-concept to prototype and final product development. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q.258) Consider the following statements about Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR):**

1. It was established in the year 1969 on the recommendation of Prof. V. K. R. V. Rao Committee.
2. It is an autonomous organisation working under the aegis of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.258) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- Recently, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) faculty and staff appealed to the education minister regarding delays in implementing 7th Central Pay Commission pay scales. In this context, a question about the institution can be asked by UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was established in the year 1969 by the Government of India to promote and fund research in the social sciences in the country. It was established on the recommendation of Prof. V. K. R. V. Rao Committee. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is an autonomous organisation working under the aegis of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education. It provides grants for projects, fellowships, international collaboration, capacity building, surveys, publications, etc. to promote research in social sciences in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.259) With reference to Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, consider the following statements:**

1. It was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.
2. It is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).
3. It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk, but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.259) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- India is committed to the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, the Prime Minister's Principal Secretary said recently, while calling for increased international collaboration to enhance disaster resilience. In this context, a question can be asked by UPSC about the framework.

**Explanation:**

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides member states with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was adopted by the UN member states at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015. It is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk, but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders, including local government, the private sector, and other stakeholders. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.260) With reference to Thadou Tribe, seen in news recently, consider the following statements:**

1. The people belonging to this tribe mainly live in the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
2. They practice subsistence activities which include animal domestication, cultivation, hunting, and fishing.
3. The Hun-Thadou cultural festival is an annual celebration of this community which is celebrated at the arrival of the New Year.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.260) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- Recently, the organisers of the Thadou Convention held in Assam's Guwahati event released a 10-point declaration to protect the Thadou tribe's distinct identity and heritage amid the ethnic crisis in Manipur. In this context, the tribe becomes important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- The people belonging to Thadou tribe live in the hill country adjacent to the Imphal Valley in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur. They speak Chin and Thado which belong to the Tibeto-Burman family of the Sino-Tibetan languages. They are also known by other names such as Chillya, Kuki, Kukihin, Teizang and Theruvan. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- They practice subsistence activities include animal domestication, cultivation, hunting, and fishing. Jhum (slash-and-burn) agriculture is predominant. The village chief's house is usually the largest dwelling within the village. Outside it there is a platform upon which men gather to discuss matters of importance and to mediate disputes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The god Pathen is believed by the Thadou to have created everything. He is also believed to be the ruler of the universe. Sacrifice is offered to Pathen for health or assistance in time of trouble. The Hun-Thadou cultural festival is an annual celebration of this community which is celebrated at the arrival of the New Year. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



**Q.261) With reference to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a quasi-judicial authority incorporated for dealing with corporate disputes that are of civil nature under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. It was established based on the recommendation of the Balakrishna Eradi committee.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.261) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India highlighted that there is often a shortage of members in the National Company Law Tribunal and inadequate infrastructure to support their functioning. In this context, NCLT as a body becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is a quasi-judicial authority incorporated for dealing with corporate disputes that are of civil nature arising under the Companies Act, 2013. It was constituted on 1 June 2016 under the Companies Act, 2013. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was constituted on 1 June 2016 under the Companies Act, 2013 based on the recommendation of the Balakrishna Eradi committee on law relating to the insolvency and the winding up of companies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.262) Consider the following statements about Sirpur Lake:**

1. It is a natural wetland located in Guwahati, Assam.
2. It is designated a Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.262) Solution (b)****Context:**

- Following the order of the National Green Tribunal, a team of Indore Municipal Corporation along with police removed encroachments and 30 stalls from the catchment area in Sirpur Lake recently. In this context, a question can be asked by UPSC about the lake.

**Explanation:**

- Sirpur Lake is a human-made wetland located in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. It is a 670-acre lake, which is more than 130 years old, made by Maharaja Shivaji Rao Holkar to generate water supply for the city of Indore. The Indore City Gazette, 1908, has many references to Sirpur Lake, utilised for water supply and recreational purposes. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was designated a Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention on January 7, 2022. It boasts a diverse habitat, featuring extensive wetlands, shrub forests, grasslands, tall trees, and shallow and deep-water areas. It is inhabited by 189 species of birds, belonging to 55 families. It is arguably one of the only remaining bird watching sites where water birds can be recorded within city limits. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.263) Consider the following statements about Titanium:**

- It is the most abundant element in the Earth's crust.
- The two prime commercial ores of titanium are Ilmenite and Rutile.
- It is used in aircraft, spacecraft, ships, and other high-stress applications.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.263) Solution (c)**

- Recently, Tata Steel signed MoU with Tamil Nadu Government for its Titanium Oxide Project. In this context, basic details about Titanium can be asked by UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Titanium is the fourth most abundant element in the Earth's crust. It often occurs in ore deposits in the form of chemical compounds with iron or oxygen. It is present in meteorites and the sun. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Titanium is corrosion resistant and generally not affected by air, water, acids or bases. It has a low density, good strength, is easily fabricated, and has excellent corrosion resistance. The two prime commercial mineral ores of titanium are Ilmenite ( $\text{FeTiO}_3$ ) and Rutile ( $\text{TiO}_2$ ). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Titanium is useful in aircraft, spacecraft, ships, and other high-stress applications. It also is used in prosthetic devices, because it does not react with fleshy tissue and bone. Titanium oxide spectra are used by astronomers to identify cool red dwarf stars. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.264) With reference to 'Gluten', consider the following statements:**

