



# CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

MCQs on important  
news of the day  
from Hindu &  
Indian Express.

**DECEMBER 2021**

Q.1) Exercise 'Dosti' is a coast guard exercise between which of the following countries?

1. India
2. Sri Lanka
3. Myanmar
4. Maldives

Select the correct answer from the codes given below.

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

Ans: c

Exp: The 15th edition of the biennial trilateral coast guard exercise 'Dosti' involving India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka is underway in the Maldives.

Q.2) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0, consider the following:

1. It aims to empower Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.
2. The scheme is launched by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both the statements are correct about the scheme.

Q.3) Consider the following Statements:

1. Like the Speaker in Lok Sabha, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha is empowered under Rule Number 255 of its Rule Book to "direct any Member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately" from the House.
2. Unlike the Speaker, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a member.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: Like the Speaker in Lok Sabha, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha is empowered under Rule Number 255 of its Rule Book to “direct any Member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately” from the House.

Statement 2 is correct: Unlike the Speaker, however, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member.

When can the presiding officer invoke suspension?

Under Rule 255 (‘Withdrawal of member’) of the General Rules of Procedure of the Rajya Sabha, “The Chairman may direct any member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the Council and any member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall absent himself during the remainder of the day’s meeting.”

How is suspension under Rule 255 different from Suspension under Rule 256?

Rule 256 provides for ‘Suspension of Member’; whereas Rule 255 provides for lesser punishment.

Under Rule 256, “the Chairman may, if he deems it necessary, suspend a member from the service of the Council for a period not exceeding the remainder of the Session.

Rules of parliamentary etiquette:

MPs are required to adhere to certain rules of parliamentary etiquette.

For example the Lok Sabha rulebook specifies that MPs are not to interrupt the speech of others, maintain silence and not obstruct proceedings by hissing or making running commentaries during debates.

Newer forms of protest led to these rules being updated in 1989.

Now, members should not shout slogans, display placards, tear up documents in protest, and play a cassette or a tape recorder in the House.

Rajya Sabha has similar rules. To conduct the proceedings smoothly, the rulebook also gives certain, similar powers to the presiding officers of both Houses.

Procedure to be followed for suspension of Rajya Sabha MPs:

The Chairman may “name a Member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the Council by persistently and wilfully obstructing” business.

In such a situation, the House may adopt a motion suspending the Member from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.

The House may, however, by another motion, terminate the suspension.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) Project:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme included in the Digital India Programme.

2. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) is the 'Nodal Ministry' for its implementation in all the States/ UTs with Legislatures.

3. Through the cloud technology (Meghraj), data deployed can be accessed anywhere at any time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 Only

b) 2 and 3

c) 1 and 3

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: b

Exp: Statement 1 is incorrect: e-Vidhan is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) included in Digital India Programme.

Funding of NeVA is on the pattern of Central Sponsored Scheme i.e. 60:40; and 90:10 for North East & hilly States and 100% for UTs.

The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA and technical support by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Statement 2 is correct: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) is the 'Nodal Ministry' for its implementation in all the States/ UTs with Legislatures.

Statement 3 is correct: Through the cloud technology (Meghraj), data deployed can be accessed anywhere at any time.

e-Vidhan

Aim of the project: To bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.

Key features:

Paperless Assembly or e-Assembly is a concept involving of electronic means to facilitate the work of Assembly.

It enables automation of entire law-making process, tracking of decisions and documents, sharing of information.

Through the cloud technology (Meghraj), data deployed can be accessed anywhere at any time.

Himachal Pradesh is already the first Digital Legislature of the country.

State Government's Role in the implementation of e-Vidhan:

The State Government will appoint a Secretary level officer to be designated as the nodal officer/representative for e-Vidhan implementation in the State Legislature(s).

State Government will bear the funds required for running of e-Vidhan MMP after 3 years.

The State Government will ensure capacity building for the effective implementation of e-Vidhan MMP module.

State Government/Legislature will undertake maintenance and replacement of ICT equipment after 3 years.

Q.5) Consider the following Statements regarding Hazaras:

1. Hazaras is an ethnic group from China's South-west region.
2. They are believed to be descendants of the founder of the Mongol empire, Genghis Khan, and his army that overran the entire region during the 13th century.

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

Ans: b

Exp: Hazaras of Afghanistan:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Hazara is an ethnic group from Afghanistan.

Statement 2 is correct: They are believed to be descendants of the founder of the Mongol empire, Genghis Khan, and his army that overran the entire region during the 13th century.

Their distinct Asiatic features and use of a Persian dialect called Hazaragi also sets them apart from the rest of the country.

Q.6) Consider the following Statements

1. As per the UNESCO World Water Development Report, India is the 3rd largest extractor of groundwater in the world after US and China.
2. The contribution of groundwater to national gross domestic product is never measured.

Which of the Statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement 1 is incorrect: About Groundwater Extraction in India: The UNESCO World Water Development Report, 2018 states that India is the largest extractor of groundwater in the world.

Statement 2 is correct: The contribution of groundwater to national gross domestic product is never measured.

About Groundwater Extraction in India:

The UNESCO World Water Development Report, 2018 states that India is the largest extractor of groundwater in the world.

The contribution of groundwater to national gross domestic product is never measured.

According to the CGWB, with 230 billion metre cube of groundwater drawn out each year for irrigating agriculture lands in India, many parts of the country are experiencing rapid depletion of groundwater.

The total estimated groundwater depletion in India is in the range of 122–199 billion metre cube.

Reason for Groundwater Extraction:

Green Revolution: Green Revolution enabled water intensive crops to be grown in drought prone/ water deficit regions, leading to over extraction of groundwater.

Frequent pumping of water from the ground without waiting for its replenishment leads to quick depletion.

Further, Subsidies on electricity and high MSP (Minimum Support Price) for water intensive crops.

Industries Requirement: Water contamination as in the case of pollution by landfills, septic tanks, leaky underground gas tanks, and from overuse of fertilizers and pesticides leading to damage and depletion of groundwater resources.

Inadequate Regulation: Inadequate regulation of groundwater encourages the exhaustion of groundwater resources without any penalty.

In India, construction of irrigation wells does not require any clearance and no records are maintained of abandoned wells.

Several hundred wells are constructed in India every day and even more are abandoned when they run dry.

Federal Issue: Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including water conservation and water harvesting and making available adequate drinkable water to citizens in the Country is primarily States' responsibility.

However, important measures including funding of various projects are taken by the Central Government.

Q.7) Which of the following constitutional amendments acts provided reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS)?

- a) The Constitution (103rd amendment) Act, 2019
- b) The Constitution (102nd amendment) Act, 2018
- c) The Constitution (101st amendment) Act, 2017
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Exp: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment appointed a three-member committee to revisit the criteria for 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in educational institutions and Government jobs, after a rap from the Supreme Court in November.

The 10% EWS quota was introduced under the 103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.8) Which of the following country has become the world's newest republic?

- a) Barbados
- b) El Salvador
- c) Bahamas
- d) Jamaica

Ans: a

Exp: Nearly 400 years after the country became a British colony, Barbados has become the world's newest republic.

The Caribbean island nation removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of the state in a ceremony attended by Prince Charles. Barbados, however, will continue to be one of the 54 Commonwealth nations.

Dame Sandra Prunella Mason, who was selected to become the first president of Barbados last month, took over as the President of the country.

There are no plans to change the flags, coat of arms, national pledge or national anthem. However, the terms "royal" and "crown" would be dropped from all official references.

Hence, Royal Barbados Police Force will become Barbados Police Force and crown lands would become state lands.

Barbados, which is said to have been made a 'slave society' by the British, first became an English colony when a ship arrived at the Caribbean in 1625.

On November 30, 1966, Barbados gained its independence.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.9) Which of the following is correct with regards to the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), as per the RBI?

- a) CBDC is the legal tender issued by a global authority in a digital form
- b) CBDC is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form
- c) CBDC is RBI's attempt to launch its own cryptocurrency to rival the existing ones
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

Exp: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) suggested revisions to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, allowing it to introduce a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

The CBDC is a digital form of fiat currency that can be traded using blockchain-backed wallets and is governed by the central bank.

It differs from decentralised virtual currencies and crypto assets, which are not issued by the government and do not have the status of 'legal tender.'

CBDs allow users to perform domestic and cross-border transactions without the involvement of a third party or a bank.

Hence Option B is correct.

Q.10) Consider the following statements with regards to suspension of the Members of Parliament:

1. The MPs can be suspended by the President on the recommendation of the presiding officer of the house.
2. The MPs can only be suspended for their conduct in the ongoing session of the Parliament.

Choose the correct statements:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

Exp: The presiding officer (NOT President) is permitted to suspend a member of Parliament (MP). The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the authority to force a Member to resign from the House or to suspend him or her. The Rajya Sabha Chairman, unlike the Speaker, does not have the authority to suspend a member. Hence Statement 1 is not correct.

The act of 'naming' such a member opens the door for a motion to be introduced in that House requesting that the member thus 'named' be "suspended from the service (of the House) for a time not exceeding the remainder of the session." Hence Statement 2 is not correct.



Q.1) With reference to Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), consider the following statements:

1. It can be transacted using wallets backed by the blockchain.
2. One of its drawbacks is the loss of seigniorage due to lower transaction costs.

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

Solution: Statement 1 is correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: CBDC will result in higher seigniorage due to lower transaction costs.

Q.2) Which amongst the following is not one of the criteria to be eligible for reservation under the EWS category?

- a) Your family should not own agricultural land of size 5 acres or more.
- b) Your family should not own a residential flat of area 1000 square feet or more.
- c) Your family should not own a residential plot (in notified municipalities) of an area 100 square yards or more.
- \*d) Your family should not own a residential plot (other than in notified municipalities) of area 250 square yards or more.

Solution: Eligibility Criteria for EWS Reservation:

The quota would be available to persons who earn less than Rs 8 lakh per year.

People who own a home on a plot of land larger than 1,000 square feet.

Those who possess a residential parcel of land in a notified municipality that is larger than 100 square yards.

People who possess a residential plot of more than 200 (NOT 250) yards in a non-notified region will be ineligible as well.

Under the social backwardness criteria, those who currently benefit from education and job restrictions.

Hence Option D is Correct.

Q.3) Consider the following Statements regarding ACROSS Scheme:

1. It is a Flagship Scheme works under the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.
2. It addresses different aspects of weather and climate services, which includes warnings for cyclone, storm surges, heat waves, thunderstorms 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

Solution:

ACROSS Scheme:

Statement 1 is incorrect: ACROSS scheme pertains to the atmospheric science programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Statement 2 is correct: It addresses different aspects of weather and climate services, which includes warnings for cyclone, storm surges, heat waves, thunderstorms etc.

Each of these aspects is incorporated as nine sub-schemes under the umbrella scheme "ACROSS" and is implemented in an integrated.

ACROSS is an umbrella scheme with eight sub-schemes encompassing the programmes for greater understanding of atmospheric science. These eight master schemes are as follows:

Commissioning of Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs).

Upgradation of Forecast System, Weather & Climate Services.

Atmospheric Observations Network.

Numerical Modelling of Weather and Climate.

Monsoon Mission III.

Monsoon Convection.

Clouds and Climate Change (MC4).

High Performance Computing System (HPCS).

Benefits of the Scheme:

The scheme will provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecast and services, thereby ensuring transfer of commensurate benefits to the various services.

It will also provide a sizable number of scientific and technical staff along with requisite administrative support, thereby generating employment.

To ensure last-mile connectivity of the weather based services to the end -user, a large number of agencies like the Krishi Vigyana Kendras of ICAR, Universities and local municipalities are roped in thus generating employment opportunities to many people.

Implementation:

Implemented by MoES in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

Q.4) For which of the following conventions Global Environment facility (GEF) serves as a financial mechanism?

1. United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
2. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
3. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
4. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Select the correct answer using the following codes:

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

Solution: GEF serves as a financial mechanism for the following conventions:

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Minamata Convention on Mercury

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

It is an independently operating financial organization

GEF is multilateral financial mechanism that provides grants to developing countries for projects that benefit global environment and promote sustainable livelihoods in local communities.

It was setup as a fund under World Bank in 1991

In 1992, at the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF was restructured and moved out of the World Bank system to become a permanent, separate institution.

Since 1994, however, the World Bank has served as the Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund and provided administrative services.

It is based in Washington DC, United States.

It addresses six designated focal areas:

biodiversity,

climate change,

international waters,

ozone depletion,

land degradation and

Persistent Organic Pollutants.

The program supports an active portfolio of over 200 investments globally.

Q.5) Which of the following article of the Indian Constitution allows the President to appoint the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Courts?

a) Article 74

b) Article 214

c) Article 80

\*d) Article 217

Solution: President Ram Nath Kovind said judges must exercise 'utmost discretion' while making utterances in courtrooms and quoted an American judge to argue that "courts are not representative bodies and are not designed to be a good reflex of a democratic society."

President also wondered if "there can be better way to appoint judges to the higher judiciary without diluting the independence of the judiciary even to the slightest degree".

The President quoted Justice Frankfurter of the U.S. Supreme Court in the Dennis versus United States case of 1951, in which the judge had observed,"Courts are not representative bodies. They

are not designed to be a good reflex of a democratic society. Their essential quality is detachment, founded on independence”.

The Chief Justice and Judges of the High Courts are to be appointed by the President under clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution.

Q.6) Recently seen in news, PRAGYATA Guidelines is related to:

\*a) Digital Education

b) Health

c) Cryptocurrency

d) None of the above

Solution: Keeping in view the availability of digital infrastructure PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education had been issued to all State governments as well as Schools directly under Central Government as advice.

The guidelines brief on various modes of digital education including online mode that depends more on availability of internet, partially online mode that utilizes the blended approach of digital technology and other offline activities, and offline mode that utilizes television and radio as a major medium of instruction of education.

This information was given by the Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.7) With reference to the Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF), consider the following statements:

1. National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 provides for setting up a Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF).

2. It aims to build the nation’s capacity to provide equitable quality education for all girls as well as transgender students.

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

Solution: National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 provides for setting up a Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF) to build the nation's capacity to provide equitable quality education for all girls as well as transgender students.

The above objectives of NEP for Equitable and quality education for girls and transgender children are being met through specific provisions under Samagra Shiksha 2.0 by allocating dedicated resources for SEDGs.

This information was given by the Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.8) The terms 'Omicron, Ethereum and SQUID' sometimes mentioned in the news recently are related to:

\*a) Cryptocurrency

b) Exoplanets

c) Mini satellites

d) None of the above

Solution: A relatively lesser known cryptocurrency token named after the Greek letter Omicron saw its price surge more than 10 times in a matter of two days outperforming top digital currencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum, soon after the World Health Organization (WHO) named the latest Covid-19 variant of concern Omicron.

From Friday to Monday morning, the price of Omicron surged to \$688 from less than \$70 earlier.

Little is known about this decentralized finance project, and robust data surrounding the project is proving hard to come by. Omicron's official website describes itself as a "decentralized currency protocol built on Arbitrum".

A similar surge in prices was also witnessed with the crypto token SQUID following the popularity of Netflix show Squid Game despite there being no relation between the show and the currency.

The WHO is following the Greek alphabet to name significant Covid-19 variants, and the next Greek letter Pi also has a cryptocurrency named after it.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.9) With reference to the G20 'Troika', consider the following statements:

1. Troika refers to the top grouping within the G20 that consists of the current, previous and the incoming presidencies.
2. France joined the G20 'Troika'.

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

Solution: India joined the G20 'Troika'.

With this move, India has started the procedure for taking over the G20 presidency next year.

Troika refers to the top grouping within the G20 that consists of the current, previous and the incoming presidencies — Indonesia, Italy and India.

India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022 from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023.

Italy hosted the G20 summit during October 30-31 that was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi where India had raised the issue of Afghanistan's future following the takeover by the Taliban.

Indonesia took over the G20 presidency on December 2, 2021. Next year's summit will be organised along the overall theme of "Recover Together, Recover Stronger".

As a Troika member, India will work closely with Indonesia and Italy to ensure consistency and continuity of the G20's agenda.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.10) With reference to the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It proposes the establishment of a national registry and registration authority for all clinics and medical professionals serving in the field.

2. The ART bill seeks to set minimum standards and codes of conduct for fertility clinics and egg/sperm banks.

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

Solution: The Lok Sabha passed the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020, that proposes the establishment of a national registry and registration authority for all clinics and medical professionals serving in the field.

The ART bill seeks to set minimum standards and codes of conduct for fertility clinics and egg/sperm banks.

The bill provides for the “safe and ethical practice of assisted reproductive technology services”, including egg or sperm donation, in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), intrauterine insemination (IUI), and gestational surrogacy.

The bill also aims to introduce protections for egg donors, gestational surrogates, and children conceived through ART services.

Offences under the bill include clinics offering sex selection, abandoning or exploiting children born through ART, the selling, buying, or importing of human embryos, and exploiting the couple or donors concerned in any form. Proposed jail terms for violations range from five to 12 years, and fines from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh.

Hence both statements are correct.



Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to IN-SPACe

1. It is a “single window nodal agency”
2. It is a supplement to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
3. The agency promotes the entry of the Non-Government Private Entities (NGPEs) in the Indian space sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: The Government of India created a new organisation known as IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) which is a “single window nodal agency” established to boost the commercialization of Indian space activities. A supplement to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the agency promotes the entry of the Non-Government Private Entities (NGPEs) in the Indian space sector. The agency will also felicitate a swift on-boarding of private players in the sector through encouraging policies in a friendly regulatory environment and by creating synergies through already existing necessary facilities

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect the NIPUN Bharat mission

1. The mission has been launched under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha
2. The aim is to equip every child till class 5 with basic comprehension and mathematical skills

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

Solution: The Centre’s NIPUN Bharat mission, aimed at equipping every child till class 3 with basic comprehension and mathematical skills, received a push recently with the Ministry of Education setting up a national steering committee to oversee its progress and provide policy-level guidance.