1. It is a type of carbohydrate found in the wheat plant and some other grains.
2. It is naturally occurring, but it can be extracted, concentrated and added to food to give it texture and flavour.
3. Over consumption of gluten can lead to Coeliac disease, which is characterised by a severe allergic reaction in the small intestine.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.264) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- Gluten is infamous for the allergic reaction it induces in some people and has often been in news. In this context, basic details about gluten can be asked by UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Gluten is a type of protein found in the wheat plant and some other grains. Many cereal grains — but in particular barley, wheat, and rye — contain specific proteins that, when mixed with water and kneaded, create an elastic mass. Two important types of these proteins are gliadins and glutenins. At the microscopic level, gluten is an elastic mesh of the protein molecules. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is naturally occurring, but it can be extracted, concentrated and added to food and other products to add protein, texture and flavour. It also works as a binding agent to hold processed foods together and give them shape. The ability of gliadins and

glutenins to create gluten makes them prized ingredients in the food industry. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Over consumption of gluten can lead to Coeliac disease, which is characterised by a severe allergic reaction in the small intestine, prompting the immune system to produce a large number of antibodies that attack the body's own proteins. The disease is present in around 2% of the general population. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.265) State of the Climate Report 2024, seen in news recently was published by?**

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)

**Q.265) Solution (b)**

**Context:**

- State of the Climate 2024 Report once again issues a Red Alert at the sheer pace of climate change in a single generation, turbo-charged by ever-increasing greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere. In this context, the report becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- State of the Climate 2024 Report was released by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) during the United National Climate Conference (COP29) in Baku. The year 2024 is on track to be the warmest year on record after an extended streak of exceptionally high monthly global mean temperatures. It said that 2015-2024 would be the warmest ten years on record, adding that ocean warming rates show a particularly strong increase in the past two decades and the planet's seas will continue to heat up irreversibly. **Hence, option b is the correct answer.**

**Q.266) Which of the following country recently launched the Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme (MATES) Scheme, to give Indian university graduates and early career professionals a chance to work in their country?**

- United States of America
- United Kingdom
- Australia
- Japan

**Q.266) Solution (c)**

**Context:**

- Australia has come up with a new scheme called MATES that allows talented young people from India to work in the country for some time. In this context, a question can be asked by UPSC about the scheme.

**Explanation:**

- Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme (MATES) gives Indian university graduates and early career professionals a chance to work in Australia for two years. Australia and India entered into a Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA). The MMPA is a bilateral framework that supports and promotes two-way migration and mobility between the two countries, while addressing issues pertaining to illegal and irregular migration. **Hence, option c is the correct answer.**

**Q.267) With reference to Subansiri Lower Hydro Electric Project (SLHEP), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an under-construction gravity dam on the Subansiri River.
2. It is a run-of-river project located on the border of Tripura and Mizoram.
3. It will be the single largest hydroelectric plant in India when completed.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.267) Solution (b)****Context:**

- Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project nears commissioning stage by March 2025. In this context, a question can be asked by UPSC about the project.

**Explanation:**

- Subansiri Lower Hydro Electric Project (SLHEP) is an under-construction gravity dam on the Subansiri River. The project is being developed by the state-run National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a run-of-river project in North Eastern India on the borders of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. It is expected to supply 2,000 MW of power (eight 250 MW units) when completed. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- It will be the single largest hydroelectric plant in India when completed. The dam will be 116 m high from the river bed level and 130 m from the foundation. The length of the dam will be 284 m. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.268) With reference to Wildlife Institute of India (WII), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an autonomous institution established in 1982 for nurturing the growth of wildlife science in the country.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
3. It is located in New Delhi.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.268) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- Experts from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) have claimed that the controversial 'Project Cheetah' in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, has proven to be a successful endeavour by the Centre. In this context, Wildlife Institute of India as an institution becomes important for UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is an autonomous institution established in 1982 for nurturing the growth of wildlife science in the country. The institute carries out research work in the fields of study, which include Biodiversity, policy related to wildlife, Endangered Species, Wildlife management, forensic Wildlife research work, Eco-development, Spatial Modelling, and studies related to changing climatic conditions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, Government of India. The board is chaired by the Union Minister and has representatives from the centre and state governments as well as institutions and academia. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is located in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. It shares the boundaries with the famous Rajaji National Park. It is an internationally acclaimed institution, which offers training programs, academic courses, and advisory in wildlife research and management. It is actively engaged in research across the breadth of the country on biodiversity related issues. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q.269) With reference to Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher, consider the following statements:**

1. It is designed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a laboratory of the DRDO.
2. It was first used during the India-Pakistan War of 1965.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.269) Solution (a)**

**Context:**

- According to defence officials, two South American countries have shown interest in the Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers. In this context, its features become important from the perspective of UPSC.

**Explanation:**

- Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher is designed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a laboratory of the DRDO. It consists of a multi-tube launcher vehicle, a replenishment-cum-loader vehicle, a replenishment vehicle, and a command post vehicle. It has a range of 60 to 75 kilometers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was first used during the Kargil War, where it successfully neutralised Pakistan Army positions on the mountain tops. It delivers lethal and responsive fire against a variety of area targets, such as exposed enemy troops, armoured and soft-skin vehicles, communication centres, air terminal complexes, and fuel and ammunition dumps. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q.270) Consider the following statements about Sahyadri Tiger Reserve:**

1. It is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats in Madhya Pradesh.
2. It is the northernmost tiger habitat located in the Western Ghats.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

**Q.270) Solution (b)****Context:**

- In a boost for wildlife enthusiasts and tourists, a new tiger has been spotted in the renowned Sahyadri Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra. In this context, a question can be asked by UPSC about the Reserve.