The steering committee, as envisaged in the NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat guidelines, will be chaired by Education Minister

The members include education secretaries of UP, Gujarat, Karnataka and Sikkim, and the Union school education secretary and NCERT director.

National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat), for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

The mission will focus on children of age group of 3 to 9 years including pre-school to Grade 3. The children who are in Class 4 and 5 and have not attained the foundational skills will be provided individual teacher guidance and support, peer support and age appropriate and supplementary graded learning materials to acquire the necessary competencies.

The National Mission which has been launched under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha, will focus on providing access and retaining children in foundational years of schooling.

Q.3) The National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates for India for 2017-18 was released recently by Health Secretary. In this regard consider the following statements:

1. Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) as a share of total health expenditure and foreign aid for health has both increased as per the findings
2. One of the factors attributing to this increase is the decline in utilization and increase in cost of services in Government health facilities
3. The NHA estimates are prepared by using an accounting framework based on internationally accepted System provided by the WHO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: The National Health Accounts estimates for India for 2017-18 was released on Monday by Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan.

Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) as a share of total health expenditure and foreign aid for health has both come down as per the findings of the National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates for India for 2017-18 released on Monday by Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan.

As a share of total health expenditure, OOPE has come down to 48.8% in 2017-18 from 64.2% in 2013-14. Even in case of per capita OOPE, there has been decline from ₹2,336 to ₹2,097 between 2013-14 to 2017-18.

One of the factors attributing to this decline is the increase in utilisation and reduction in cost of services in Government health facilities. If we compare NHA 2014-15 and 2017-18 there has been a decline in OOPE for Government hospitals to the tune of 50%,

This report is the fifth consecutive NHA report produced by National Health Systems Resource Centre, designated as National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat in 2014 by the Health Ministry.

The NHA estimates are prepared by using an accounting framework based on internationally accepted System of Health Accounts 2011, provided by the World Health Organization.

The share of social security expenditure on health, which includes the social health insurance programme, Government financed health insurance schemes, and medical reimbursements made to Government employees, has increased.

Q.4) G20 Troika consists of which of the following countries?

1. India
2. China
3. Indonesia
4. Italy

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Solution: G20 consists of Indonesia, Italy, and India - the current, previous and incoming G20 Presidencies.

Q.5) Which of the following results will occur by practicing Natural Farming?

1. Increased Farmers Income.
2. Decrease in yield.
3. Eliminate the application of chemical inputs.
4. Minimize the cost of production.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below.

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

Solution: The Benefits of Natural Farming includes, a) Improves Yield b) Increased Farmers Income c) Minimize the cost of production d) Ensure better Health as less use of fertilizers and pesticides, reduces the incidence of non-communicable diseases e) Employment Generation f) Eliminate the application of chemical inputs g) Environment Conservation h) Reduce Water Consumption i) Rejuvenate Soil Health and i) resilience to the crops against weather extremities.

Q.6) Recently seen in the news, 'Southern Birdwing' and 'Grass Jewel' are-

- \*a) Largest and smallest butterflies found in India respectively.
- b) Species of butterflies that recently became extinct from India.
- c) Migratory birds that are hunted in Nagaland.
- d) Recently discovered frog species from the Western Ghats.

Explanation: Southern Birdwing is the largest butterfly in India. It is seen up to a height of 3,000 ft in the Western Ghats limits. Karnataka has declared it as the state butterfly.

The grass jewel is the smallest butterfly found in India. It is found in Africa, Arabia (United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia), southern Europe (Bulgaria and Greece), India.

Q.7) Consider the following Statements regarding Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART):

1. ART procedures sometimes use donor eggs, donor sperm, or previously frozen embryos.
2. In Vitro fertilization (IVF) is the riskiest type of ART.

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

Solution: Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)

ART is used to treat infertility. It includes fertility treatments that handle both a woman's egg and a man's sperm. It works by removing eggs from a woman's body and mixing them with sperm to make embryos. The embryos are then put back in the woman's body.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In Vitro fertilization (IVF) is the most common and effective type of ART.

Statement 1 is correct: ART procedures sometimes use donor eggs, donor sperm, or previously frozen embryos. It may also involve a surrogate carrier.

Q.8) Consider the following Statements regarding Global Gateway Plan:

1. With Global Gateway, the EU, in a Team Europe approach, will offer its partners a response to the urgent needs:
2. To finance the project, the EU will use its European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus.

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

Solution: Global Gateway Plan:

Statement 1 is correct: Developmental Dimensions: With Global Gateway, the EU, in a Team Europe approach, will offer its partners a response to the urgent needs:

To develop sustainable and high quality digital, climate and energy and transport infrastructures.

Strengthen health, education and research systems across the world.

Statement 2 is correct: Funding: To finance the project, the EU will use its European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus.

Under this, 40 billion euros are made available in guarantee capacity, and will offer grants of up to 18 billion euros from external assistance programs.

The plan will need funding from international institutions and from the private sector if it is to get anywhere near its target.

The financing will be done under fair and favorable terms in order to limit the risk of debt distress.

Offshoot of B3W Project: The EU strategy is an offshoot of the Build Back Better World (B3W) Initiative.

B3W is an international infrastructure investment initiative announced by the Group of Seven (G-7) richest democracies in June 2021.

Q.9) Consider the following Statements regarding Ujjwala Scheme:

1. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
2. It provides a financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households.
3. Along with a deposit-free LPG connection, Ujjwala 2.0 will provide the first refill and a hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 3 Only
- \*c) 2 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: About Ujjwala Scheme:

PMUY-I: Launched in May 2016 to provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to poor households.

PMUY-II: It is aimed to provide maximum benefit to the migrants who live in other states and find it difficult to submit address proof.

Now they will only have to give "Self Declaration" to avail the benefit.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

Features:

Statement 2 is correct: The scheme provides a financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households.

Statement 3 is correct: Along with a deposit-free LPG connection, Ujjwala 2.0 will provide the first refill and a hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.

Objectives:

Empowering women and protecting their health.

Reducing the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel.

Preventing young children from a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution by burning fossil fuel.

Target:

Under Ujjwala 1.0, the target was to provide LPG connections to 50 million women from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, by March 2020. However, in August 2018, women from seven other categories were brought under the purview of the scheme:

SC/ST, those under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), beneficiaries of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Forest Dwellers, most backward classes, tea gardens and Islands.

Under Ujjwala 2.0, an additional 10 million LPG connections will be provided to the beneficiaries.

Government has also fixed a target of providing piped gas to 21 lakh homes in 50 districts.

Achievements:

In the first phase of the PMUY, 8 crore poor families, including from the Dalit and tribal communities, were given free cooking gas connections.

The LPG infrastructure has expanded manifold in the country. In the last six years, more than 11,000 new LPG distribution centres have opened across the country.

Q.10) The term landraces refers to:

- a) a genus of earthworms which is a potent agent for the treatment of cough
- \*b) Naturally occurring variants of commonly cultivated crops
- c) Practice of maintaining as much vegetation as possible on the slope to help retain the soil.
- d) None of the Above

Solution: In age of hybrid crops, the importance of preserving landraces

Rahibai Popere's Padma Shri is a recognition of her work that has helped save hundreds of landraces (wild varieties of commonly grown crops) at the village level.

Landraces refer to naturally occurring variants of commonly cultivated crops. These are as opposed to commercially grown crops, which are developed by selective breeding (hybrids) or through genetic engineering to express a certain trait over others. With hybrid rice and wheat, for example, selective breeding over a period of time has allowed scientists to develop varieties that have higher yield or other desirable traits. Over the years, farmers have adopted these varieties.

Naturally occurring landraces have a large pool of still untapped genetic material, which can provide solutions. "Genetic diversity is nature's survival mechanism. The wider the gene pool, the more the chance of developing a trait that can help in surviving extreme climate events



Q.1) The new species of butterfly, now named the Chocolate-bordered Flitter has been discovered from:

- \*a) Sikkim
- b) Kerala
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Gujarat

Solution: Chocolate-bordered Flitter, a new butterfly species has been discovered.

The new species of butterfly, now named the Chocolate-bordered Flitter, also carries the scientific name *Zographetus dzonguensis*, after Dzongu in north Sikkim, the place where it was discovered.

It is a golden yellow butterfly with brown borders and spots. The physical appearance of the species differ slightly and the internal structures of the males also differ slightly.

Its closest relatives are *Zographetus pangi* in Guangdong, and *Zographetus hainanensis* in Hainan, both in southeastern China, close to Hong Kong

It is mentioned on the 'Butterflies of India' website which is maintained by the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.2) With reference to the Lesser florican, consider the following statements:

1. It is a small and slender bird species belonging to the bustard group, found in tall grasslands.
2. The bird is listed as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species.

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

Solution: In a major discovery, the longest in-country migration route of lesser floricans, the endangered birds of the bustard group, has been tracked for the first time from Rajasthan to Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district.

The mystery of the fast-disappearing birds may soon be resolved with the help of satellite transmitters fitted on them.

The telemetry exercise was undertaken in the Shokaliya landscape of Ajmer district to trace the journey of lesser floricans from their breeding grounds to their places of origin, presumably in down South.

Lesser florican

Lesser florican, taxonomically classified as *Sypheotides indicus*, is a small and slender bird species belonging to the bustard group, found in tall grasslands, for which Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has launched a recovery programme.

The endangered bird is observed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and some other regions during the monsoon season, when it breeds and later disappears with its chicks to unknown places.

The bird is listed as “critically endangered” on the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species and its population has been identified as “decreasing”.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.3) With reference to the private member’s Bill, consider the following statements:

1. An MP who is not a minister is a private member.
2. While a government Bill can be introduced and discussed on any day, a private member’s bill can only be introduced and discussed on Fridays.

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

Solution: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor moved a private member’s Bill in the Lok Sabha seeking to establish permanent Benches of High Courts in State capitals.

In Kerala, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Chhattisgarh, the State High Court is situated outside the capital city.

The private member’s Bill was moved in the Lok Sabha after a gap of nearly two years.

“Establishment of permanent benches of high courts at state capitals Bill” had been pending since 2019.

As many as 153 private members’ Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Friday, including one that sought compulsory teaching of the Bhagavad Gita in educational institutions.

Private Vs Government Bills

An MP who is not a minister is a private member. While both private members and ministers take part in the lawmaking process, Bills introduced by private members are referred to as private member’s Bills and those introduced by ministers are called government Bills.

While a government Bill can be introduced and discussed on any day, a private member's bill can only be introduced and discussed on Fridays.

Government Bills are backed by the government and also reflect its legislative agenda.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.4) With reference to the Dam Safety Bill (2019), consider the following statements:

1. The Bill provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of all dams across the country.
2. It also constitutes two state bodies State Committee on Dam Safety and State Dam Safety Organisation.

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

Solution: The Rajya Sabha passed the landmark Dam Safety Bill (2019), paving the way for enactment of the Dam Safety Act in the country. The Dam Safety Bill (2019) was passed by the Lok Sabha on 2nd August 2019.

The Bill provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of all specified dams across the country. These are dams with height more than 15 metres, or height between 10 metres to 15 metres with certain design and structural conditions.

It constitutes two national bodies:

the National Committee on Dam Safety, whose functions include evolving policies and recommending regulations regarding dam safety standards; and

the National Dam Safety Authority, whose functions include implementing policies of the National Committee, providing technical assistance to State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs), and resolving matters between SDSOs of states or between a SDSO and any dam owner in that state.

It also constitutes two state bodies: State Committee on Dam Safety, and State Dam Safety Organisation. These bodies will be responsible for the surveillance, inspection, and monitoring the operation and maintenance of dams within their jurisdiction.

Functions of the national bodies and the State Committees on Dam Safety have been provided in Schedules to the Bill. These Schedules can be amended by a government notification.

An offence under the Bill can lead to imprisonment of up to two years, or a fine, or both.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.5) With reference to the Paika rebellion, consider the following statements:

1. It an uprising against colonial rule that predates the rebellion of the sepoy in 1957.
2. The Paikas were a class of military retainers had been recruited since the 16th century by kings in Odisha from a variety of social groups to render martial services in return for hereditary rent-free land and titles.

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

Solution: The 1817 Paika rebellion of Odisha could not be called the first war of Independence, but considering it as a beginning of a popular uprising against the British, it would be included as a case study in the Class 8 National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) history textbook, the Union Culture Minister.

Paika Rebellion, an uprising against colonial rule that predates the rebellion of the sepoy in 1857, and is sometimes described as the first war of independence.

The Paikas (pronounced "paiko", literally 'foot soldiers'), were a class of military retainers had been recruited since the 16th century by kings in Odisha from a variety of social groups to render martial services in return for hereditary rent-free land (nish-kar jagirs) and titles.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.6) India and Sri Lanka agreed to a four-pronged approach to discuss initiatives on food and energy security to help mitigate Sri Lanka's economic crisis, during a two-day visit by Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa to New Delhi. Which of the following decisions comes under the four-pillar initiative?

1. lines of credit for food, medicines and fuel purchases granted by India
2. a currency swap agreement to deal with Sri Lanka's balance of payment issues

3. an “early” modernisation project of the Trinco oil farms that India has been pursuing for several years

4. a Sri Lankan commitment to facilitate Indian investments in various sectors.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1, 2 and 3 only

b) 2, 3 and 4 only

c) 1, 2 and 4 only

\*d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Solution: India and Sri Lanka agreed to a four-pronged approach to discuss initiatives on food and energy security to help mitigate Sri Lanka’s economic crisis, during a two-day visit by Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa to New Delhi.

The decisions included a four-pillar initiative, comprising

lines of credit for food, medicines and fuel purchases granted by India,

a currency swap agreement to deal with Sri Lanka’s balance of payment issues,

an “early” modernisation project of the Trinco oil farms that India has been pursuing for several years, and

a Sri Lankan commitment to facilitate Indian investments in various sectors.

It was agreed that modalities to realise these objectives would be finalised early, within a mutually agreed timeline.

Mr. Jaishankar will meet Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Saturday in Abu Dhabi when they will inaugurate the Indian Ocean Region Conference organised by the India Foundation.

Background

India and Sri Lanka have had a number of differences on economic issues in the past two years, particularly over the perception that the Rajapaksa Government has favoured Chinese companies on projects that it expedites.

Matters came to a head this year after President Gotabaya cancelled an MoU signed with India and Japan for the East Coast Terminal project. India protested the cancellation though it later agreed to the West Coast Terminal being developed by the Adani group.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.7) The Hazaras are Persian-speaking ethnic group native to which of the following Country?

- a) Iran
- \*b) Afghanistan
- c) Iraq
- d) Pakistan

Solution: Hazara: A community historically oppressed in Afghanistans

The Hazaras of Afghanistan have long faced persecution from the Taliban and Islamic State, for their ethnicity and religious beliefs.

So, who are the Hazaras?

The Hazaras are one of Afghanistan's largest ethnic minorities, accounting for up to 20 percent of Afghanistan's 30 million inhabitants.

The group is largely found in the mountainous region of Hazarajat in central Afghanistan. They are believed to be descendants of Genghis Khan and his army that overran the region during the 13th century.

Around 1773, Hazarajat was annexed and made part of the Afghan empire under Ahmad Shah Durrani. The Sunni Muslim majority under the Pashtun ruler resulted in marginalisation of the Shia Hazara community, which was forced to leave fertile lowlands in central Afghanistan in the 18th and 19th centuries and settle in the dry, mountainous landscape.

They have been a target of the Taliban because they are primarily Shia; Afghanistan is predominantly Sunni. Their distinctive features and the dialect they use, Hazaragi, also set them apart.

Q.8) With reference to Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. The Bill provides for the establishment of the National Registry of Clinics and Banks.
2. It also addresses the concerns of LGBTQ category for exercising the right of ART.
3. Child born through ART shall be deemed to be a biological child of the commissioning couple.

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

Solution: Statement 1 and 3 are correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: One of the issues with the bill is that it doesn't address the concerns of LGBTQ category wrt exercise of their ART rights.

Q.9) With reference to Global Gateway Plan, consider the following statements:

1. The plan was envisaged by United Nations.
2. The plan aims to mobilise EURO 300 billion by 2027 in public and private infrastructure investment around the world.

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

Solution: Statement 1 is incorrect: The plan was envisaged by European Commission. The EU will use its European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus to finance the project. Statement 2 is correct.

Q.10) With reference to Child Protection Services Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the scheme equally cover rural and urban children.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: Both statements are correct.

It is a centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Under the scheme, support is provided to States and UT Governments for delivering services for children in need and difficult circumstances.

The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the scheme, support inter-alia age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc. and equally covers rural and urban children.



Q.1) Exercise EKUVERIN is between India and which of the following country?

- \*a) Maldives
- b) U.K
- c) France
- d) China

Explanation: 11th Edition of Exercise EKUVERIN between India & Maldives will be conducted at Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives from 06 to 19 December 2021.

The exercise will enhance synergy & inter-operability between Armed Forces of both the Nations in terms of understanding transnational terrorism both on land & at sea, conducting Counter Terrorism & Counter Insurgency Operations and sharing best military practices and experiences.

Besides rigorous training, the joint military exercise will also include cultural and sports activities to enhance defence cooperation and bilateral relations.

The exercise will go a long way in strengthening India's relations with Maldives amidst emerging security dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.2) With reference to the 'Azadi Ka Digital Mahotsav', consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) recently hosted a unique event - 'Digital Payment Utsav' as part of the week-long 'Azadi Ka Digital Mahotsav'.
2. The event witnessed the unveiling of the DIGIDHAN logo, launch of an awareness campaign called Digital Payments Sandesh Yatra with digital payments anthem titled 'Chutki Baja ke' (cashless, touchless, paperless).

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

Explanation: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) today hosted a unique event - 'Digital Payment Utsav' as part of the week-long 'Azadi Ka Digital Mahotsav'.

The day celebrated the journey and rise of digital payments in India and brought together leaders from the Government, banking sector, fintech companies and startups.

The event witnessed the unveiling of the DIGIDHAN logo, launch of an awareness campaign called Digital Payments Sandesh Yatra with digital payments anthem titled 'Chutki Baja ke' (cashless, touchless, paperless).

During the event, MeitY also recognised the contribution of four payment system aggregators for onboarding street vendors under the PM SVANidhi Scheme.

The event saw the launch of innovative solutions like:

Payments On the Go: Wearables are re-defining the true paperless contactless payments, catalysing them further, Bank of Baroda and City Union Bank launched Rupay-on-the-Go.

Inclusive Credit for All: Credit cards represent the next big in fintech and contactless is truly the way forward. To drive it to the next level, India Post Payments Bank-Punjab National Bank, Kotak Bank, YES Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, and City Union Bank launched Contactless Credit cards on the RuPay network.

Empowering Small Merchants: India has close to 1.5 crore retail stores/ Kiryana stores. Union Bank announced an android-based SOFTPOS mobile app for point of sales, which will further the cause of digital payment adoption.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.3) The Union labour ministry has released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI). In this regard consider the following statement:

1. The revised base year of India's WRI is set to 2020 from 1963-65
2. The new series of WRI covers 21 industries
3. The index will be compiled twice a year, on the first of January and July every year

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The Union labour ministry has released a new series of Wage Rate Index setting the base year at 2016, based on the recommendations of the International Labour Organization and the National Statistical Commission.

The Labour Bureau, which comes under the Union ministry of labour and employment, has decided to revise the base year of India's wage rate index (WRI) to 2016 from 1963-65, a series which is nearly six decades old. The new series seeks to cover 700 occupations and makes the index more representative, expanding the number of industries, sample size and the weightage of industries. The index will be compiled twice a year, on the first of January and July every year on a point-to-point basis. The new series is expected to provide valuable insights to determine minimum wages.

While the previous series covered 21 industries, the new one covers 37, including 30 from the manufacturing sector and three each from the mining and plantation sectors.

What does this mean for stakeholders?

Determination of the latest wage patterns across occupations will play a key role in determining minimum wages and national floor wage policy. It provides useful tips to employers in deciding on the appropriate human resource strategy. Also, managements can use the data to finalize corporate strategies by comprehending the likely expenditure on employee compensation, consequent per unit cost, marketing strategy, and assess viability of the business.

Q.4) With reference to Smart Cities Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. The implementation of the Mission at the City level will be done by Urban Local Bodies.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect: The implementation of the Mission at the City level will be done by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). SPV is promoted by the state/Union Territory and the urban local body, with a 50% equity shareholding each. The SPV formed as a limited company is governed by the Companies Act, 2013.

Q.5) With reference to Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP), consider the following statements:

1. The project is funded completely by government budget.
2. The project aims to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: It is an externally aided project with the financial assistance of the World Bank(WB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank(AIIB). Statement 2 is correct. The government has recently approved the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III. Under it, the project aims to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country along with institutional strengthening and generating revenue for sustainable operation and maintenance of dams.

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to the ICON mission:

1. It is a collaboration between the European Space Agency (ESA) and its Russian equivalent Roscosmos
2. Its objective is to help understand the origin and evolution of the Solar System

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Explanation: The Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON) is a satellite that studies changes in the Earth's ionosphere.

The ionosphere is a dynamic zone high in our atmosphere where weather from the ground collides with weather from space.

ICON examines interaction between Earth's weather systems and space weather caused by the Sun. Hence Statement 2 is incorrect.

Q.7) It is possible to produce algae based biofuels, but what is/are the likely limitation(s) of developing countries in promoting this industry?

1. Production of algae-based biofuels is possible in seas only and not on continents.
2. Setting up and engineering the algae based biofuel production requires a high level of expertise/technology until the construction is completed.
3. Economically viable production necessitates the setting up of large scale facilities which may raise ecological and social concerns.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Explanation: Algae may be produced on land and in water. Hence Statement 1 is incorrect.

Selection of particular species for production and extraction of important co-products requires technological expertise. Hence Statement 2 is correct.

Some algae biodiesel ideas call for aquaculture-style operations in open ocean waters, which might have negative environmental consequences, particularly if biotech algae is employed.

Large-scale facilities are required for economically sustainable manufacturing, which may generate environmental and social problems. Hence Statement 3 is correct.

Q.8) With reference to the Project RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees), consider the following statements:

1. Under Project RE-HAB, "Bee-fences" are created by setting up bee boxes in the passage ways of elephants to block their entrance to human territories.
2. It is scientifically recorded that elephants are annoyed by the honey bees.

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

Explanation: Buoyed by the success of its innovative Project RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees) in Karnataka, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has now replicated the project in Assam.

Chairman KVIC, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena launched Project RE-HAB at Village Morno in Goalpara district of Assam which severely grapples with elephant-human conflicts. The project has been implemented in Assam with the support of the local forest department.

Surrounded by dense forests, a large part of Assam is infested by elephants with 332 human deaths reported between 2014 and 2019 due to elephant attacks.

Working

Under Project RE-HAB, "Bee-fences" are created by setting up bee boxes in the passage ways of elephants to block their entrance to human territories.

The boxes are connected with a string so that when elephants attempt to pass through, a tug or pull causes the bees to swarm the elephant herds and dissuade them from progressing further.

It is a cost-effective way of reducing human-wild conflicts without causing any harm to the animals. It is scientifically recorded that elephants are annoyed by the honey bees.

Elephants also fear that the bee swarms can bite their sensitive inner side of the trunk and eyes. The collective buzz of the bees is annoying to elephants that force them to return.

Project RE-HAB

Notably, Project RE-HAB is a sub-mission of KVIC's National Honey Mission.

While the Honey Mission is a programme to increase the bee population, honey production and beekeepers' income by setting up apiaries, Project RE-HAB uses bee boxes as a fence to prevent the elephant attacks.

Project RE-HAB was launched at 11 locations in Kodagu district of Karnataka on 15th March 2021. In just 6 months, this project has reduced elephant attacks by over 70%.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.9) With reference to the starred question (Parliament), consider the following statements:

1. In starred questions the member desires an oral answer from the minister.
2. The answer cannot be followed by supplementary questions from members.

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

Explanation: Over the last few sessions, MPs mainly from the Opposition have often alleged their questions have been disallowed in Parliament of India.

In both Houses, elected members enjoy the right to seek information from various ministries and departments in the form of starred questions, unstarred questions, short notice questions and questions to private members.

Usually, MPs' questions form a long list, which then go through a rigorous process of clearance. The admissibility of questions in Rajya Sabha is governed by Rules 47-50 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States.

Once a question that fulfils the conditions of admissibility is received, the Secretariat sends it to the ministry concerned.

Once the facts are received from the ministry, the question is further examined for admissibility.

A final list of questions is circulated to ministers, on the basis of which they frame their answers.

What are starred, unstarred and other categories of questions?

**STARRED QUESTION:** The member desires an oral answer from the minister. Such a question is distinguished by the MP with an asterisk. The answer can also be followed by supplementary questions from members.

**UNSTARRED QUESTION:** The MP seeks a written answer, which is deemed to be laid on the table of the House by the concerned minister.

**SHORT NOTICE QUESTION:** These are on an urgent matter of public importance, and an oral answer is sought. A notice of less than 10 days is prescribed as the minimum period for asking such a question.

**QUESTION TO PRIVATE MEMBER:** A question can be addressed to a private member under Rule 40 of Lok Sabha's Rules of Procedure, or under Rule 48 of Rajya Sabha's Rules, provided that the question deals with a subject relating to some Bill, resolution or other matter for which that member is responsible.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.10) The Wanchuwa festival is one of the most important celebrations in the life of the:

- a) Irular tribe of Kerala
- \*b) Tiwa tribe of Assam
- c) Lambadas tribe of Andhra Pradesh
- d) Garo tribe of Assam

**Explanation:** The Wanchuwa festival is one of the most important celebrations in the life of the Tiwa tribe of Assam — a community that centers itself around a traditional form of agriculture

There are more of them spread out in the plains and in the neighbouring state of Meghalaya too.

The Tiwas practice Jhum or shifting cultivation, where the land is first cleared of any vegetation that is later set on fire (slash-and-burn). The result is a more fertile soil that is freshly enriched with potash, all the more useful for a bountiful crop.

As with most tribal cultures, with every harvest comes song and dance

Wanchuwa is one of the most important festivals of the Tiwa tribal community living in the hills because of its connection with agriculture — the mainstay of their economy. Tiwas pray for a bountiful harvest as well as protection from pests and natural calamities.

Tiwa (Lalung) is an ethnic group mainly inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya in northeastern India. They are also found in some areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland. They are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the State of Assam.

Q.1) With reference to *Kyhytysuka sachicarum*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a marine reptile belonging to an important transitional time during the Early Cretaceous epoch.
2. Its name is based on an ancient Muisca culture in Columbia.

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

Solution: Both statements are correct.

*Kyhytysuka sachicarum* reptile belongs to an important transitional time during the Early Cretaceous epoch, some 130 million years ago.

At this time, the Earth was coming out of a relatively cool period, had rising sea levels, and the supercontinent Pangea (supercontinent that incorporated almost all the landmasses on Earth) was splitting into northern and southern landmasses.

This reptile was named *Kyhytysuka* which translates to 'the one that cuts with something sharp' to honour the ancient Muisca culture in Columbia that existed there for millennia.

Q.2) Chocolate-bordered Flitter discovered recently belongs to which of the following species?

- a) Bird
- \*b) Butterfly
- c) Spider
- d) Lizard

Solution: Chocolate-bordered Flitter (*Zographetus Dzonguensis*) is a golden yellow butterfly discovered in Dzongu in North Sikkim.



**Q.3) With reference to Paikas, consider the following statements:**

1. They rendered martial services in return for hereditary nish-kar jagirs and titles.
2. During the Paika Rebellion, several Kondhs rose up in revolt against the British.

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

**Solution:** Both statements are correct.

The Paikas were a class of military retainers who had been recruited since the 16th century by kings in Odisha from a variety of social groups to render martial services in return for hereditary rent-free land (nish-kar jagirs) and titles.

The Paik Rebellion was an armed rebellion against the British East India Company's rule in 1817.

In 1817, several Kondhs descended from the Ghumusar area to rise in revolt against the British.

Bakshi Jagabandhu, the hereditary chief of the militia army of the Gajapati King of Khurda led an army of Paikas to join the uprising of the Kondh.

**Q.4) With reference to Lesser Florican, consider the following:**

1. It is also known as kharmore and is smallest in the bustard family.
2. It is listed as vulnerable in IUCN (International Union For Conservation of Nature) status.

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

**Solution:** Statement a is correct: The lesser florican (*Sypheotides indicus*), also known as the likh or kharmore, is the smallest in the bustard family. Statement b is incorrect: IUCN Status: Endangered

Wildlife Protection Act,1972: Schedule I CITES: Appendix II Threats: The bird is threatened both by hunting and habitat degradation.

Q.5) With reference to Atal Innovation Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
2. This mission was launched by Ministry of Science and Technology.

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

Solution: Statement 1 is correct: Atal Innovation Mission is a flagship initiative launched to promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. Statement 2 is incorrect: It was launched by NITI Aayog.

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. They are one of the major Naga ethnic groups
2. They are known in Arunachal Pradesh as the Wanchos
3. They were the last to give up the practice of head-hunting – severing heads of enemies after attacking rival tribes

The above statements describe which amongst the following tribes?

- a) Abor
- b) Jaintia
- \*c) Konyak

d) Rengma

Solution: The Konyaks are one of the major Naga ethnic groups. In Nagaland, they inhabit the Mon District—also known as ‘The Land of The Anghs’.

The Konyaks are known in Arunachal Pradesh as the Wanchos.

The Konyaks were the last to give up the practice of head-hunting.

Q.7) Which of the following is/are eligible of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Pension Scheme?

1. Should be an Organised Worker (UW).
2. Monthly Income Rs 15000 or below.
3. Entry age between 18 and 40 years.

Select the correct answer using the following codes:

- a) 1 and 2
- \*b) 2 and 3
- c) 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: Eligibility:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Should be an Unorganised Worker (UW).

Statement 2 is correct: Monthly Income Rs 15000 or below.

Statement 3 is correct: Entry age between 18 and 40 years.

Should possess a mobile phone, savings bank account and Aadhaar number.

Should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

Should not be an income tax payer.

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) pension scheme (PM-SYM) is a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India and Community Service Centers (CSCs).

LIC (Life Insurance Corporation) is the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out.

Salient Features:

Minimum Assured Pension: Each subscriber shall receive a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

Family Pension:

During the receipt of pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouses.

If a beneficiary has given regular contribution and died due to any cause (before age of 60 years), his/her spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or exit the scheme as per provisions of exit and withdrawal.

Contribution:

The subscriber's contributions shall be made through 'auto-debit' facility from his/ her savings bank account/ Jan- Dhan account.

PM-SYM functions on a 50:50 basis where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the Central Government.

Q.8) With reference to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), consider the following statements:

1. It can be implemented in an area after it has been declared as "disturbed".
2. The power to declare a territory "disturbed" initially lay with the Centre, but passed to the States in 1972.

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

Solution: The recent killings of civilians by security forces in a case of alleged mistaken identity in Nagaland has once again rekindled the debate over the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), a law that gives enormous discretionary powers to the armed forces over a civilian population.

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said he has urged the Centre to remove AFSPA from Nagaland as the law is a "black spot on the image of the country".

AFSPA gives armed forces special powers to control “disturbed areas”, which are designated by the government when it is of the opinion that a region is in such a disturbed or dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary.

Under its provisions, the armed forces have been empowered to open fire, enter and search without warrant, and arrest any person who has committed a cognisable offence, all while having immunity from being prosecuted.

Where is AFSPA in effect now?

AFSPA can be implemented in an area after it has been declared as “disturbed”.

The power to declare a territory “disturbed” initially lay with the states, but passed to the Centre in 1972.

Section 3 of AFSPA (in J&K) says that an area can be declared disturbed if it is the “opinion of the Governor of the state or the central government” which “makes the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power necessary”.

Currently, AFSPA is in effect in Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur (excluding seven assembly constituencies of Imphal) and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

The law has been repealed where insurgencies have subsided, and when governments have gained confidence of managing the region using the police force.

Thus, AFSPA was repealed in Tripura in 2015, and in 2018 the Centre also removed Meghalaya from the list, while also restricting its use in Arunachal Pradesh.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.9) With reference to the booster shot, consider the following statements:

1. An additional dose, originally called a third dose, is given to people with moderately or severely compromised immune systems to improve their response to the initial vaccine series.
2. People with weakened immune systems might not develop enough immunity after vaccination with two doses of a vaccine.

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

Solution: With the Omicron variant of Covid-19 spreading across the country, the need for a booster shot or an additional jab may feel more urgent than ever.

An additional dose, originally called a third dose, is given to people with moderately or severely compromised immune systems to improve their response to the initial vaccine series.

The term “third dose” was used to refer to additional doses for the two mRNA vaccines, but now the term is “additional dose” because those who received a Johnson & Johnson “one dose” vaccine may also be eligible for a dose based on their immune systems.

People with weakened immune systems might not develop enough immunity after vaccination with two doses of a vaccine. An additional dose, thus, might improve their protection against the novel coronavirus.

What is a booster shot?

A booster shot is nothing but a means of strengthening one’s immune system against a particular pathogen. It may be exactly the same original vaccine, in which case its goal is to increase the magnitude of protection by producing more antibodies.

The booster shot is an additional dose after the protection provided by the original shot(s) has started to decrease over time.

What is the difference between the two?

A Covid-19 booster is given when a person has completed their vaccine series, and protection against the virus has decreased over time. Depending on the original series you had, some details will vary. An additional dose, however, is administered to people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems.

While the additional Covid dose would be a “full” dose of the vaccine, booster shots being offered right now have a lesser volume, since the third dose is only supposed to increase the efficacy range.

Experts have also suggested that there could be some differences in the side-effects one could expect. With booster shots, we have come to know about a higher intensity or symptoms similar to what one may go through with the second dose. However, it’s yet unknown how severe, or safe a third dose could be.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.10) Hornbill Festival is also called the “festival of festivals”. It is the 10-day annual programme in:

a) Kerala

\*b) Nagaland

c) Madhya Pradesh

d) Punjab

Solution: To protest the killings of civilians by the security forces in Mon district on Saturday, eight of the 17 tribes in Nagaland have announced their withdrawal from the annual Hornbill Festival, which is currently underway at Kisama village.

The 22nd edition of the annual event started on December 1, 2021.

Also called the “festival of festivals”, the 10-day annual programme brings all the 17 tribes of the Nagaland on a platform and facilitates the promotion of their culture to the rest of the world.