**Explanation:**

- Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats in Maharashtra. The history of the area dates back to the Maratha Empire, and many forts built or captured by the first Maratha Emperor Shivaji Bhonsle can be found here. The legendary temple from which Shivaji received the Bhavani Sword from divine providence is also said to be among the many ruins in this region. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is the northernmost tiger habitat in western ghats, with an area of almost 741.22 sq. km. The reserve spreads over Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, forming the northern portion, and Chandoli National Park, forming the southern part of the reserve. STR was created by merging the areas of these two forests in 2007. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q.271) With reference to GSAT-N2 (GSAT-20), consider the following statements:**

1. It is India's advanced communication satellite.
2. It was developed by New Space India Limited (NSIL).
3. It was launched into a lower earth orbit.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Q.271) Solution (a)****Explanation:**



**Context:** India's first collaboration with Elon Musk's SpaceX as the country's GSAT-N2 communication satellite launched, enhancing broadband services and in-flight connectivity across India.

- GSAT-N2 (GSAT-20) is India's advanced communication satellite. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is designed to provide data and internet services to remote regions and enable in-flight Internet connectivity across the Indian subcontinent.
- It was developed by New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO under the Department of Space. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It is a high-throughput communication satellite operating in the Ka-band.
- It is equipped with multiple spot beams and is designed to support a large user base, utilizing small user terminals.
- It is India's highest throughput satellite and the only one exclusively operating in the highly sought-after Ka-band.
- It was launched into a geosynchronous transfer orbit. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Q.272) Consider the following statements about the Exercise Sanyukt Vimochan:**

1. It is a multilateral annual joint **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise.**
2. It was conducted by the **Konark Corps** of Southern Command of the Indian Army.
3. It was conducted in Kochi, Kerala.

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

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

**Q.272) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Indian Army successfully conducted the Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise, 'Sanyukt Vimochan 2024' at Ahmedabad and Porbandar on 18-19 November 2024.

- Exercise Sanyukt Vimochan is a **multilateral annual joint** Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- It is **aimed at** addressing gaps in interagency integration and cooperation, ensuring a swift and coordinated response to natural disasters.
- It was conducted by the Konark Corps of Southern Command of the Indian Army. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It highlighted the collaborative efforts of the **Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Airforce, Indian Coast Guard**, National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force & other Central & State Agencies in addressing natural disasters.
- It was conducted at Ahmedabad and Porbandar, Gujarat. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The inaugural event of the exercise at Ahmedabad featured a **Tabletop Exercise**, focusing on the theme of '**Cyclone in Coastal Region of Gujarat**'. Representatives from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA), Meteorological Department, and FICCI attended the event along with Indian Armed Forces officials.

**Q.273) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** High-altitude sickness, or Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), occurs when the body cannot acclimatize to high elevations, typically over 8,000 feet (2,400 metres).

**Statement II:** As altitude increases, the air pressure and oxygen levels increase, leading to hypoxia — a shortage of oxygen in the body's tissues.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to 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 Statement II is correct

**Q.273) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** Every year, numerous tourists like this succumb to the effects of high-altitude sickness in the pristine but challenging inner Himalayas.

- High-altitude sickness, or Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), occurs when the body cannot acclimatise to high elevations, typically over 8,000 feet (2,400 metres). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- Early symptoms of AMS include headache, nausea, fatigue, and shortness of breath. If left untreated, it can escalate into high-altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE), a life-threatening condition where fluid accumulates in the lungs, or high-altitude cerebral edema (HACE), where fluid collects in the brain.
- Both conditions require immediate medical intervention, and descent to lower altitudes is often the only way to prevent fatal outcomes.
- As altitude increases, the air pressure and oxygen levels decrease, leading to hypoxia — a shortage of oxygen in the body's tissues. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- At higher altitudes, the body tries to adjust by increasing the breathing rate, which can cause hyperventilation, and produce more red blood cells to carry oxygen, which thickens the blood and strains the heart.

**Q.274) It is located at the junction of the Eastern and the Western Ghats in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, in the Erode District of Tamil Nadu. Its area is contiguous with the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka), and BR Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka). It consists of southern tropical dry thorn forests, mixed deciduous forests, and semi-evergreen forests. Some of the prominent rivers in the region include the Bhavani, Moyar, and Noyyal rivers. It is home to indigenous tribal communities like the Irula and Kurumba tribes.**

The above paragraph describes which of the following Tiger Reserve?

- Aanamalai Tiger Reserve
- Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
- Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve
- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

**Q.274) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** An initiative taken by the Forest Department to conduct evening coaching classes for school children in 10 tribal hamlets located within the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) has significantly enhanced their learning skills, while also providing them with livelihood opportunities and reducing their dependence on the forest in the long term. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) is located at the junction of the Eastern and the Western Ghats in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, in the Erode District of Tamil Nadu. Its area is contiguous with the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka), and BR Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka). It consists of southern tropical dry thorn forests, mixed deciduous forests, and semi-evergreen forests. Some of the prominent rivers in the region include the Bhavani, Moyar, and Noyyal rivers. It is home to indigenous tribal communities like the Irula and Kurumba tribes. **Hence option b is correct.**

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

1. **Permanent Migration**
2. **Reclassification of Area**
3. **Forged Documents**
4. **Duplicate Job Cards**

How many of the above conditions lead to the deletion of job cards under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act of 2005 (MGNREGA)**?