The first edition of the festival – which is named after the Indian hornbill, the large and colourful forest bird which is displayed in the folklore of most of the state’s tribes – was held in 2000.

Organised by the State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments, the Hornbill Festival is held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, about 12 km from Kohima.

One of the major highlights of this festival is the Hornbill International Rock Festival, held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, where local and international rock bands are roped in to perform.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q.1) Recently seen in the news, *Physella acuta* is related to which of the following?

- a) Invasive Fish
- b) Invasive Snail
- c) Invasive Mushroom
- d) Invasive Algae

Ans: b

Exp: A tiny snail with a striking, pellucid golden-yellow shell found in the Edappally canal in Kochi has been flagged as an invasive species that could play havoc with native ecosystems.

Cochin University of Science and Technology (CuUSAT) has pinned it down as the acute bladder snail *Physella acuta*, globally branded as highly invasive.

This is the first time that this snail has been reported in Kerala, according to the research team. What makes its discovery worrying is that it plays host to worms that can cause food-borne diseases and skin itches in humans. Moreover, its rapid growth rate, air-breathing capability, and tolerance to pollution make the *Physella acuta* a potential competitor to native fauna.

Q.2) Which of the following regions is/are part of International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)?

1. India
2. Azerbaijan
3. Russia
4. Afghanistan

Select the correct answer using the following codes:

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

Ans: d

Exp: About INSTC:

It is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road route for moving freight.

Regions involved: India, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.

Dry runs of two routes were conducted in 2014:

First was Mumbai to Baku via Bandar Abbas.

Second was Mumbai to Astrakhan via Bandar Abbas, Tehran and Bandar Anzali.

Significance of the corridor:



Conceived well before China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), INSTC will not only help cut down on costs and time taken for transfer of goods from India to Russia and Europe via Iran but also provide an alternative connectivity initiative to countries in the Eurasian region.

This will also synchronize with the Ashgabat agreement, a Multimodal transport agreement signed by India, Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, for creating an international transport and transit corridor facilitating transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

Q.3) Consider the following Statements regarding Compensatory Afforestation:

1. It means that every time forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes such as mining, the user agency pays for planting forests over an equal area of non-forest land.
2. As per Compensatory Afforestation Fund rules, 60% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 40% is to be retained by the Centre.

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

Ans: a

Exp: About CAMPA:

The CAF Act 2016, which came into being more than a decade since it was devised, established an independent authority — the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority — to execute the fund.

However, it was not until last August that the rules governing the management of the fund were finalised.

What is Compensatory Afforestation?

Statement 1 is correct: Compensatory afforestation means that every time forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes such as mining or industry, the user agency pays for planting forests over an equal area of non-forest land, or when such land is not available, twice the area of degraded forest land.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Fund sharing: As per the rules, 90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre.

The funds can be used for treatment of catchment areas, assisted natural generation, forest management, wildlife protection and management, relocation of villages from protected areas, managing human-wildlife conflicts, training and awareness generation, supply of wood saving devices and allied activities.

Q.4) Consider the following Statements regarding AFSPA:

1. They 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.
2. If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.

Which of the Statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: d

Exp: In simple terms, AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”.

Powers given to armed forces:

Statement 1 is correct: They 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.

Statement 2 is correct: If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search 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.

What is a “disturbed area” and who has the power to declare it?

A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA. An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.

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.

Q.5) With reference to the PANEX-21, consider the following statements:

1. The exercise is planned for the member nations of BIMSTEC countries.
2. BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercises (DMEx-2020) was held at Kochi.

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

Ans: d

Exp: A Curtain Raiser Event for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise, PANEX-21, for the member nations of BIMSTEC countries, was held in New Delhi on 07 December 2021.

The exercise is planned to be conducted from 20-22 December 2021 at Pune and will witness participation from subject matter experts and delegates from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The success of the last two BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercises (DMEx-2017 at Delhi and DMEx-2020 at Puri) speak of the close coordination mechanism that the BIMSTEC nations share.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.6) With reference to Wage Rate Index, consider the following statements:

1. The base year for the index is 2010.
2. Index is released by the Labour bureau.

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

Ans: b

Exp: Statement 1 is incorrect: The base year has been changed from 1963-65 to 2016.

Statement 2 is correct: Index is released by Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

Q.7) With reference to Project Re-Hab, consider the following statements:

1. It is intended to create bee fences to reduce elephant attacks in human habitations using honeybees
2. This mission is launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both the statements are correct. Project RE-HAB is a sub-mission of KVIC's National Honey Mission. Under this Project, "Bee-fences" are created by setting up bee boxes in the passageways of

elephants to block their entrance to human territories. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched Project RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees) in Assam.

Q.8) Which of the following is India's first private Cryogenic Engine?

- a) Aryabhata
- b) Kalam
- c) Dhawan-1
- d) Rohini

Ans: c

Exp: Skyroot Aerospace, a Hyderabad-based space technology startup, has successfully test-fired the Dhawan-1 engine and is planning to launch Vikram-1 and Vikram-2 launch vehicles in a few years. Dhawan-1 is India's first privately developed, fully cryogenic rocket engine. It runs on two high-performance rocket propellants — liquid natural gas (LNG) and liquid oxygen (LoX). The engine was developed using 3D printing with a superalloy.

Q.9) Currently, Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) is in effect in the entire State of

- 1. Nagaland
- 2. Assam
- 3. Manipur
- 4. Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer code:

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

Ans: a

Exp: Currently, AFSPA is in effect in Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur (excluding seven assembly constituencies of Imphal) and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre).

- 1. IN-SPACe is a single window nodal agency established to boost the commercialisation of Indian space activities.
- 2. It promotes the entry of the Non-Government Private Entities (NGPEs) in the Indian space sector.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c

Exp: In 2020, the Government of India created a new organisation known as IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) which is a “single window nodal agency” established to boost the commercialisation of Indian space activities. A supplement to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the agency promotes the entry of the Non-Government Private Entities (NGPEs) in the Indian space sector. The agency will also facilitate a swift on-boarding of private players in the sector through encouraging policies in a friendly regulatory environment and by creating synergies through already existing necessary facilities.

Q.1) Recently seen in the news, Shreshtha Yojna launched by which of the following Ministry?

- a) Ministry of Culture
- b) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) Ministry of Education

Ans: b

Exp: Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment also Launches ‘Shreshtha Yojna’ and National Fellowship Management and Grievance Redressal Portal

‘Shreshtha Yojna’ Aims to Aid Socio-Economic Upliftment and Overall Development of Students Belonging to Scheduled Castes by Providing Quality Residential Education in Reputed Private Schools.

Q.2) Recently seen in the news PANEX-21 is related to which of the following?

- a) NATO led HADR exercise
- b) AUKUS led HADR exercise
- c) ASEAN led HADR exercise
- d) BIMSTEC led HADR exercise

Ans: d

Exp: PANEX-21 is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise. It is to be held for the BIMSTEC countries.

It is a multi-national disaster relief exercise to be held among the BIMSTEC countries: Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand.

The main aim of the exercise is to build regional cooperation in responding to natural disasters.

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that works to support and strengthen democratic institutions and processes around the world, to develop sustainable, effective and legitimate democracies.
2. It is based out of Stockholm and is an official United Nations Observer.
3. India is seeking membership in this organization.

Options:

- a) 1 only

b) 1 and 2 only

c) 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: c

Exp: International IDEA (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance) is an international organization whose mission is to promote and enhance democracy across the world. Hence Statement 1 is correct.

International IDEA works worldwide and is based in Stockholm, Sweden. It also has The Office of the Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations in New York and The Office of International IDEA to the European Union in Brussels. Hence Statement 2 is correct.

India Joined International IDEA in 1995. Thus, India is not seeking membership in this organization. Hence Statement 3 is incorrect.

Q.4) What is the significance of NASA's LCRD mission?

a) It aims to deflect an asteroid by intentionally crashing a spacecraft into it.

b) It is NASA's first-ever laser communications system that will help the agency test optical communication in space.

c) It is aimed at understanding the concentration of greenhouse gasses in the earth's atmosphere.

d) It is designed to robotically expand the existing International Space Station.

Ans: b

Exp: NASA launched its new Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD). LCRD is NASA's first-ever laser communications system which will demonstrate all of the advantages of using laser systems. Hence Option B is correct.

Q.5) World Inequality Report is released by?

a) World Inequality Lab

b) Global Inequality Research Initiative

c) International Inequalities Institute

d) Digital Inequality Group

Ans: a

Exp: World Inequality Report is released by the World Inequality lab

Q.6) With reference to Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF), consider the following statements:

1. The CAF Act established a National CAF under the Public Account of India.
2. This Fund will be primarily spent on afforestation to compensate for the loss of forest cover, regeneration of forest ecosystem, wildlife protection and infrastructure development.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both the statements are correct.

Q.7) With reference to Hornbill Festival, consider the following:

1. It is organized by the state government of Nagaland to promote tourism in the state.
2. The start of this festival also marks the Nagaland statehood day.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both the statements are correct. Statement c is correct: The Hornbill Festival, which is called the 'Festivals of Festivals', is a 10-day annual cultural fest of Nagaland that showcases the rich and diverse Naga ethnicity through folk dances, traditional music, local cuisine, handicraft, art workshops etc. The start of this festival (December 1) marks the Nagaland statehood day. Every year the Hornbill festival is celebrated between December 1 and December 10 in the northeast region and in the state of Nagaland. The festival is named after the Indian Hornbill Bird. It is a large and colourful forest bird. The festival is named after the bird as it is displayed in folklore of most of the the tribals in the state of Nagaland.

Q.8) With reference to the recent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India maintained status quo in key policy rates as the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate at four percent to keep the stance accommodative.
2. Reverse repo rate will also remain unchanged at 4 percent.

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

Ans: a

Exp: The Reserve Bank of India maintained status quo in key policy rates as the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate at four percent to keep the stance accommodative.

While announcing the Bi-monthly Policy, RBI Governor Shaktikant Das said, Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rate will remain unchanged at 4.25 percent.

Reverse repo rate will also remain unchanged at 3.35 percent.

He said that the projection for real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is retained at 9.5 percent in 2021-22, consisting of 6.6 percent in the third quarter and six percent in the fourth quarter. He pointed out that the real GDP growth is projected at 17.2 percent for Q1 of 2022-23 and at 7.8 percent for Q2 of 2022-23.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is projected at 5.3 percent in 2021-22, which consists of 5.1 per cent in Q3, and 5.7 percent in Q4 with risk broadly balanced.

Mr. Das also informed that RBI is planning to launch Unified Payment Interface (UPI)-based payment products for feature phone users in order to further deepen digital payments and make them more inclusive.

The Central Bank will also enhance the transaction limit for payments through UPI for the Retail Direct Scheme for investment in G-secs and Initial Public Offering (IPO) applications from two lakh to five lakh rupees.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.9) With reference to the Ken-Betwa inter-linking of rivers project, consider the following statements:

1. This project involves transfer of water from the Ken to the Betwa River through the construction of Daudhan Dam and a canal linking the two rivers, the Lower Orr Project, Kotha Barrage -and Bina Complex Multipurpose Project.
2. This project will provide enormous benefits to the districts of Panna, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Sagar, Damoh, Datia, Vidisha, Shivpuri and Raisen of Madhya Pradesh and Banda, Mahoba, Jhansi & Lalitpur of Uttar Pradesh.

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

Ans: c

Exp: The Union Cabinet has approved the funding and implementation of Ken-Betwa inter-linking of rivers project.

This project involves transfer of water from the Ken to the Betwa River through the construction of Daudhan Dam and a canal linking the two rivers, the Lower Orr Project, Kotha Barrage -and Bina Complex Multipurpose Project.

The project will provide an annual irrigation of 10.62 lakh ha, drinking water supply to a population of about 62 lakhs and also generate 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW solar power. The Project is proposed to be implemented in 8 years with state of the art technology.

The Project will be of immense benefit to the water starved Bundelkhand region, spread across the states of MP and UP.

This project will provide enormous benefits to the districts of Panna, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Sagar, Damoh, Datia, Vidisha, Shivpuri and Raisen of Madhya Pradesh and Banda, Mahoba, Jhansi & Lalitpur of Uttar Pradesh.

The total cost of Ken-Betwa link project has been assessed at Rs.44,605 crore at 2020-21 price levels. The Union Cabinet has approved central support of Rs.39,317 crore for the project, covering grant of Rs.36,290 crore and loan of Rs.3,027 crore.

Background: On 22nd March 2021, a historic agreement was signed between the Union Minister of Jal Shakti and the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to implement the first major centrally driven river interlinking project in the country.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.10) With reference to Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), consider the following statements:

1. The Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces (CDS) is the military head and chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Indian Armed Forces.
2. The CDS is a three-star officer selected from among the serving officers of the Indian Armed Forces.

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

Ans: a

Exp: The first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was Bipin Rawat who took office on 1 January 2020 and held it till his death on 8 December 2021.

The Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces (CDS) is the military head and chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Indian Armed Forces.

The CDS is the senior-most and highest-ranking uniformed officer on active duty in the Indian military, and is the principal staff officer and chief military adviser to the Minister of Defence.

The CDS is a four-star officer selected from among the serving officers of the Indian Armed Forces. While being "first among equals" among the service chiefs, the CDS is a single-point military advisor to the defence minister.

The CDS is assisted by a deputy, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff.

The CDS heads the Department of Military Affairs under the Ministry of Defence, as its secretary.

Apart from heading the DMA, the CDS is the Permanent Chairperson of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (PC-CoSC).

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.1) Consider the following statements

1. Ballistic missiles follow a fixed trajectory and travel outside the atmosphere to re-enter only near impact.
2. Hypersonic missiles travel within the atmosphere and can manoeuvre midway
3. Hypersonic missiles can fly faster than 5,000 kms per hour which makes their detection and interception extremely difficult.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Exp: They are manoeuvrable weapons that can fly at speeds in excess of Mach 5, five times the speed of sound. The speed of sound is Mach 1, and speeds upto Mach 5 are supersonic and speeds above Mach 5 are hypersonic. Ballistic missiles, though much faster, follow a fixed trajectory and travel outside the atmosphere to re-enter only near impact. On the contrary, hypersonic weapons travel within the atmosphere and can manoeuvre midway which combined with their high speeds makes their detection and interception extremely difficult. This means that radars and air defences cannot detect them till they are very close and little time to react.

According to the latest memo of the Congressional Research Service (CRS), 'Hypersonic Weapons: Background and Issues for Congress' of October 2021, there are two classes of hypersonic weapons, hypersonic glide vehicles (HGV) and hypersonic cruise missiles (HCM). HGVs are launched from a rocket before gliding to a target while HCMs are powered by high-speed, air-breathing engines, or scramjets, after acquiring their target.

Hypersonic missiles are a new class of threat because they are capable both of manoeuvring and of flying faster than 5,000 kms per hour, which would enable such missiles to penetrate most missile defences and to further compress the timelines for response by a nation under attack

Sub: Current Affairs

Q.2) Consider the following Statements regarding World Inequality Report (WIR):

1. It was released by the World Economic Forum.
2. The WIR studies different kinds of financial data to find out how a country's (and the world's) income and wealth are distributed.
3. As per the WIR, the gap between the rich and the poor in terms of share of national income is quite large, and growing rapidly as a result of government policies that favour the affluent elite.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 3 Only

c) 2 and 3

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: c

Exp: Statement 1 is incorrect: WIR was released by the World Inequality Lab, a research center at the Paris School of Economics.

Statement 2 is correct: The WIR studies different kinds of financial data to find out how a country's (and the world's) income and wealth are distributed.

Key findings of the 2022 report:

Statement 3 is correct: The gap between the rich and the poor in terms of share of national income is quite large, and growing rapidly as a result of government policies that favour the affluent elite. The richest 10% of the global population takes home 52% of the global income, whereas the poorest 50% got only 8.5% of it.

Global wealth inequities are worse than income inequalities. While the poorest 50% own just 2% of the global wealth, the richest 10% own 76% of all the wealth.

Inequality between countries was narrowing while inequality within countries was increasing. While the gap between the average incomes of the richest 10% of countries and the average incomes of the poorest 50% of countries has dropped from 50x to less than 40x, the gap between the average incomes of the top 10% and the bottom 50% of individuals within countries has almost doubled, from 8.5x to 15x.

Countries are growing richer, governments are becoming poorer: The share of privately owned wealth in national wealth was rising, while that of public wealth (buildings, universities, roads, hospitals etc) was shrinking.

Significance of the report: This is vital information because in most democracies, the wealthy can, and do, transform their economic power into political power, and therefore, the higher the inequality, the greater the likelihood that an affluent minority could end up determining the fate of the majority. Availability of accurate data about levels of inequality can help generate public opinion in favour of policy measures that can mitigate them

Inequality across the continents: While Europe was the region with the least amount of inequality (the income share of the top 10% was 36%), inequality was highest in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, where the share of the top 10% was 58%.

Income inequality in India: India is one of the world's most unequal countries, with the top 1% getting 21.7% of the national income.

Top 10% of Indians capture 57% of the national income, while the share of the bottom 50% is only 13%.

While the average national income of the bottom 50% stood at ₹53,610, the top 10% earned more than 20 times more, ₹11,66,520.

Inequality in India- Before and after 1947: Income inequality in India today is worse than it was under British rule. Under the British (1858-1947), the top 10% got about 50% of the national income (lower than today's 57%).

In the decades after India got independence, socialistic economic policies reduced income inequality, bringing the share of the top 10% to 35-40%.

But starting from the 1980s, the report states, “deregulation and liberalisation policies have led to one of the most extreme increases in income and wealth inequality observed in the world.”

Overall learning from the report:

The report points out that inequality and poverty are not inevitable but mainly the effect of policy choices.

It tracks how inequalities burgeoned around the globe from the 1980s onward – in contrast to the previous three decades – following the liberalisation programmes that were implemented in different countries.

It recommends wealth taxes on the super-rich and a robust redistribution regime as policy measures that could arrest, if not reverse, the current trend of rising inequality.

Sub: Current affairs Dec 2021

Q.3) Consider the following Statements regarding Ken-Betwa Project:

1. The project will be of immense benefit to the water-starved Baghelkhand region, spread across Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
2. The project will partly submerge the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh and affect the habitat of vultures and jackals.

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

Ans: b

Exp: Statement 1 is incorrect: The project will be of immense benefit to the water-starved Bundelkhand region, spread across Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Statement 2 is correct: Concerns associated: The project will partly submerge the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh and affect the habitat of vultures and jackals.

About the Project:

The project involves transferring of water from the Ken river to the Betwa river through the construction of Daudhan dam and a canal linking the two rivers, the Lower Orr Project, Kotha Barrage and the Bina Complex Multipurpose Project.

Significance of the Project:

The project is slated to irrigate 10.62 lakh hectares annually, provide drinking water supply to 62 lakh people and generate 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar power.

The project will be of immense benefit to the water-starved Bundelkhand region, spread across Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

The project is expected to boost socio-economic prosperity in the backward Bundelkhand region on account of increased agricultural activities and employment generation.

It would also help in arresting distress migration from this region.

Concerns associated:

Several obstacles have dogged the project.

The project will partly submerge the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh and affect the habitat of vultures and jackals.

After years of protests, it was finally cleared by the apex wildlife regulator, the National Board for Wildlife, in 2016.

Benefits of interlinking:

Enhances water and food security.

Proper utilisation of water.

Boost to agriculture.

Disaster mitigation.

Boost to transportation.

Sub: Current affairs Dec 2021

Q.4) Consider the following regarding Poshan Abhiyan:

1. The programme seeks to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2. It aims to reduce Stunting and wasting by 2% a year (total 6% until 2022) among children.
3. The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years to 25% by 2022.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: Poshan programme seeks to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Statement 2 is correct: It aims to reduce:

Stunting and wasting by 2% a year (total 6% until 2022) among children.

Anaemia by 3% a year (total 9%) among children, adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Statement 3 is correct: The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.

Suggestions made by NITI Aayog:

The programme must be stepped up to meet the targets set by the Centre to reduce stunting, wasting and anaemia by 2022.

Graduate to a POSHAN-plus strategy which apart from continued strengthening the four pillars of the Abhiyaan also requires renewed focus on other social determinants in addition to addressing the governance challenges of NHM/ICDS delivery mechanisms.

Lay as much emphasis on complementary feeding as it does on breastfeeding. This can help avert 60% of the total stunting cases in India.

POSHAN 2.0:

It is an umbrella scheme covering the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme For Adolescent Girls, National Creche Scheme).

It was announced in Union Budget 2021-22 by merging supplementary nutrition programmes and the POSHAN Abhiyaan.

It was launched to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcome, with renewed focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition in the country.

Sub: Current affairs Dec 2021

Q.5) Consider the following Statements regarding Chief of Defence Staff:

1. It will provide "single-point military advice" to the government, inject synergy in planning, procurements and logistics in the armed forces.
2. The CDS will also function as the military advisor to the PM-led Nuclear Command Authority.
3. No private employment without prior approval for a period of five years after demitting the office of CDS.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Exp: About CDS:



He will be the single-point military adviser to the government as suggested by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999.

He will be a Four-star General.

CDS acts as the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee which will also have three service chiefs as members.

His core function will be to foster greater operational synergy between the three service branches of the Indian military and keep inter-service frictions to a minimum.

Conditions:

Not eligible to hold any Government office after demitting the office of CDS.

Statement 3 is correct: No private employment without prior approval for a period of five years after demitting the office of CDS.

Roles and functions:

Statement 1 is correct: CDS will provide "single-point military advice" to the government, inject synergy in planning, procurements and logistics in the armed forces.

It will ensure integration of land-air-sea operations through the eventual setting up of theatre commands.

Statement 2 is correct: The CDS will also function as the military advisor to the PM-led Nuclear Command Authority, as also have direct command of tri-Service organizations to handle the new warfare domains of space and cyberspace.

He will function as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister and also as the Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

The CDS will be member of Defence Acquisition Council and Defence Planning Committee.

Sub: Current affairs Dec 2021

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The Polavaram Project is constructed on the River Krishna.
2. This National project is constructed by the Andhra Pradesh State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 & 2 only
- d) None of the above.

Ans: b

Exp: Statement 1 is Incorrect & 2 is correct:

The Polavaram Project is an under-construction multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in the West Godavari District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh.

The project has been accorded national project status by the Union Government of India in 2014.

Sub: Current affairs Dec 2021

Q.7) Red Dot campaign was sometime seen in the news. The campaign is related to which of the following?

- a) Open Defecation Free cities
- b) Solid waste management
- c) Rain water harvesting
- d) Road traffic regulation

Ans: b

Exp: Pune introduced the Red Dot campaign to manage sanitary waste. It is a one-of-its-kind initiative where citizens, workers and administration unanimously accepted their responsibility, making it a lesson for other cities in India. This was achieved through a well-planned mechanism of collection, channelisation and disposal.

Sub: Current affairs Dec 2021

Q.8) Jeevan Reddy Committee, is related to which of the following:

- a) To review the prevalent system of QR Codes in India for facilitating digital payments
- b) To address various risks that have been triggered by the Covid 19 pandemic
- c) Review the provisions of the AFSPA in the northeastern states
- d) To find the problems faced by the farmers in the recent farm bill.

Ans: c

Exp: Statement c is correct: Justice BP Jeevan Reddy committee: In 2004, the Central government appointed a five-member committee headed by Justice BP Jeevan Reddy to review the provisions of the AFSPA in the northeastern states.

Q.9) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin , consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all rural families, who are homeless or living in kutcha house.
2. Beneficiaries will be identified by 3 stage validation process Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011, Gram Sabha, and geo-tagging.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both the statements are correct.

Sub: Current affairs Dec 2021

Q.10) With reference to Western Ghats, consider the following statements:

1. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.
2. Western Ghats are also known as Anaimalai hills and Cardamom hills in Kerala

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both the statements are correct. here are a few local names given to the Western Ghats:

Sahyadri in Maharashtra

Nilgiri hills in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

Anaimalai hills and Cardamom hills in Kerala

Sub: Current affairs Dec 2021

Q.1) With reference to the Summit for Democracy, consider the following statements:

1. The Summit for Democracy was a virtual summit hosted by the United States.
2. The three themes are defending against authoritarianism, addressing and fighting corruption, and advancing respect for human rights.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Democracies should jointly deal with social media and cryptocurrencies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a virtual address at the Summit for Democracy, hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden.

The Summit for Democracy was a virtual summit hosted by the United States "to renew democracy at home and confront autocracies abroad" on December 9–10, 2021.

The three themes are defending against authoritarianism, addressing and fighting corruption, and advancing respect for human rights.

The summit was convened by Mr. Biden to strengthen democracies around the world.

Mr. Biden announced the establishment of the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal, under which the administration plans to provide \$424.4 million for supporting free and independent media, fighting corruption, strengthening democratic reforms, advancing technology for democracy, and defending free and fair elections.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.2) With reference to the International Solar Alliance (ISA), consider the following statements:

1. The UN General Assembly has conferred Observer Status on the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
2. The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and China to mobilise efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.

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

Ans: a

Exp: The UN General Assembly has conferred Observer Status on the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a historic decision which India said would help provide for a well-defined cooperation between the alliance and the UN that would benefit global energy growth and development.

UN confers Observer Status on Solar Alliance

The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilise efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.

It was presented by the leaders of the two countries at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.

The General Assembly, based on the Sixth Committee report, adopted resolution 76/123 & unanimously decided to invite the International Solar Alliance to participate in the sessions & work of the General Assembly in the capacity of an 'Observer'," UN General Assembly President Shahid tweeted.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.3) With reference to the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women finds that out of a total of ₹446.72 crore released during the period 2016- 2019, a whopping 78.91% was spent only on media advocacy.
2. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2018 with the aim to address sex-selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio, which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.

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

Ans: a

Exp: The Government spent 80% of the funds under the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP) scheme on media campaigns and must now revisit this strategy and invest in measurable outcomes in health and education for girls, the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women has noted in its report tabled in the Lok Sabha.

The Committee finds that out of a total of ₹446.72 crore released during the period 2016- 2019, a whopping 78.91% was spent only on media advocacy.

Over the last six years, through focussed advocacy BBBP has been able to capture the attention of political leadership and national consciousness towards valuing the girl child. Now, it is time to focus on other verticals by making ample financial provisions to help achieve measurable outcomes related to education and health envisaged under the scheme.

The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2015 with the aim to address sex-selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio, which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011. The programme is being implemented across 405 districts.

The total utilisation under the scheme was also poor — the committee found that since the inception of BBBP in 2014-15 till 2019-20, the total budgetary allocation under the scheme was ₹848 crore, excluding the COVID-19-stricken financial year of 2020-21.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.4) Which of the following agency launched a new mission named Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer or IXPE?

- a) NASA
- b) ISRO
- c) ESA
- d) JAXA

Ans: a

Exp: NASA launched a new mission named Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer or IXPE.

Onboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, it was sent to its orbit from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. IXPE observatory is a joint effort of NASA and the Italian Space Agency.

The mission will study "the most extreme and mysterious objects in the universe – supernova remnants, supermassive black holes, and dozens of other high-energy objects."

The mission's primary length is two years and the observatory will be at 600 kilometers altitude, orbiting around Earth's equator.

IXPE is expected to study about 40 celestial objects in its first year in space.

This new mission will complement other X-ray telescopes such as the Chandra X-ray Observatory and the European Space Agency's X-ray observatory, XMM-Newton.

According to NASA, IXPE's polarization measurements will help scientists answer questions such as:

How do black holes spin?

Was the black hole at the center of the Milky Way actively feeding on surrounding material in the past?

How do pulsars shine so brightly in X-rays?

What powers the jets of energetic particles that are ejected from the region around the supermassive black holes at the centers of galaxies?

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.5) Haiderpur wetland the recently designated Ramsar site of India is located in which of the following states?

- a) Maharashtra

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Haryana

d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans: d

Exp: India has designated the Haiderpur wetland, which is about 10 km from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh as the country's 47th Ramsar site and 2,463rd Ramsar site internationally.

Ramsar is a wetland site designated under the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by Unesco, which came into force in 1975.

The convention was held in Ramsar, Iran, and hence the name. The convention facilitates national action plans and brings in international cooperation for the conservation of wetlands, along with wise sustainable use of their resources.

Haiderpur Wetland covers an area of 6,908 hectares and is situated on the Muzaffarnagar-Bijnor border in Uttar Pradesh.

It was formed in 1984 by the construction of Madhya Ganga Barrage at the confluence of Solani and Ganga rivers and is a part of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.

A source of fresh water and groundwater recharge, Haiderpur Wetland supports a variety of plant species and is home to numerous animals, including swamp deer, otters, gharial, and fishing cats.

It plays host to more than 300 species of birds, many of which come for wintering.

Q.6) With reference to Account Aggregator (AA) framework, consider the following statements:

1. An Account Aggregator will be a new class of Non-Banking Finance Company approved by RBI.
2. It will allow lenders to conduct a speedy assessment of the creditworthiness of the borrower.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both statements are correct.

An AA is a new class of NBFC approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to manage consent for financial data sharing of users. It will allow lenders to conduct an easy and speedy assessment of the creditworthiness of the borrower.

Q.7) With reference to Gangetic Dolphin, consider the following:

1. It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.
2. It is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN protected list.

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement 2 is incorrect: Wildlife Protection Act: Gangetic Dolphin is protected under Schedule I of the Act. Further, Vikramshila Ganges Dolphin Sanctuary was established in Bihar under this Act.

Threats: construction of dams and barrages, and increasing pollution

IUCN Red List: Endangered

CITES: Appendix I

Q.8) Mi-17V5 was sometime seen in news. It is related to which of the following?

- a) Indigenous cruise missiles
- b) New space project of ISRO
- c) Russian-made helicopters
- d) New Chinese attack submarines

Ans: c

Exp: Mi-17V5 is a Russian-made helicopter which is produced by Kazan Helicopters. It was inducted into the Indian Air Force on 17 February 2012. It has a digital flight data recorder and a cockpit voice recorder onboard to monitor flight parameters and cockpit conversations respectively. The helicopter also has the capability to land on unprepared sites at night and in adverse weather conditions. Apart from India, this helicopter is also used by the air forces of nearly 60 countries, including Russia and Iraq, and is also part of the erstwhile Afghan Air Force.

Q.9) Recently Rajya Sabha passed the Dam Safety Bill, 2019. In this regard consider the following statements:

1. Central Water Commission (CWC) along with the Central Dam Safety Organisation (CDSO) has been functioning as the apex body to advise States on issues of dam safety
2. There is no specific Central law that governs the subject
3. The ownership of dams and their maintenance predominantly falls in the purview of the States

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Ans: d

Exp: The Dam Safety Bill, 2019, which provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all specified dams across the country, and has been debated for decades, finally got the nod of the Rajya Sabha. In August 2019, the Bill was approved by the Lok Sabha.

India ranks third globally with 5,745 large dams in operation. According to the National Register of Large Dams prepared in June 2019 by the Central Dam Safety Organisation (CDSO) in the Central Water Commission (CWC), 67 dams were built prior to the 20th century and 1,039 dams during the first 70 years of the 20th century.

Even though the CWC, along with the CDSO, has been functioning as the apex body to advise States on issues of dam safety, there is no specific Central law that governs the subject, given the situation that the ownership of dams and their maintenance predominantly falls in the purview of the States.

The Bill covers those dams having the height of over 15 metres and between 10 and 15 metres with certain stipulations. It seeks to create two national institutions — National Committee on Dam Safety to evolve dam safety policies and recommend necessary regulations, and the National Dam Safety Authority to implement policies and address unresolved issues between two States.

The legislation also envisages the formation of State Dam Safety Organisations and State Committees on Dam Safety. Dam owners will be held responsible for construction, operation, maintenance and supervision of dams.

Q.10) India Observes 'Maitri Diwas' with which of the following country?

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

Ans: c

Exp: Liberation of Bangladesh: India Observes 'Maitri Diwas' To Mark 50 Years Of Friendship

India and Bangladesh are jointly observing 'Maitri Diwas' or 'Friendship Day' to commemorate 50 years of the Bangladesh Liberation War 1971 and India's role in the neighbouring nation's freedom struggle.

India would further "expand and deepen" ties with Bangladesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, marking Maitri Divas that commemorates the day when India recognised Bangladesh as an independent country in 1971.

The war to liberate Bangladesh began on December 3, 1971 and ended with the signing of the Instrument of Surrender by Pakistani General A.A.K. Niazi on December 16. Three days after the beginning of the war, the government of India, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi recognised Bangladesh as an independent nation.

Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to The Poshan Tracker:

1. It records real-time data on malnourished and 'severe acute malnourished' children in each anganwadi
2. The nutrition status of pregnant women and lactating mothers are also recorded in the portal

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

Ans: c

Exp: The Ministry of Women and Child Development has spent over ₹1,000 crore on its Poshan or Nutrition Tracker, which records real-time data on malnourished and 'severe acute malnourished' children in each anganwadi. But four years since its launch, the Government is yet to make the data public.

The Poshan Tracker, known as the ICDS-CAS (Integrated Child Development Services-Common Application Software) in its earlier avatar, was set up with the aim of tracking and improving various services delivered at anganwadis and to ensure nutritional management of beneficiaries.

This real-time monitoring system is one of the key pillars of Poshan Abhiyan or Nutrition Mission approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2017 with a financial outlay of ₹9,000 crore for three years.

The Poshan Tracker gives the Ministry daily data from 12.3 lakh anganwadi centres, with 9.8 lakh beneficiaries, including children, in the age of six months to six years, as well as pregnant women and lactating mothers.

With the help of their mobile phones, anganwadi workers log into the Poshan Tracker mobile application and input data such as the height or weight of a child, which when tracked over a period of time indicates whether the child is growing appropriately for his or her age or is stunted, wasted or under-weight. Other services recorded include the vaccination status of the child; the nutrition status of pregnant women and lactating mothers; whether an anganwadi was opened on a particular day; how many children attended the anganwadi; how many received take-home rations and hot cooked meals, among others. It triggers alerts for beneficiaries and service providers, and provides a dashboard to enable officials from the Centre to district level to review progress.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0:

1. AMRUT 2.0 includes Pey Jal Survekshan which will encourage competition among cities for benchmarking urban water services
2. The funds for the projects will be shared by Centre, State and ULBs

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

Ans: c

Exp: The Union Cabinet recently approved the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) till 2025-26, as a step towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat and with aim of making the cities 'water secure' and 'self-sustainable' through circular economy of water.

The project shall lead to ease of living by providing piped water supply and sewerage / septage facility to urban households.

Mission will be monitored on a robust technology based portal. The projects will be geo-tagged. There will be an endeavor to make it a paper-less Mission. Cities will assess their water sources, consumption, future requirement and water losses through a city water balance plan. Based on this, city water action plans will be prepared which will be summed up as State Water Action Plan and will be approved by the Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs. The funds for the projects will be shared by Centre, State and ULBs

Other key features of AMRUT 2.0 (U) include Pey Jal Survekshan which will encourage competition among cities for benchmarking urban water services.