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

**Q.275) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** In 2021-22, 1.49 crore workers were deleted, which surged to 5.53 crore in 2022-23 resulting in a 247% increase in deletions in 2022-23. In the last four years, names of 10.43 crore MGNREGA workers across India have been deleted.

As per **Schedule II, Paragraph 23** of the MGNREGA Act, 2005, a job card can only be **deleted under specific**, well-defined conditions:

- **Permanent Migration:** If a household **permanently relocates** from the concerned **Gram Panchayat**.
- **Duplicate Job Cards:** If a job card is found to be a **duplicate**.
- **Forged Documents:** If a job card was issued based on **forged documents**.
- **Reclassification of Area:** If a Gram Panchayat is reclassified as a **Municipal Corporation**, all associated **job cards** are deleted.
- **Other Valid Reasons:** The MGNREGA **Management Information System (MIS)** lists reasons like "**Duplicate Applicant**," "**Fake Applicant**," and "**Not Willing to Work**."

**Q.276) Consider the following statements about the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) - Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale:**

1. It provides **interest-free loans for 100 years to states** for developing iconic tourist centers, branding, and global marketing.
2. The completion time for projects is capped at one year, with funds available until 31st March 2026.

3. The central government is solely responsible for the project's operations and maintenance, potentially through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

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

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

**Q.276) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Centre has approved interest-free loans worth ₹3,295 crore to States for the development of tourism sites and infrastructure.

- The Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) - Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale **provides** interest-free loans for 50 years to states for developing iconic tourist centers, branding, and global marketing. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It aims to **boost local economies, create jobs, promote sustainable tourism**, and strengthen the entire tourist value chain(including Transportation, Accommodation, Activities, and Services) through challenge-mode projects.
- Under the scheme, states must provide **encumbrance-free land at no cost.**
- The projects under the scheme must be sustainable, with long-term operation and maintenance.
- The completion time for projects is capped at two years, with funds available until 31st March 2026. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The **Ministry of Tourism** will evaluate proposals based on criteria such as **connectivity, existing tourism ecosystem, site capacity, utility availability, project impact, financial viability, and sustainability.**
- The state government is solely responsible for the project's operations and maintenance, potentially through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale component under the SASCI scheme focuses on developing tourism infrastructure in India, promoting less-visited sites like **Bateshwar (Uttar Pradesh), Ponda (Goa), and Gandikota (Andhra Pradesh)** to diversify tourism.

**Q.277) With reference to the Features of Miniature Paintings, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is executed in the traditional tempera technique.

2. The painting shouldn't be larger than 25 square inches.
3. It used natural pigments derived from minerals, plants, metals, and shells.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

#### Q.277) Solution (d)

#### Explanation:

**Context:** 'Musawwari: Miniatures Today', an exhibition in New Delhi highlights the relevance of miniature painting in modern times.

Features of Miniature Paintings:

- It is executed in the traditional tempera technique. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- In these paintings, there are very few human characters with visible front faces. Most of the human characters are seen with side profiles.
- The painting shouldn't be larger than 25 square inches. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The subject of the painting should be painted in not more than 1/6th of the actual size.
- Various schools of miniature painting emerged across different regions of India, such as the Buddhist Pala, the Jain, the Rajasthani, the Mughal, the Deccan, and the Pahari schools. Each school had its distinct styles, themes, and techniques.
- The various features of these paintings include big eyes, a pointed nose, and a slim waist. The skin colours of human beings are brown and fair.
- They depicted a wide range of subjects, including religious stories, myths, legends, epics, historical events, court scenes, portraits, landscapes, flora and fauna, and erotica. This diversity showcased the interests and preferences of different rulers and communities.
- It used natural pigments derived from minerals, plants, metals, and shells. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q.278) Consider the following statements about the PM-WANI Scheme:

1. It was launched by the Department of Telecom (DoT).
2. It aims to expand public Wi-Fi hotspots across India, particularly in urban areas.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Q.278) Solution (a)****Explanation:**

**Context:** The Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) framework aims to accelerate the proliferation of internet services by setting up public Wi-Fi Access points in the country with the objective of building digital India and consequential benefits thereon. The total number of Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) hotspots installed in the country as of 21.11.2024 is 246993. The National Digital Communications Policy, of 2018 aimed deployment of 10 million public Wi-Fi Hotspots by 2022.

- PM-WANI Scheme was launched by the Department of Telecom (DoT). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It allows local businesses, like shopkeepers, to set up Wi-Fi hotspots, providing affordable internet access and supporting the goals of the **National Digital Communications Policy of 2018.**
- It enables **local businesses** to become Wi-Fi providers without requiring licenses or fees, the scheme promotes ease of doing business and ensures rapid deployment.
- It aims to expand public Wi-Fi hotspots across India, particularly in rural areas. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Under the scheme, the **Public Data Office (PDO)** establishes, maintains, and operates PM-WANI-compliant Wi-Fi hotspots.

**Q.279) Which of the following department conceptualized the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) of 2023?**

- a) Department of Telecommunications
- b) Department of Science and Technology
- c) **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances**
- d) *Department of Consumer Affairs*

**Q.279) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

**Context:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances,

Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space has launched Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) 2023 in the presence of Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Govt. of India.