Mission has a reform agenda focused towards financial health and water security of ULBs. Meeting 20% of water demand through recycled water, reducing non-revenue water to less than 20% and rejuvenation of water bodies are major water related reforms. Reforms on property tax, user charges and enhancing credit worthiness of ULBs are other important reforms. ULBs will be rewarded with incentive on accomplishing the reforms.

Q.3) India has held 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue with which of the following countries.

1. Russia
2. Australia
3. United States
4. China

Select the correct answer code:

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

Ans: c

Exp: The Russian President Vladimir Putin's short visit to New Delhi and the inaugural 2+2 meeting between India and Russia — which is India's fourth such engagement with another country. (The other countries include US, Australia and Japan).

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme.

1. It aims to extract economic value from bio-mass waste in the form of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) and bio-manure.
2. The initiative was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in association with Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Oil Marketing Companies (OMC).
3. Rural households are incentivised to supply locally available biomass including crop stubble or dung cakes to Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants being set up under the SATAT scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Exp: Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) is an initiative aimed at setting up of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make it available in the market for use in automotive fuels by inviting Expression of Interest from potential entrepreneurs.

The initiative was launched in October 2018 by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in association with Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

Government of India, under the SATAT initiatives envisages setting up of 5000 CBG plants by 2023-24 with production target of 15 MMT.

Statement 3 – There is no such provision in the scheme.

Q.5) Recently seen in the news, Operation Devi Shakti is related to which of the following?

- a) Evacuation of Indian citizens from Yemen
- b) Evacuation of Indian Citizens from Sudan
- c) Evacuation of Indian Citizens from Afghanistan
- d) Humanitarian Programme for Madagascar

Ans: c

Exp: Operation Devi Shakti was an operation of the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate Indian citizens and foreign nationals from Afghanistan after the collapse of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the fall of Kabul, the capital city, to the Taliban.

Q.6) With reference to the Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile, consider the following statements:

1. The missile is equipped with a state-of-the-art MMW seeker which provides high precision strike capability from a safe distance.

2. The weapon can neutralise targets in a range up to 100 kms.

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

Ans: a

Exp: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force (IAF) flight-tested the indigenously designed and developed Helicopter launched Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile from Pokhran ranges on December 11, 2021.

The flight-test was successful in meeting all its mission objectives.

The missile is equipped with a state-of-the-art MMW seeker which provides high precision strike capability from a safe distance. The weapon can neutralise targets in a range up to 10 kms.

The SANT missile has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in coordination with other DRDO labs and participation from industries.

This is the third in the series of indigenous stand-off weapons to be tested in recent times after long range bomb and smart anti airfield weapon for strengthening the arsenal of IAF.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.7) With reference to the World Inequality Report 2022, consider the following statements:

- 1. Female labour income in India of 18.3% is lower than the average for Asia, which was at 27% in 2019.
- 2. Eastern Europe has the highest female labour income shares, with the average female share near 41%.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Men in India capture 82% of labour income, while women earn just 18%, according to the first-ever estimates of the gender inequality in global earnings presented in the World Inequality Report 2022 released.

The female share of the total labour income is the national aggregate labour income earned by women relative to the total aggregate of labour income within a country. In a country with perfect equality between women and men, the female labour income share would be 50%.

But the report finds that it is below 50% around the world, with significant variations across countries, ranging from below 10% to 45%. The report covered 180 countries between 1991 to 2019.

Female labour income in India of 18.3% is lower than the average for Asia, which was at 27% in 2019.

Eleven countries in the region have values above 30%. Among the neighbours that performed worse than India were Bhutan (17.5%), Bangladesh (16.9%), Pakistan (7.4%), and Afghanistan (4.2%); and those with a higher share were Nepal (23.2%), Sri Lanka (23.3%) and China (33.4%).

After the pandemic, there was a worsening of female labour participation rate, which fell to 16.1% during the July-September 2020 quarter, according to the Ministry of Statistics.

Eastern Europe has the highest female labour income shares, with the average female share near 41%. Moldova has the highest female labour income in the world at 45%.

Overall, the share of women in total incomes from work neared 30% in 1990 and stands at 34% today.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.8) Consider the following statements with regards to the Buxa Tiger Reserve:

1. It is located in the state of Assam.
2. Its northern boundary runs along the international border with Bhutan.
3. The Buxa Tiger Reserve has been identified for the tiger augmentation programme by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Choose the correct statements:

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) All of the above

Ans: b

Exp: Buxa Tiger Reserve (B.T.R.) is located in the Alipurduar Sub-division of West Bengal's Jalpaiguri District. Located in the Buxa Hills in Bhutan's southern hilly region. Hence Statement 1 is incorrect.

Its northern border is parallel to Bhutan's international border. Hence Statement 2 is correct.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has designated the Buxa Tiger Reserve for the tiger augmentation programme. Hence Statement 3 is correct.

Q.9) Which amongst the following ministries is/are associated with the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme?

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development
2. Ministry of Law and Justice
3. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

4. Ministry of Education

5. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Options:

a) 1, 2 and 4 only

b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

c) 1, 3 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 5

Ans: c

Exp: The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana is a national initiative jointly run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Education.

Each body is accountable for different aspects of the scheme.

Budgetary control and administration of the BBBP falls under the MoWCD's purview. However, capacity building and quality control are responsibilities of the MoH&FW.

Hence Option C is correct.

Q.10) Which institution released 'The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2021' report?

a) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

b) NABARD

c) NITI Aayog

d) World Bank

Ans: a

Exp: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released 'The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2021' report.

As per the report, food costs could increase for up to 845 million people if a disruption to critical transport links occurs. It also highlighted the need to make agri-food systems resilient to address food security.

Q.1) Recently seen in the news, Thrips Parvispinus related to which of the following?

- a) New Butterfly Species
- b) Invasive Pest
- c) Invasive Fish
- d) Type of Alagea

Ans: b

Exp: Red chili could turn out to be spicy hot this year as its production is likely to be affected by a new "invasive pest" (Thrips parvispinus) infesting the crop in a few districts in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The infection is affecting the plants at the flowering stage and stunting the growth of fruits.

The indiscriminate use of pesticides and a cocktail of pesticides is the reason. The pest has developed resistance to the pesticides, making the way for the new attack.

Q.2) Consider the following Statements regarding Section 124A IPC

1. It defines sedition as an offence committed when "any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt towards the government established by law in India".

2. Comments without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, will not constitute an offence under this section.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: It defines sedition as an offence committed when "any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India".

Statement 2 is correct. Disaffection includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. However, comments without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, will not constitute an offence under this section.

Punishment for the Offence of Sedition:

Sedition is a non-bailable offence. Punishment under the Section 124A ranges from imprisonment up to three years to a life term, to which fine may be added.

A person charged under this law is barred from a government job.

They have to live without their passport and must produce themselves in the court at all times as and when required.



Q.3) Consider the following Statements regarding Chabahar Port:

1. It is located in the Indian Ocean in the Sistan province of Iran.
2. The Chabahar port is considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with central Asian countries.
3. It is located on the Gulf of Oman and is only 72 km away from the Gwadar port in Pakistan which has been developed by China.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Exp: About Chabahar Port:

Statement 1 is correct: It is located in the Indian Ocean in the Sistan province of Iran.

Statement 2 is correct: The Chabahar port is considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with central Asian countries.

The port, which is easily accessible from India's western coast, is increasingly seen as a counter to Pakistan's Gwadar Port which is being developed with Chinese investment.

Importance of Chabahar Port for India:

Alternate Route: Chabahar Port provides an option of alternate supply route to everyone, thus reducing the importance of Pakistan with respect to trade.

Statement 3 is correct: Strategic Requirements: It is located on the Gulf of Oman and is only 72 km away from the Gwadar port in Pakistan which has been developed by China.

China is aggressively pursuing its own Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) under the One Belt One Road (OBOR) project.

Connectivity: In future, the Chabahar project and the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) will complement each other by optimising Indian connectivity with Russia and Eurasia.

Also, it gives India direct access to Afghanistan and other Central Asian Republics.

Q.4) Sanrachna, Drishti, Surge and Kite were sometimes seen in news. These terms are related to which of the following?

- a) Projects aims to improve online education in Tribal districts.
- b) Awareness campaigns to improve Covid-19 vaccination.
- c) Platforms to foster technological innovations in heavy industries.
- d) Newly planned super computers.

Ans: c

Exp: The Ministry of Heavy Industries has launched six web-based technology innovation platforms. SANRACHNA: It has been set up and maintained by BHEL. The platform focuses on the power sector and renewable energy sector. DRISHTI: It has been set up and maintained by Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI), Bengaluru. It focuses on the various technologies associated with Capital goods. KITE: It has been set up and maintained by AMTDC-IIT Madras. It focuses on Robotics and Virtual Reality, Machine Tools. SURGE: It has been set up and maintained by HMT MTL Ltd- IISc Bangalore. It is a Technology Innovation Platform focussing on Machine Tools sector.

Q.5) The Konyaks are one of the major ethnic groups located in which of the following Indian state?

- a) Odisha
- b) Nagaland
- c) Manipur
- d) Kerala

Ans: b

Exp: The Konyak is the largest tribe, followed by Ao, Tangkhul, Sema, and Angami in Nagaland. Other Naga tribes include Lotha, Sangtam, Phom, Chang, Khiemnungam, Yimchungre, Zeliang, Chakhesang (Chokri), and Rengma.

Konyaks live in Mon district of Nagaland, Tirap, Longding, and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh; Sibsagar District of Assam; and also in Myanmar. They are known in Arunachal Pradesh as the Wanchos

In the past, the Konyaks were famous for their practice of head hunting. A rite of passage for young boys of the tribe was to present the decapitated heads of the rival tribe members into the community. And this resulted in their community being mostly isolated. The decapitated heads were brought back as trophies and hung in a community barn known as a "baan". The number of heads decapitated was directly proportional to the honor and the position of the warrior in the society.

A unique feature of the Konyak tradition is the practice of the Angh (king) system.

Q.6) Recently NASA launched its new Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD). In this regard consider the following statements:

1. The LCRD will help NASA to test optical communication in space
2. Optical communications systems are smaller in size, weight and require less power compared with radio instruments.

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

Ans: c

Exp: NASA launched its new Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) — the agency's first-ever laser communications system — from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. The LCRD will help the agency test optical communication in space.

Currently, most NASA spacecraft use radio frequency communications to send data. Optical communications will help increase the bandwidth 10 to 100 times more than radio frequency systems.

LCRD has two optical terminals – one to receive data from a user spacecraft, and the other to transmit data to ground stations. The modems will translate the digital data into laser signals. This will then be transmitted via encoded beams of light. These capabilities make LCRD NASA's first two-way, end-to-end optical relay

Laser communications and radio waves use different wavelengths of light. Laser uses infrared light and has a shorter wavelength than radio waves. This will help the transmission of more data in a short time.

Optical communications systems are smaller in size, weight, and require less power compared with radio instruments.

Q.7) With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), consider the following statements:

1. It is an international agreement that establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities.
2. The Convention resulted from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), which took place between 1990 and 2000.

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

Ans: a

Exp: India remained committed to promoting a free, open and rules-based order rooted in international law and undaunted by coercion, the Centre informed Parliament while reiterating support for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

As a State party to the UNCLOS, India also supported freedom of navigation and overflight, and unimpeded commerce based on the principles of international law, reflected notably in the UNCLOS 1982.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also called the Law of the Sea Convention or the Law of the Sea Treaty, is an international agreement that establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities.

The Convention resulted from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), which took place between 1973 and 1982.

UNCLOS replaced the four treaties of the 1958 Convention on the High Seas.

UNCLOS came into force in 1994, a year after Guyana became the 60th nation to ratify the treaty.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.8) With reference to the supersonic missile-assisted torpedo system, consider the following statements:

1. It was developed by the L & T Defence.
2. This canister-based missile system consists of advanced technologies two-stage solid propulsion, electro-mechanical actuators and precision inertial navigation.

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

Ans: b

Exp: A supersonic missile-assisted torpedo system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was successfully launched from Wheeler Island in Odisha.

The system is a next-generation missile-based stand-off torpedo delivery system. During the mission, full-range capability of the missile was successfully demonstrated.

The system has been designed to enhance anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of the torpedo.

The missile carried a torpedo, parachute delivery system and release mechanisms.

This canister-based missile system consists of advanced technologies — two-stage solid propulsion, electro-mechanical actuators and precision inertial navigation.

The missile is launched from a ground mobile launcher and it can cover a range of distances.

While a number of DRDO laboratories developed various technologies for this system, industry participated in the development and production of various sub-systems.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.9) With reference to the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, consider the following statements:

1. It is connecting the ancient Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi to the ghats of the Ganga.
2. It has been built over an area of 5,000 hectares, and seeks to not only decongest but to also transform the temple complex.

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

Ans: c

Exp: On December 13, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor connecting the ancient Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi to the ghats of the Ganga.

A total 23 buildings will be inaugurated, including a Tourist Facilitation Centre, Mumukshu Bhavan, Bhogshala, City Museum, Viewing Gallery and Food Court.

The corridor, said to be the PM's dream project, has been built over an area of 5,000 hectares, and seeks to not only decongest but to also transform the temple complex.

The Rs-800-crore project was launched by the PM in his parliamentary constituency in March 2019, with the aim of restoring the "lost glory" of the spiritual centre.

The Kashi Vishwanath temple lacked direct access to the Ganga, and a 20-foot-wide corridor was envisaged to connect Lalita Ghat on the holy river to Mandir Chowk on the temple premises.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.10) With reference to banking reforms, consider the following statements:

1. Central Government aims to raise the insured limit for bank deposits to ₹5 lakh from ₹1 lakh with a 90-day time limit.

2. According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the payment of deposit insurance should be seen as a "measure of last resort".

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

Ans: c

Exp: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das indicated that the banking regulator will ring in sweeping regulatory changes to reform urban cooperative banks that have been plagued by a spate of failures, and warned people against parking their savings in banks offering high returns.

While describing the Government's decision to raise the insured limit for bank deposits to ₹5 lakh from ₹1 lakh with a 90-day time limit to pay out such deposits as 'landmark' developments, Mr. Das stressed that the payment of deposit insurance should be seen as a "measure of last resort".

There are institutions that are offering higher interest rates which are viable, but depositors should always be very careful," he reiterated at an event to mark the payment of nearly ₹1,300 crore to over 1 lakh depositors whose funds were stuck in distressed banks for years.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a function on "Depositors First: Guaranteed Time-bound Deposit Insurance Payment up to Rs. 5 Lakh" in New Delhi.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.1) Recently seen in the news 38th parallel forms border between which of the following?

- a) North & South Korea
- b) India & Sri Lanka
- c) Canada & Russia
- d) Afghanistan & Iran

Correct Answer

Ans: a

Exp: The 38th parallel north is a circle of latitude that is 38 degrees north of the Earth's equatorial plane.

It crosses Europe, the Mediterranean Sea, Asia, the Pacific Ocean, North America, and the Atlantic Ocean. The 38th parallel north formed the border between North and South Korea before the Korean War.

38th parallel, the popular name given to latitude 38° N that in East Asia roughly demarcates North Korea and South Korea.

The line was chosen by U.S. military planners at the Potsdam Conference (July 1945) near the end of World War II as an army boundary, north of which the U.S.S.R. was to accept the surrender of the Japanese forces in Korea and south of which the Americans were to accept the Japanese surrender.

Q.2) Consider the following with respect to Oscar-1 satellite:

1. It was the first non-governmental satellite to launch.
2. It was the first amateur radio satellite to launch.

Which of the above statement(s) are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Exp: Both Statements 1 & 2 are Correct

OSCAR 1 is the first amateur radio satellite launched by Project OSCAR.

It was launched into low Earth orbit on December 12, 1961.

It was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Lompoc in California, by a Thor-DM21 Agena B launcher.

The satellite is a rectangular box, measuring 30 x 25 x 12 cm and having a weight of 10 kg.

It was launched as a secondary payload (ballast) for Corona 9029, which is the eighth and final launch of the KH-3 satellite.

It was not only the world's first non-governmental satellite but also the first satellite constructed by a collection of private individuals.

The satellite was designed and constructed using limited resources.

Q.3) Consider the following Statements regarding Co-Lending Model (CLM)

1. The primary focus of the 'Co-Lending Model' (CLM) is to "improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy.
2. Under the CLM, NBFCs are required to retain at least a 20% share of individual loans on their books.
3. In the CLM, Majority of the risk will be with the banks, who will take the big hit in case of a default.

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

Ans: d

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: The primary focus of the 'Co-Lending Model' (CLM) is to "improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy.

Statement 2 is correct: Majority of Responsibility Lies with the Banks: Under the CLM, NBFCs are required to retain at least a 20% share of individual loans on their books.

Statement 3 is correct: This means 80% of the risk will be with the banks — who will take the big hit in case of a default.

In effect, while the banks fund the major chunk of the loan, the NBFC decides the borrower.

About the Co-Lending Model:

In September 2018, the RBI had announced co-origination of loans" by banks and NBFCs for lending to the priority sector.

The arrangement entailed joint contribution of credit and sharing of risks and rewards. Co-lending or co-origination is a set-up where banks and non-banks enter into an arrangement for the joint contribution of credit for priority sector lending.

These guidelines were later amended in 2020 and rechristened as co-lending models (CLM) by including Housing Finance Companies and some changes in the framework.