- **The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances** conceptualized the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) of 2023 based on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. **Hence option c is correct.**
- It has an objective to present organization-wise comparative pictures and provide valuable insights about strengths and areas of improvement regarding grievance redressal mechanisms.
- The **first edition** of GRAI 2022 was released on 21 June 2023.
- Eighty-nine Central Ministries and Departments were assessed and ranked based on a comprehensive index in the dimensions of efficiency, feedback, domain, and organizational commitment and corresponding 11 indicators.

To compute the index, data between January and December 2023 was used from the **Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Management System** (CPGRAMS).

**Q.280) Arrange the following African Countries from West to East:**

1. Sudan
2. Niger
3. Somalia
4. Chad

Choose the correct answer using the codes below:

- a) 1-4-3-2;
- b) 4-2-3-1;
- c) 3-2-4-1;
- d) 2-4-1-3;

**Q.280) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Indian Prime Minister visits Nigeria, Africa's most populous country and second-largest economy.





Hence option d is correct.

**Q.281) With reference to the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024 (BAHS), consider the following statements:**

1. It was released by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
2. The top three producers of milk are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.
3. The top three producers of eggs are Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.
4. The top three producers of meat are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

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

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

**Q,281) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Union Minister, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying released the annual publication of 'Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024' of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying on the occasion of National Milk Day celebrated in New Delhi.

- The Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024 (BAHS) was released by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The top three producers of milk are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The top three producers of eggs are Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The top three producers of meat are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

Source:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2077745#:~:text=As%20released%20in%20BAHS%202024,the%20estimates%20of%202022%2D23>

**Q.282) Consider the following statements about Bioplastics:**

1. They are derived from renewable organic sources.
2. They are not always biodegradable.
3. They are used in food packaging and medical supplies.

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

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

**Q.282) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Balrampur Chini Mills, Uttar Pradesh one of India's leading sugar producers, announced a Rs 2,000 crore investment in India's first bioplastics factory to produce Bioplastics.

- Bioplastics are derived from renewable organic sources. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Bioplastics are produced by extracting sugar from plants like corn and sugarcane and converting it into polylactic acids (PLAs). Alternatively, they can be made from polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) from microorganisms which are then polymerized into bioplastic.
- They are not always biodegradable. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The production of Bioplastics absorbs carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and contributes to a neutral or potentially negative carbon balance, helping reduce the carbon footprint compared to fossil-based plastics.
- Bioplastics are as strong and durable as traditional plastics, making them ideal for use in a variety of applications such as food packaging, agricultural films, and medical supplies. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.283) With reference to Carbon Credits, consider the following statements:**

1. It refers to carbon emissions reductions or removals, measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e).
2. It was introduced by the Paris Agreement of 2015 that aims to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions.
3. Each carbon credit permits the emission of one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> or its equivalent.

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**Q.283) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Carbon trade, being relied upon to accelerate emission cuts around the world, has been largely ineffective till now, and only a very small number of projects have resulted in real emissions reductions, a new study published in Nature Journal has found.

- Carbon Credits refer to carbon emissions reductions or removals, measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- These credits are generated by projects that absorb or reduce carbon emissions and are certified by international bodies like the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Gold Standard.
- The concept of carbon credit, introduced in the Kyoto Protocol, in 1997 and reinforced by the Paris Agreement, 2015 aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through carbon trading. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Each carbon credit permits the emission of one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> or its equivalent. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.284) Consider the following statements regarding the Global Soil Conference 2024:**

1. It was organised by the Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS) in collaboration with the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS).
2. Its theme was "Caring Soils Beyond Food Security: Climate change mitigation & Ecosystem Services".

**Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only

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

**Q.284) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Union Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Minister addressed the Global Soils Conference 2024 organized in PUSA New Delhi today through video conferencing.

- The Global Soil Conference 2024 was organized by the Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS) in collaboration with the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is aimed to foster a global dialogue on how caring for soils can drive sustainability across various sectors.

Key Highlights of GSC 2024:

- Soil health was recognized as a pressing issue, with soil degradation affecting productivity and posing a threat to global food security.
- Around 30% of India's soil is reportedly compromised due to erosion, salinity, pollution, and loss of organic carbon.
- The conference underscored the importance of international cooperation in tackling soil erosion, which aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG 15) of the United Nations.
- Its theme was "Caring Soils Beyond Food Security: Climate Change Mitigation & Ecosystem Services". **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2074585>

**Q.285) Consider the following pairs:**

Prehistoric discoveries in Kerala	Place
1. Running tiger carvings	Wayanad
2. Human figures	Cheemeni Ariyittapara
3. Edakkal Caves	Neeleswaram.
4. Bull figures	Ettukudukka

**How many pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

- a) One pair
- b) Two pairs
- c) Three pairs
- d) Four pairs

**Q.285) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** A remarkable archaeological discovery has come to light at Kanhirapoil in Madikkai panchayat where 24 pairs of prehistoric footprints and a human figure have been found carved into rock on private property. Experts believe these carvings date back to the Megalithic period, providing a fascinating glimpse into ancient culture.

Prehistoric Discoveries in Kerala	Place
1. Running tiger carvings	Neeleswaram
2. Human figures	Cheemeni Ariyittapara
3. Edakkal Caves	Wayanad
4. Bull figures	Ettukudukka

Hence option b is correct.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/prehistoric-rock-cut-footprints-and-human-figure-unearthed-at-kanhirapoil/article68893518.ece#:~:text=SUBSCRIBE%20%26%20SAVE-,The%20carvings%2C%20made%20with%20iron%20tools%2C%20include%20footprints%20varying%20in,four%20circular%20pits%20around%20it>

**Q.286) With reference to the Bhu-Neer portal, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to improve groundwater regulation, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in groundwater usage.
2. It was developed by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

**Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Q.286) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti digitally launched the newly developed “Bhu-Neer” portal during the concluding ceremony of India Water Week 2024.