Under priority sector norms, banks are mandated to lend a particular portion of their funds to specified sectors, like weaker sections of the society, agriculture, MSME and social infrastructure.

Objective: The primary focus of the 'Co-Lending Model' (CLM) is to "improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy.

It also envisages making available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost.



Underlying Idea: CLM seeks to better leverage the respective comparative advantages of the banks and NBFCs in a collaborative effort.

The lower cost of funds from banks

Greater reach of the NBFCs.

For example, CLM will enhance last-mile finance and drive financial inclusion to MSMEs.

Example of CLM: SBI, the country's largest lender, signed a deal with Adani Capital, a small NBFC of a big corporate house, for co-lending to farmers to help them buy tractors and farm implements.

Risk in Co-lending:

Majority of Responsibility Lies with the Banks: Under the CLM, NBFCs are required to retain at least a 20% share of individual loans on their books.

This means 80% of the risk will be with the banks — who will take the big hit in case of a default.

In effect, while the banks fund the major chunk of the loan, the NBFC decides the borrower.

Corporates in Banking: While the RBI hasn't officially allowed the entry of big corporate houses into the banking space, the NBFCs are mostly floated by corporate houses.

This is risky, especially when four big private finance firms — IL&FS, DHFL, SREI and Reliance Capital have collapsed in the last three years despite tight monitoring by the RBI.

Limited Reach of NBFCs: While the RBI has referred to "the greater reach of the NBFCs", the small NBFCs with 100-branch networks will fall short in serving underserved and unserved segments.

Q.4) Consider the following Statements regarding the Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo System (SMART)

1. It is a missile assisted release of the lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations far beyond torpedo range.
2. It is a canister-based missile system.
3. The system is a next generation missile-based standoff torpedo delivery system.

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

Ans: d

Exp: Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully launched the Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo System (SMART) from Wheeler Island in Odisha.

Statement 1 is correct: It is a missile assisted release of the lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations far beyond torpedo range.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a canister-based missile system.

Statement 3 is correct: The system is a next generation missile-based standoff torpedo delivery system.

The system has been designed to enhance anti-sub marine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of the torpedo.

Functioning:

SMART, when launched from a warship or a truck-based coastal battery, takes off like a regular supersonic missile.

It covers most of its flight in the air at lower altitudes with two-way data link from the warship or an airborne submarine target detection system and provides the exact location of the hostile submarine to correct its flight path midway.

Just when it approaches close enough to the submerged submarine, the missile will eject the torpedo system into the water and the autonomous torpedo will start moving towards its target to take out the submarine.

Torpedo is a cigar-shaped, self-propelled underwater weapon, launched from a submarine, surface vessel, or airplane and designed for exploding upon contact with the hulls of surface vessels and submarines.

Varunastra is the first indigenous heavyweight ship launched anti-submarine electric torpedo.

Q.5) Consider the following Statements

1. Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.
2. The temple stands on the western bank of the holy river Ganga, and is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest of Shiva temples.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Statement 2 is correct: The Kashi Vishwanath temple stands on the western bank of the holy river Ganga.

Kashi Vishwanath Temple is also part of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest of Shiva temples.

Kashi Vishwanath Temple was constructed in the year 1780 by the Maratha monarch, Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar of the Indore.

Q.6) Operation Softgold was sometime seen in news. The operation is related to which of the following?

- a) To curb smuggling of precious metals from foreign countries.
- b) To protect Indian citizen from Afghanistan.
- c) To tackle illegal trade in Shahtoosh shawls (made from Chiru wool).
- d) To transport Humanitarian aid to neighboring countries to tackle the Covid pandemic.

Ans: c

Exp: "Operation Softgold" was undertaken from October, 2018 to March, 2019 to tackle illegal trade in Shahtoosh shawls (made from Chiru wool). During the operation, 350 shawls were found.

Q.7) Consider the following statements with regards to the UNCLOS:

1. UNCLOS is the only international convention that stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
2. The territorial sea extends seaward up to 24 nautical miles (nm) from its baselines.
3. Exclusive Economic Zone does not give a coastal state the right to prohibit or limit freedom of navigation or overflight, subject to very limited exceptions.

Choose the correct statements:

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) All of the above

Ans: c

Exp: The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, also called the Law of the Sea Convention, is an international agreement that establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities. It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.

The territorial sea extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles (nm) from its baselines.

Exclusive Economic Zone does not give a coastal state the right to prohibit or limit freedom of navigation or overflight, subject to very limited exceptions. It only grants it the right to make use of the natural resources available in the region.

Q.8) With reference to the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India announced a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), to strengthen applicable supervisory tools.
2. It has excluded NBFCs not accepting or not intending to accept public funds, primary dealers and housing finance firms, along with government-owned ones.

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

Ans: c

Exp: The Reserve Bank of India announced a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), to strengthen applicable supervisory tools.

This will take effect October 1, 2022.

This is in line with the PCA framework for banks, whose aim was to help improve their financial condition and governance issues.

The framework will apply to all deposit-taking NBFCs, all non-deposit taking NBFCs in the middle, upper and top layers, including investment and credit firms, core investment firms, infrastructure debt funds, infrastructure finance firms and microfinance institutions.

It has excluded NBFCs not accepting or not intending to accept public funds, primary dealers and housing finance firms, along with government-owned ones.

The objective of the framework is to enable supervisory intervention at the appropriate time and require the supervised entity to initiate and implement remedial measures in a timely manner, so as to restore its financial health.

Among large NBFCs (assets exceeding ₹25,000 crore), rating agency ICRA noted that three entities were in breach of the net NPA criterion as of September. However, all the entities have established parentage.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.9) With reference to the Wholesale Price Index, consider the following statements:

1. Wholesale inflation, based on the Wholesale Price Index, jumped to 14.23 per cent in November from 12.54 per cent in October (on a year-on-year basis).
2. This is the highest level of wholesale inflation in the 2011-12 series and eighth consecutive month in which it has stayed at double-digit level.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Wholesale inflation, based on the Wholesale Price Index, jumped to 14.23 per cent in November from 12.54 per cent in October (on a year-on-year basis), data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry showed.

It was primarily due to rise in food prices especially of vegetables, and minerals and petroleum products

This is the highest level of wholesale inflation in the 2011-12 series and eighth consecutive month in which it has stayed at double-digit level.

This comes after the retail inflation print for November, had shown a spike to a three-month high of 4.91 per cent despite a cut in excise duty on fuels. The wide gap between WPI and CPI inflation reflects the price pressures on the inputs side, which are expected to pass through to the retail level in the coming months.

Gap between WPI and CPI inflation

Despite not being a policy tool, the surge in the WPI is a cause of worry. While the CPI-based retail inflation — the more widely tracked policy tool — looks at the price at which the consumer buys goods, the WPI tracks prices at the wholesale, or factory gate/mandi levels.

Between the wholesale price and the retail price, the difference essentially is the former only tracks basic prices devoid of transportation cost, taxes and the retail margin etc.

And that WPI pertains to only goods, not services. So, the WPI basically captures the average movement of wholesale prices of goods and is primarily used as a GDP deflator (the ratio of the value of goods an economy produces in a particular year at current prices to that of prices that prevailed during the base year).

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.10) With reference to the special category states (SCS), consider the following statements:

1. In a special category state, the Centre-state funding of centrally-sponsored schemes is split in the ratio of 60:40.
2. The Constitution does not provide for any state to receive special treatment compared to others.

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

Ans: b

Exp: Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has again raised his nearly 15-year-old demand for the status of special category state (SCS) for Bihar. Nitish has been seeking SCS for Bihar since at least 2007.

In a special category state, the Centre-state funding of centrally-sponsored schemes is split in the ratio of 90:10, much more favourable than the 60:40 or 80:20 splits in other (non-SCS) states.

The Constitution does not provide for any state to receive special treatment compared to others.

However, for a range of reasons including historical disadvantage, difficult or hilly terrain, nature of population (low density or a large share of tribals), strategic location along the border, economic or infrastructural backwardness, etc., the Centre has over the decades extended special assistance to some states.

From 1969 onward, a body called the National Development Council (NDC) — which used to be a part of the now defunct Planning Commission of India — recommended SCS status for 11 states: eight from the Northeast, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

After the government accepted the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission in 2015, however, the concept of SCS effectively disappeared.

The NITI Aayog, which has replaced the Planning Commission, has no power to allocate funds — and therefore, the discretion that the ruling party at the Centre had to dole out special favours to states through the Plan panel, no longer exists.

States such as Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand have, however, persisted with the demand. Andhra Pradesh too has claimed SCS.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.1) Consider the following statements with regards to the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states.
2. The Sixth Schedule establishes Tribal Advisory Councils in these states.
3. The Sixth Schedule was originally intended for the predominantly tribal areas (tribal population over 90%) of undivided Assam, which was categorised as “excluded areas” under the Government of India Act, 1935 and was under the direct control of the Governor.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) All of the above

Ans: c

Exp: The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states. This special provision is provided under Article 244(2) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution.

The Sixth Schedule was originally intended for the predominantly tribal areas (tribal population over 90%) of undivided Assam.

The Sixth Schedule provides for the formation of autonomous district councils while the Fifth Schedule provides for Tribal Advisory Councils in the fifth schedule areas.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with regards to Hypersonic technology:

1. Hypersonic speeds refer to 3 or more times the Mach or speed of sound.
2. Most hypersonic vehicles primarily use scramjet technology, which is a type of Air Breathing Propulsion System.
3. DRDO has successfully flight-tested the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), with a capability to travel at 6 times the speed of sound.

Choose the correct statements:

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) All of the above

Ans: b

Exp: Hypersonic speeds refer to 5 or more times the Mach or speed of sound.

Q.3) Which of the following is issued by registered foreign portfolio investors to overseas investors who want to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly?

- a) Certificate of Deposit
- b) Commercial Paper
- c) Promissory Note
- d) Participatory Note

Ans: d

Exp: Participatory notes also referred to as P-Notes are financial instruments required by investors or hedge funds to invest in Indian securities without having to register with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

1. It is an international agreement that establishes the legal framework for marine and maritime activities.
2. It divides marine areas into four main zones namely- Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982 is an international agreement that establishes the legal framework for marine and maritime activities.

Statement 2 is incorrect: It is also known as Law of the Sea. It divides marine areas into five main zones namely- Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.

It is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces. It provides a different legal status to different maritime zones.

It provides the backbone for offshore governance by coastal states and those navigating the oceans.



It not only zones coastal states' offshore areas but also provides specific guidance for states' rights and responsibilities in the five concentric zones.

While UNCLOS has been signed and ratified by nearly all the coastal countries in the South China Sea, its interpretation is still hotly disputed.

There is a maritime dispute in the East China Sea as well.

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to Stand-Up India Scheme:

1. The objective of Stand-Up India is to promote entrepreneurship amongst women, Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes categories.
2. The scheme facilitates bank loans between Rs.1 lakh to Rs.10 Lakh for setting up a new enterprise.

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: Stand up India Scheme was launched on 5th April 2016 to promote entrepreneurship amongst women, SC & ST category.

This scheme has been extended up to the year 2025.

The purpose of Stand-Up India is to:

Provide loans for setting up greenfield enterprises in manufacturing, services or the trading sector & activities allied to agriculture.

Statement 2 is incorrect: facilitate bank loans between Rs.10 lakh to Rs.1 crore to at least one Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe borrower and at least one-woman borrower per bank branch of Scheduled Commercial Banks.

Eligibility:

SC/ST and/or women entrepreneurs; above 18 years of age.

Loans under the scheme are available for only Greenfield projects.

A greenfield project is one which is not constrained by prior work. It is constructed on unused land where there is no need to remodel or demolish an existing structure.

Borrower should not be in default to any bank or financial institution.

In case of non-individual enterprises, at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or Woman entrepreneur.

New Changes: The margin money requirement for loans under the Scheme has been reduced from 'upto 25%' to 'upto 15%' and activities allied to agriculture have been included in the Scheme.

Connect Centres: The offices of SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) are designated Stand-Up Connect Centres (SUCC).

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. PM POSHAN (Poshan SHAKti Nirman) Scheme was earlier popularly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

2. It covers all school children studying in Classes I-V in Government, Government-Aided Schools.

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

Ans: a

Exp: CCEA (Cabinet committee on economic affairs) cleared the PM POSHAN (POshan SHAKti Nirman) Scheme for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26. It was earlier known as 'National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools' popularly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme. This is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII in Government, Government-Aided Schools.

Q.7) The Sixth Schedule applies to which of the following states?

- 1. Assam
- 2. Meghalaya
- 3. Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: b

Exp: BJP MP from Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal demanded that the region be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to safeguard land, employment, and cultural identity of the local population.

The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions — Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) — that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.

ADCs have up to 30 members with a term of five years, and can make laws, rules and regulations with regard to land, forest, water, agriculture, village councils, health, sanitation, village- and town-level policing, inheritance, marriage and divorce, social customs and mining, etc.

The Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam is an exception with more than 40 members and the right to make laws on 39 issues.

The Sixth Schedule applies to the Northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram (three Councils each), and Tripura (one Council).

The UT has two Hill councils in Leh and Kargil, but neither is under the Sixth Schedule.

Their powers are limited to collection of some local taxes such as parking fees and allotment and use of land vested by the Centre.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q.8) With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), consider the following statements:

1. It consists of two major components by Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, namely, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), and Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP).

2. It was launched in 2020.

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

Ans: a

Exp: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has today approved implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2021-26 with an outlay of Rs.93,068 crore.

The CCEA has approved central support of Rs.37,454 crore to States and Rs.20,434.56 crore of debt servicing for loan availed by Government of India for irrigation development during PMKSY 2016-21.

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Har Khet ko Paani (HKKP) and Watershed Development components have been approved for continuation during 2021-26.

Central funding of 90% of water component for two national projects, namely Renukaji Dam Project (Himachal Pradesh) and Lakhwar Multipurpose Project (Uttarakhand) has been provisioned.

Background:

Launched in 2015, PMKSY is an umbrella scheme, providing central grants to the State Governments for specific activities detailed below.

It consists of two major components by Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, namely, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), and Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP).

HKKP, in turn, consists of four sub - components, being Command Area Development (CAD), Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI), Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, and Ground Water Development. In addition, Watershed Development part is being implemented by Department of Land Resources.

Another component of PMKSY, Per Drop More Crop is being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.9) Consider the following statements.

1. Operation Birbil: Tackle illegal trade of live birds
2. Operation Freely: Tackle illegal trade in wild cat and wild bird species.
3. Operation Wildnet: Tackle the illegal wildlife trade over internet using social media platforms.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Exp: The agency also conducted “Operation Birbil” to curb illegal trade in wild cat and wild bird species.

The other operations include “Operation Freely” on illegal trade of live birds and “Operation Wetmark” to ensure prohibition of sale of meat of wild animals in wet markets across the country.

“Operation Wildnet”, “Operation Wildnet-II”, “Operation Wildnet-III” and “Operation Wildnet-IV” were aimed to draw the attention of the enforcement agencies within the country

to focus their attention on the ever-increasing illegal wildlife trade over internet using social media platforms.

Q.10) Consider the following statements.

1. The female share of the total labour income is the national aggregate labour income earned by women relative to the total aggregate of labour income within a country.
2. In a country with perfect equality between women and men, the female labour income share would be equal to 50%.
3. According to World Inequality Report 2022, women's share of total labour income in India is almost equal to 50 percent.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Exp: Men in India capture 82% of labour income, while women earn just 18%, according to the first-ever estimates of the gender inequality in global earnings presented in the World Inequality Report 2022.

The female share of the total labour income is the national aggregate labour income earned by women relative to the total aggregate of labour income within a country. In a country with perfect equality between women and men, the female labour income share would be equal to 50%.

Female labour income in India of 18.3% is lower than the average for Asia, which was at 27% in 2019.

Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to The State of the Education Report for India 2021: No Teacher, No Class:

1. The proportion of teachers in private schools who report working with no job contract is higher than teachers with contracts
2. Half of India's 9.43 million school teachers are men.

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

Ans: a

Exp: The 'State of the Education Report for India 2021: No Teacher, No Class' was launched by UNESCO New Delhi on the occasion of World Teacher's Day, 5 October 2021, with over 400 attendees, including representatives from the government, civil society, academia, partners and youth.

Published annually, this third edition of the State of Education Report of India, focused on the theme of teachers, teaching and teacher education, underscores that the work of teaching is complex. It attempts to provide an understanding of key aspects of the teaching profession, provides a profile of nearly 9.7 million teaching workforce, as well as the challenges of their intricate teaching routine and their professional development.

This publication is the annual flagship report of UNESCO New Delhi and it is based on extensive research.

Only 19% schools across India have access to internet: UNESCO report

The teaching workforce has a deficit of over 1 million teachers and the need is likely to grow, given the shortages of teachers in certain education levels and subjects such as early childhood education, special education, physical education, music, arts, and curricular streams of vocational education.

UNESCO said contractual rather than regular teachers' jobs 'presents further complexity' and the problem is equally alarming in both private and government schools.

At least 16% of the schools in Goa and Telangana were managed by just one teacher

The overall proportion of teachers in private schools who report working with no job contract is alarmingly high at 69%

In the government sector, the overall number of school teachers with contracts of more than three years' duration is high at 67%

Half of India's 9.43 million school teachers are women.