- The Bhu-Neer portal aims to improve groundwater regulation, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in groundwater usage. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- It has a centralized database for groundwater compliance and policies, enhancing the Ease of Doing Business by simplifying groundwater regulation.
- It was developed by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC). **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2074919>

**Q.287) Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers is a platform that brings together the dispersed landscape of existing climate initiatives in the field of food and agriculture, in order to make support for farmers easier to find and to facilitate access to finance. It was launched by Azerbaijan in partnership with which of the following organization?**

- a) *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*
- b) **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**
- c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- d) *World Economic Forum (WEF)*

**Q.287) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Completely ignoring the demands of the developing nations for mobilization of at least 1.3 trillion dollars a year in climate finance, the developed countries managed to force an agreement at the COP29 meeting in Baku, promising to put together just 300 billion dollars a year, that too from 2035.

Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers is a platform that brings together the dispersed landscape of existing climate initiatives in the field of food and agriculture, to make support for farmers easier to find and to facilitate access to finance. It was launched by Azerbaijan in partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). **Hence option c is correct.**

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/india-rejects-cop29-climate-finance-deal-calls-optical-illusion-9687012/>

**Q.288) Consider the following statements about Raorchestes asakgrensis:**

1. It is a **new species of snake.**
2. It was named after a **community reserve in Manipur.**

**Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

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

## Q.288) Solution (d)

## Statement Analysis:

**Context:** A team of scientists from SACON (The Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History) in Anaikatti, has discovered a new frog species during a two-year study in Meghalaya. They have named the species as 'Raorchestes asakgreensis', after the Eman Asakgre Community Reserve in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya, where it was discovered, to honour the people who supported them.

- **Raorchestes asakgreensis** is a new species of frog. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
- It is found at an elevation of 174 meters in Eman Asakgre, this **small arboreal frog** is distinctive for its pointed snout and visible tympanum.
- Males measure about 20.49 mm in snout-vent length, with females slightly larger at 22.8 mm.
- Males call from shrubs at dusk, perched 1.5 meters or higher, with calling activity peaking after the first monsoon rains.
- It was named after the **Eman Asakgre Community Reserve in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya**, where it was discovered, to honour the local community's support in conservation efforts. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.



Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/Nov/21/sacon-team-from-tns-anaikatti-discovers-new-frog-species-in-meghalaya-during-two-year-study>

Q.289) With reference to the **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puruskar**, consider the following statements:

1. It was instituted by the **Sangeet Natak Akademi**.
2. It is **given annually** to outstanding young artists in the fields of music, dance, drama, folk & tribal arts and puppetry.
3. It carries a **purse of Rs 50,000/-**, a plaque and an **angavastram**.

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

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



**Q.289) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** The Union Minister of Culture and Tourism will confer the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2022 and 2023 to 82 young artists in a special ceremony at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi.

- Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puruskar was instituted by the Sangeet Natak Akademi. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The reason behind instituting the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar was to **encourage and motivate young artists** in the field of **music, dance, drama, folk and tribal art** forms and other allied performing art forms of the country.
- It is **given annually** to outstanding young artists in the fields of music, dance, drama, folk & tribal arts, and puppetry. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It carries a **purse of Rs 25,000/-**, a plaque and an **angavastram**. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Note:**

**Ustad Bismillah Khan** was a famous Shehnai musician. He also played at the **first Republic Day celebration** in 1950. He was the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Center Hall in the United States of America.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2075433>

**Q.290) Consider the following statements regarding the Ganges River Dolphin:**

1. Bihar is home to around half of the estimated Gangetic dolphins in India.
2. It inhabits the **Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems**.
3. **The National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC)** is located near the **Ganga river in Jharkhand**.

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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



**Q.290) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis:**

**Context:** Eight months after the inauguration of the National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) in Bihar, the country's first centre dedicated to conserving the endangered Gangetic river dolphin, remains non-operational.

- Bihar is home to around half of the estimated Gangetic dolphins in India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Ganges River Dolphins inhabit the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) is located near the Ganga River in **Patna, Bihar. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- NDRC was inaugurated in 2024 and dedicated to researching and conserving the Gangetic River dolphin. It is located strategically near the Ganga River and aims to facilitate studies on dolphin behaviour, habitat, and conservation threats.

**Note:**

Protection Status of the Ganges River Dolphin:

- Endangered on the IUCN List
- Schedule I in the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972
- Appendix I in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- Appendix I in the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

**Q.291) Kumbh Mela is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river. It takes place at 4 different places.**

**In the above context, consider the following pairs:**

Place	River
1. Haridwar	Shipra
2. Ujjain	Ganges
3. Nashik	Godavari
4. Prayagraj	Yamuna

**How many pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

- One pair
- Two pairs

- c) Three pairs
- d) Four pairs

**Q.291) Solution (b)****Explanation:**

**Context:** The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, a sacred pilgrimage, will be held in Prayagraj from 13th January to 26th February 2025.

Kumbh Mela is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river. It takes place at 4 different places as below:

Place	River
1. Haridwar	Ganges
2. Ujjain	Shipra
3. Nashik	Godavari
4. Prayagraj	The confluence of Yamuna, Ganges, and the mythical invisible Saraswati.

Hence option b is correct.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2070943>

**Q.292) With reference to the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) Initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an initiative of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).
2. It cultivates research excellence in central and state public universities by fostering collaborations with top-tier institutions.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Q.292) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

**Context:** The Centre launched an initiative, called Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR), to support research in universities, especially central and state public universities.

- The Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) Initiative is an initiative of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- ANRF has been established with the ANRF 2023 Act. It aims to seed, grow, and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.
- ANRF will act as an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP).
- It cultivates research excellence in central and state public universities by fostering collaborations with top-tier institutions. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Its objectives are:
  - Stimulate scientific innovation in institutions with limited research, in a mentorship mode by leveraging the knowledge and expertise of top-ranking institutions.
  - Support internationally competitive research with substantial impact and outcome.
  - Foster successful and productive collaborative networks between diverse institutions.
  - Propel the advancement of institutions by (i) upscaling and building advanced research infrastructure and capabilities, (ii) enhancing the quality of research and (iii) facilitating infusion of best practices and research culture.

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2024/Nov/14/centre-launches-initiative-to-support-research-innovation-in-varsities>

<https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/PAIR?HomePage=New#:~:text=PAIR%20Program%20has%20been%20designed,a%20hub%20and%20spoke%20framework>

**Q.293) Consider the following statements regarding Avian Botulism:**

1. It is caused by the ingestion of a toxin produced by fungi.
2. Conditions like high temperatures, low oxygen levels, and an abundance of organic nutrients may contribute to outbreaks among birds.
3. It is widespread in invertebrates such as insects, molluscs, and crustaceans, as well as in many vertebrates, including healthy birds.

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

- a) Only one
- b) Only two

- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.293) Solution (b)****Explanation:**

**Context:** High temperatures and reduced salinity in Sambhar Lake may have created conditions conducive to avian botulism, resulting in the mass deaths of migratory birds in Rajasthan.

- Avian Botulism is caused by the ingestion of a toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*, which leads to paralysis and can be fatal for birds. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- These bacterial spores are widespread in wetland sediments and are found in most wetland habitats.
- Conditions like high temperatures, low oxygen levels, and an abundance of organic nutrients may contribute to outbreaks among birds. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- There are seven types of botulism toxins (A-G). Wild birds are affected by type C and type E.
- It is widespread in invertebrates such as insects, molluscs, and crustaceans, as well as in many vertebrates, including healthy birds. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/wildlife-biodiversity/extreme-weather-may-have-triggered-avian-botulism-leading-to-600-bird-deaths-in-rajasthan>

**Q.294) With respect to Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the third-largest tiger reserve in India.
2. It is the fourth tiger reserve in Chhattisgarh.
3. It falls between Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh and Palamau Tiger Reserve in Jharkhand.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Q.294) Solution (d)****Explanation:**

**Context:** The Chhattisgarh government notified the Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla in the state as India's 56th tiger reserve.

- Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve is the third-largest tiger reserve in India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is spread over a total area of 2,829.387 sq km.
- It is the fourth tiger reserve in Chhattisgarh after Achanakmar, Indravati, and Udanti Sitanadi. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It is spread across four districts, Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB), Korea, Surajpur, and Balrampur in the northern tribal Sarguja region of Chhattisgarh.
- It falls between Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh and Palamau Tiger Reserve in Jharkhand. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- It is adjacent to Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve, also in MP.
- The reserve comprises a wide range of wildlife species (apart from tigers) such as elephants, sloth bears, vultures, peacocks, wolves, leopards, otters, chitals, jackals, nilgai, bison, hyenas, langurs, cobras, etc.
- The reserve is also rich in flora — comprising sal, saja, dhavda, kusum, etc.



Image Source: <https://ntca.gov.in/tiger-reserves/#tiger-reserves-2>

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/chhattisgarhs-newest-tiger-reserve-9684697/>

<https://ntca.gov.in/tiger-reserves/#tiger-reserves-2>

**Q.295) Consider the following statements about *Dicliptera srisailamica*:**

1. It is a flowering plant found in the Western Ghats of Kerala.
2. It is named after the temple town of Srisailam.
3. It is an erect herb, reaching up to 90 cm.

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

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

**Q.295) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** A team of botanists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has identified *Dicliptera srisailamica*, a flowering plant found in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

- *Dicliptera srisailamica* is a flowering plant found in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It was found in rare patches along stream banks and rocky edges near waterfalls.
- It is named after the temple town of Srisailam. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Belonging to the Acanthaceae family, *Dicliptera srisailamica* adds to the diversity of this plant family, which is represented globally by 223 known species. In India, the *Dicliptera* genus includes 27 species, eight of which are endemic to the country. Andhra Pradesh alone is home to seven recorded species of *Dicliptera*, contributing significantly to the flora of the Eastern Ghats.
- It is an erect herb, reaching up to 90 cm, with four-angled stems covered in fine, deflexed hairs when young. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Its leaves are ovate, with prominent veins and smooth margins.
- The plant blooms with small, pink, bi-lipped flowers arranged in clusters, commonly seen from October to January.

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2024/Nov/15/new-flowering-plant-species-discovered-in-eastern-ghats-of-andhra-telangana>

**Q.296) With regard to AI-enabled e-Tarang System, consider the following statements:**

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It will improve planning for the interference-free operation of defence equipment.

**Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Q.296) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The annual meeting of the Joint Electromagnetic Board (JEMB), a subcommittee of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) featured the launch of the AI-enabled e-Tarang System, which will enable automated, efficient planning and management of Defence Spectrum, as well as support development of newer technologies in higher frequency bands.

- AI-enabled e-Tarang System was launched by the Ministry of Defence. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is a unique software, developed in collaboration with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N).
- It will improve planning for the interference-free operation of defence equipment. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It will enable automated, efficient planning and management of the Defence Spectrum, as well as support the development of newer technologies in higher frequency bands.
- It is set to support rapid decision-making, thereby allowing seamless integration of newer technologies critical for modern defence applications.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2073259>

**Q.297) Consider the following statements about the Press Council of India:**

1. It was set up based on the recommendations of the First Press Commission under the chairmanship of Justice J.R Mudholkar.
2. It is an executive, quasi-judicial body that acts as a watchdog of the press in India.
3. Its Chairman is nominated by a committee consisting of the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, and one representative of the council member.

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**Q.297) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** National Press Day is celebrated every year on November 16th, honouring the essential role of a free and responsible press in our society.

- The Press Council of India was set up based on the recommendations of the First Press Commission under the chairmanship of Justice J.R Mudholkar. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It was first set up in 1966 by the parliament.
- Its primary function is to check the media practice and to keep an eye on the freedom of the press.
- It is a statutory, quasi-judicial body that acts as a watchdog of the press in India. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The present council functions under the Press Council Act of 1978.



- It adjudicates the complaints either against the Press for violation of journalistic ethics or by the Press for interference with its freedom.
- It consists of a Chairman and 28 other members.
- Its Chairman is nominated by a committee consisting of the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, and one representative of the council member. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The Chairman, by convention, has been a retired judge of the Supreme Court.
- The term of the Chairman and the members of the Council is 3 years.

Source:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NotelD=153422&ModuleId=3&reg=3&lang=1>

**Q.298) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) are banks that are considered 'Too Big to Fail' (TBTF) within the domestic economy.

**Statement II:** It is due to their size, complexity, and interconnections with the financial system.

**Which one of the following is correct with respect to 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 Statement II is correct

**Q.298) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday retained the State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).

- Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) are banks that are considered 'Too Big to Fail' (TBTF) within the domestic economy. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- These banks are classified based on the potential economic disruption if they fail.
- They are subjected to additional regulatory measures like capital buffers, stress tests, and recovery and resolution planning to enhance their resilience and ability to withstand financial shocks.
- This is due to their size, complexity, and interconnections with the financial system. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/domestic-systemically-important-banks-d-sibs-banks-big-fail-9667745/>

**Q.299) With reference to the difference between the Black Hole and Black Hole Triple System, consider the following statements:**

1. A Black Hole includes a singular black hole whereas a Black Hole Triple System includes one central black hole and two stars.
2. A Black Hole is found about 8,000 light years away in the constellation Cygnus whereas the Black Hole Triple System is found across the universe.

**Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Q.299) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Context:** A new study says scientists have discovered a “black hole triple” in space for the first time.

1. A Black Hole includes a singular black hole whereas a Black Hole Triple System includes one central black hole and two stars. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
2. A Black Hole is found across the universe whereas the Black Hole Triple System is found about 8,000 light years away in the constellation Cygnus. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

Difference Between a Black Hole and a Black Hole Triple System		
Feature	Black Hole	Black Hole Triple System

<b>Components</b>	A singular black hole.	One central black hole (V404 Cygni) and two stars.
<b>Orbital Details</b>	No other celestial body is necessarily bound to the black hole.	- One star orbits every 6.5 days. - Another star orbits every 70,000 years.
<b>Location</b>	Found across the universe.	Located about 8,000 light-years away in the constellation Cygnus.
<b>Unique Features</b>	Often found in isolation or binary systems.	Features gravitationally linked stars in a rare triple configuration.
<b>Behaviour</b>	May consume nearby matter and emit X-rays.	The central black hole consumes the nearer star over time.
<b>Scientific Implications</b>	Supports standard models of black hole formation and stellar evolution.	Challenges traditional black hole formation theories and provides insights into complex gravitational dynamics.
<b>Discovery Context</b>	Commonly studied through telescopic data.	Accidentally discovered while analyzing astronomical data of V404 Cygni.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-sci-tech/first-black-hole-triple-system-discovered-what-does-it-mean-9649210/>

**Q.300) In India, the Disaster Management Act of 2005, defines a disaster as a "catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence" arising from natural or man-made causes that result in substantial loss of life, destruction of property, or damage to the environment. Currently, 12 disasters are classified as Notified Disaster in India.**

How many of the following are considered as the Notified Disaster in India?

1. Cyclone
2. Heat Wave
3. Drought
4. Hailstorm
5. Pest Attack
6. Cold Wave

Select the correct answer using the option below:

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

**Q.300) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** The union government informed Kerala that the Wayanad landslides of July 30 cannot be declared a national calamity, and expressed the view that sufficient funds are available with the state for relief operations.
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- In India, the Disaster Management Act of 2005, defines a disaster as a "catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence" arising from natural or man-made causes that result in substantial loss of life, destruction of property, or damage to the environment. Currently, 12 disasters are classified as Notified Disaster in India. They are cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, fires, floods, tsunamis, hailstorms, landslides, avalanches, cloud bursts, pest attacks and frost, and cold waves. **Hence option c is correct.**

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/thiruvananthapuram/kerala-has-enough-funds-cant-declare-wayanad-landslides-a-national-calamity-centre-9670538/>