Q.2) Recently Pinaka Extended Range (ER) rocket launcher system was tested successfully. In this regard consider the following statements:

1. Pinaka is a multiple rocket launcher produced in India and developed by DRDO

2. France Military Industries have teamed up with DRDO to implement its Trajectory Correction System (TCS) on the Pinaka

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

Ans: a

Exp: Successful tests of Pinaka Extended Range (ER) multi-barrel rocket launcher system

Pinaka is a multiple rocket launcher produced in India and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Army. The system has a maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 60 km for Mark-I enhanced version and can fire a salvo of 12 HE rockets in 44 seconds. The system is mounted on a Tatra truck for mobility. Pinaka saw service during the Kargil War, where it was successful in neutralising enemy positions on the mountain tops. It has since been inducted into the Indian Army in large numbers

The Pinaka-ER is the upgraded version of earlier version which has been in service with the Army for the last decade.

The Pinaka is in the process of further improvement. Israel Military Industries teamed up with DRDO to implement its Trajectory Correction System (TCS) on the Pinaka, for further improvement of its CEP.

Q.3) Recently seen in the news, India's first green hydrogen microgrid project is going to be set up at?

- a) Telangana
- b) Gujarat
- c) Delhi
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Ans: d

Exp: State-run NTPC Ltd has awarded the country's first green hydrogen microgrid project at its Simhadri plant in Andhra Pradesh.

Green hydrogen is produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using an electrolyzer powered by renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.

The fuel can be a game-changer for the energy security of India, which imports 85% of its oil and 53% of gas requirements. To promote clean fuels, India is considering making it mandatory for fertilizer plants and oil refineries to purchase green hydrogen.

Q.4) Recently seen in the news, the SAMPANN Project is launched by which of the following?

- a) Ministry of Finance

- b) Ministry of Communications
- c) Ministry of Labour
- d) Ministry of Education

Ans: b

Exp: SAMPANN – ‘System for Accounting and Management of Pension’ is an ambitious project of the Government of India being implemented by Controller General of Communication Accounts, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.

It is a seamless online pension processing and payment system for Department of Telecommunications pensioners. It provides direct credit of pension into the bank accounts of pensioners.

The system has helped the Department in the faster settlement of pension cases, improved reconciliation/auditing, and ease of accounting.

More than One Lakh pensioners are currently being serviced by Principal Controller of Communication Accounts/ Controller of Communication Accounts offices all over India via SAMPANN which has improved the service delivery to pensioners by providing a single-window setup.

Q.5) Which of the following is recently added in UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity?

- a) Durga Puja
- b) Pushkar Fair
- c) Jagannath Rath Yatra
- d) Suraj Kund mela

Ans: a

Exp: Statement a is correct: Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO’s 2003 Convention on Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage has inscribed ‘Durga Puja in Kolkata’ on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during its 16th session being held at Paris, France

Q.6) Agreement on Agriculture, often mentioned in news, is related to which of the following organization?

- a) World Trade Organization
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Bank
- d) NITI Aayog

Ans: a

Exp: A panel set up by the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has ruled against India’s sugar subsidies.



It has asked it to “withdraw its prohibited subsidies under the Production Assistance, the Buffer Stock, and the Marketing and Transportation Schemes within 120 days from the adoption of [the] report”.

The panel circulated its report, ‘India — Measures Concerning Sugar and Sugarcane’, on December 14. The report is yet to be adopted (or rejected) by the WTO’s full membership.

What was the complaint against India?

Three countries, Australia, Brazil and Guatemala, had complained about “support allegedly provided by India in favour of producers of sugarcane and sugar (domestic support measures), as well as all export subsidies that India allegedly provides for sugar and sugarcane (export subsidy measures)”.

India’s domestic support and export subsidy measures appeared to be inconsistent with various articles of the WTO’s Agreement on Agriculture and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM), and Article XVI (which concerns subsidies) of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT).

India provides domestic support to sugarcane producers that exceeds the de minimis level of 10% of the total value of sugarcane production, which they said was inconsistent with the Agreement on Agriculture.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.7) Recently seen in news, Jaya Jaitly committee is related to:

- a) raise the legal age of marriage for women in India
- b) restructure the Public Sector Banks
- c) increase in Motor Vehicle Tax
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Exp: The Union Cabinet’s decision to raise the legal age of marriage for women in India is based on the recommendation of a panel led by Jaya Jaitly.

In June 2020, the Ministry for Women and Child Development set up a task force to look into the correlation between the age of marriage with issues of women’s nutrition, prevalence of anemia, IMR, MMR and other social indices.

The committee, headed by former Samata Party president Jaya Jaitly, also had on board NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr V K Paul and secretaries of several ministries.

Recommendations

The committee has recommended the age of marriage be increased to 21 years.

The committee also asked the government to look into increasing access to schools and colleges for girls, including their transportation to these institutes from far-flung areas.

Skill and business training has also been recommended, as has sex education in schools.

The committee said these deliveries must come first, as, unless they are implemented and women are empowered, the law will not be as effective.

The committee has further recommended that an awareness campaign be undertaken on a massive scale on the increase in age of marriage, and to encourage social acceptance of the new legislation, which they have said would be far more effective than coercive measures.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.8) Consider the following traditions and choose the ones which have been recognized by UNESCO as part of India's intangible cultural heritage:

1. Yoga
2. Kumbh Mela
3. Tradition of Vedic chanting
4. Nowruz
5. Durga Puja

Choose the correct statements:

- a) 1,2 & 5 only
- b) 2, 4 & 5 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) All of the above

Ans: d

Exp: The following have been recognized as part of India's intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO:

Kutiyattam

Vedic chanting

Ramlila

Ramman

Chhau dance

Kalbelia dance

Mudiyettu

Durga puja in Kolkata

Buddhist chanting in Ladakh

Sankirtana

Traditional craft of thateras

Nawrouz

Kumbh mela

Q.9) Rustom II, developed by the DRDO is

- a) A hypersonic missile system
- b) An unmanned aerial vehicle or Drone
- c) A tank suitable for high altitude warfare
- d) A sonar system for identifying underwater mineral nodules

Ans: b

Exp: Rustom II is an unmanned aerial vehicle or Drone.

It is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance unmanned air vehicle (UAV) being developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation for the three services, Indian Army, Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force of the Indian Armed Forces.

Q.10) Which of these schemes is/are correctly matched with the States where they are operating?

Scheme	State
1. SAHAY	Chhattisgarh
2. KALIA	Odisha
3. Saras Suraksha Kavach	Rajasthan

Choose the correct code:

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) All of the above

Ans: b

Exp: SAHAY scheme of the state of Jharkhand focuses on the development of sports.

KALIA scheme is a package for farmer's welfare. KALIA stands for "Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation". This scheme has been launched by Odisha Government to accelerate Agricultural Prosperity and reduce poverty in the State.

Saras Suraksha Kavach is a scheme of the state of Rajasthan. It provides dairy farmers an insurance cover.

Q.1) With reference to the Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP) on the Personal Data Protection Bill, consider the following statements:

1. The committee has recommended a fine of up to Rs 15 crore or 4% of the total global turnover of the firm for data breaches, and a jail term of up to 3 years if de-identified data is re-identified.
2. Social media platforms that do not act as intermediaries should be treated as publishers, and therefore be held liable for the content they host.

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

Ans: c

Exp: The Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP) on the Personal Data Protection Bill tabled its report in both Houses.

Major recommendations:

**Non-Personal Too:** The key recommendations that changes the nature of the Bill itself is for inclusion of non-personal data within the larger umbrella. This means that all issues under the new legislation will be dealt with by a single Data Protection Authority (DPA) instead of separate ones for personal and non-personal.

**Transition Period:** To ensure that all such data aggregators get ample time to comply with the rules under the new Bill, the JCP suggested that up to 24 months be given from the date of notification of the Act.

**Social Media Liability:** A third major recommendation is that social media platforms that do not act as intermediaries should be treated as publishers, and therefore be held liable for the content they host.

**Penalty:** The committee has recommended a fine of up to Rs 15 crore or 4% of the total global turnover of the firm for data breaches, and a jail term of up to 3 years if de-identified data is re-identified.

**Timely Alert:** In case of any data breach, the data aggregator or fiduciary must notify the DPA within 72 hours of becoming aware of it.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.2) With reference to the amendments to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, consider the following statements:

1. It proposes to “widen the scope of levying access and benefit sharing with local communities and for further conservation of biological resources”.

2. The Bill seeks to exempt registered AYUSH medical practitioners and people accessing codified traditional knowledge, among others, from giving prior intimation to State biodiversity boards for accessing biological resources for certain purposes.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Environmentalists have expressed concern over amendments to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 on the grounds that it prioritises intellectual property and commercial trade at the expense of the Act's key aim of conserving biological resources.

Amendments to the Act were introduced as a Bill in the Lok Sabha by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav. The amended Bill was drafted in response to complaints by traditional Indian medicine practitioners, seed sector, and industry and researchers.

The bill was enacted for conservation of biological diversity and ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources with indigenous and local communities, imposed a heavy "compliance burden" and made it hard to conduct collaborative research and investments and simplify patent application processes.

The text of the Bill also says that it proposes to "widen the scope of levying access and benefit sharing with local communities and for further conservation of biological resources."

The Bill seeks to exempt registered AYUSH medical practitioners and people accessing codified traditional knowledge, among others, from giving prior intimation to State biodiversity boards for accessing biological resources for certain purposes.

Arguments against

A statement from the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) said the Bill would "undo all the efforts made in the last few years to implement the Biological Diversity Act."

There was not a "single provision in the proposed amendment to protect, conserve or increase the stake of local communities in the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity."

LIFE said the amendments were done to "solely benefit" the AYUSH Ministry. The Bill in the current form would pave the way for "bio piracy" and would mean AYUSH manufacturing companies would no longer need to take approvals and thus defeat the purpose for which the Act was created in the first place.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.3) Order of the Druk Gyalpo, recently seen in news, is the highest civilian award of which of the following country?

- a) Bhutan

- b) Nepal
- c) Myanmar
- d) Sri Lanka

Ans: a

Exp: The King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, conferred its highest civilian award, the Order of the Druk Gyalpo, on Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on the occasion of the country's National Day.

This would be the latest of awards to be conferred on Modi by other countries.

Last year, he received the 'Legion of Merit by the US Government' award of the US Armed Forces that is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

In 2019, Russia conferred its highest civilian honour 'Order of St. Andrew' award on Modi. In the same year, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conferred him with its highest civilian honour—'Order of Zayed Award'.

The Maldives gave him the 'Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin'the highest honour for foreign dignitaries—in 2019. PM Modi also received 'King Hamad Order of the Renaissance', the top honour from Bahrain, in the same year.

In 2018, the Prime Minister was conferred with the 'Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award', Palestine's highest honour awarded to foreign dignitaries.

He has also received the 'Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud', the highest honour of Saudi Arabia awarded to non-muslim dignitaries and Afghanistan's highest civilian honour 'State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan' in 2016.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.4) Consider the following statement:

1. The Juvenile Justice Act states that inquiry pertaining to minors involved in petty offences, for which imprisonment is a maximum of three years, shall stand terminated if it remains inconclusive till six months.
2. Petty offences can be classified as anything from chain snatching and vehicle theft to burglaries and drug trafficking or distribution
3. The juveniles those involved in petty offences, should be granted bail and handed over to their parents, after being presented before the Juvenile Justice Board

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Exp: Children in conflict with the law are entitled to prompt legal proceedings under the Juvenile Justice Act. Despite that, hundreds of cases remained pending before the six JJBs in the city, forcing the High Court to step in and ensure speedy justice

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, was brought in with the purpose of conducting criminal trials of minors or children in conflict with law (CCLs) who are accused of petty or serious offences before the Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs).

Child in Conflict with Law” has been defined under Section 2 (13) of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 as a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offence and has not completed eighteen years of age on the date of commission of such offence.

However, according to data recently provided by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) before the High Court, as many as 1,903 cases of petty offences — those between six months and one year and more than a year old — were pending before six JJBs

The Juvenile Justice Act states that inquiry pertaining to minors involved in petty offences, for which imprisonment is a maximum of three years, shall stand terminated if it remains inconclusive till six months.

The JJB is supposed to verify the child’s age within a period of 30 days from the first production.

Petty offences can be classified as anything from chain snatching and vehicle theft to burglaries and drug trafficking or distribution

After being presented before the board, the juveniles, especially those involved in petty offences, are generally granted bail and handed over to their parents. They are sent to an observation home only when the family is untraceable or on the court’s discretion.

According to the Act, the JJB can also ascertain the child’s age from physical appearance

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to the Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF):

1. The ZBNF method is meant to reduce input costs by eliminating the need for expensive fertilizers and pesticides.
2. Zero budget farming promises to end a reliance on loans and drastically cut production costs, ending the debt cycle for desperate farmers.

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

Ans: c

Exp: The ZBNF method is meant to reduce input costs by eliminating the need for expensive fertilizers and pesticides, and also protect soil health and conserve water resources.

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a set of farming methods, and also a grassroots peasant movement, which has spread to various states in India. It has attained wide success in southern India, especially the southern Indian state of Karnataka where it first evolved. The movement in Karnataka state was born out of collaboration between Mr Subhash Palekar, who put together the ZBNF practices, and the state farmers association Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS), a member of La Via Campesina (LVC).

'Zero budget' farming promises to end a reliance on loans and drastically cut production costs, ending the debt cycle for desperate farmers. The word 'budget' refers to credit and expenses, thus the phrase 'Zero Budget' means without using any credit, and without spending any money on purchased inputs. 'Natural farming' means farming with Nature and without chemicals.

Q.6) Which of the following strait connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden?

- a) Strait of Hormuz
- b) Malacca Strait
- c) Bab-el-Mandeb
- d) Strait of Gibraltar

Ans: c

Exp: The U.S. Navy tested a laser weapon and destroyed a floating target in West Asia, a system that could be used to counter bomb-laden drone boats deployed by Yemen's Houthi rebels in the Red Sea.

The test saw the USS Portland test-fire its Laser Weapon System Demonstrator at the target in the Gulf of Aden, the body of water separating East Africa from the Arabian Peninsula.

Previously, the Portland used the laser to bring down a flying drone in May 2020.

The Gulf of Aden sits along the southern coast of war-torn Yemen, which has been at war since Iranian-backed Houthi rebels seized its capital, Sanaa, in 2014.

The war also has bled into the surrounding waterways, like the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb, which connects the sea to the Gulf of Aden. These waterways lead to the Suez Canal and onto the Mediterranean Sea, making them crucial for international shipping and global energy supplies.

The Bab-el-Mandeb is a strait between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula, and Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa. It connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

Q.7) With reference to sixth schedule, consider the following statements:

1. It consists of provisions for the administration of tribal and non-tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
2. Autonomous District Councils (ADC) under the schedule are like miniature states having specific powers and responsibilities in respect of legislature, executive and judiciary.

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

Ans: b

Exp: Statement 1 is incorrect: sixth schedule has provisions wrt tribal areas only.

Statement 2 is correct

Q.8) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to enhance physical access of water on farms and expand cultivable areas under assured irrigation.
2. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme(AIBP) and Har Khet Ko Pani(HKPP) are the components of the Scheme.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both the statements are correct.

Q.9) Consider the following with respect to Xenobots:

- 1) Xenobots are the first-ever, self-replicating living robots.
- 2) First time it is created from the stem cells of the African clawed frog scientifically known as *Xenopus laevis*.

Which of the above statement(s) are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Exp: Both Statements 1 & 2 are Correct:

After creating the world's first living robots, United States-based scientists have discovered that they can now reproduce in a way different from any plant or animal.

Scientists have called xenobots "the first-ever, self-replicating living robots."

The tiny organisms were unveiled in 2020 after a group of scientists at the University of Vermont, Tufts University and Harvard University's Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering found that they could move, work together in groups and self-heal.

Xenobots are sized less than a millimeter, created from the stem cells of the African clawed frog scientifically known as *Xenopus laevis* from where it derives the name. The scientists believe that the discovery could serve fruitful in the medical field.

Q.10) Recently seen in the news, the World Press Freedom Index report is released by which of the following?

- a) Amnesty International
- b) UNESCO
- c) Reporters Without Borders
- d) World Bank

Ans: c

Exp: India retains 142 of 180 spots, remains “one of the world’s most dangerous countries” for journalists.

While India has not slipped further on the World Press Freedom Index 2021 published by the international journalism not-for-profit body, Reporters Without Borders (RSF), however, it continues to be counted among the countries classified “bad” for journalism and is termed as one of the most dangerous countries for journalists trying to do their jobs properly.

The latest index release ranks 180 countries, topped, yet again, by Norway followed by Finland and Denmark, while Eritrea is at the bottom. China is ranked 177 and is only above North Korea at 179 and Turkmenistan at 178.

Q.1) Project 15B, recently mentioned in news, is related to:

- a) Indian Navy's Visakhapatnam-class destroyers
- b) Drones developed by DRDO
- c) High accurate guns developed by L & T Defence
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Exp: Mormugao, Indian Navy's second indigenous stealth destroyer of the P15B class, planned to be commissioned in mid-2022, proceeded on her maiden sea sortie on 19th December, 2021.

Mormugao is being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL) as part of the Project 15B destroyers.

Mormugao will add significantly to the Indian Navy's combat capabilities.

With the recent commissioning in November 2021 of INS Visakhapatnam and the fourth P75 submarine INS Vela, commencement of sea trials of Mormugao is testimony to the cutting-edge capabilities of MDSL and the strong indigenous shipbuilding tradition of a modern and vibrant India. The Visakhapatnam-class destroyers or simply P-15B, is a class of guided-missile destroyers currently being built for the Indian Navy.

Designed by the Directorate of Naval Design, a total of four ships are being built by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL).

The first vessel of the class, INS Visakhapatnam was commissioned on 21 November 2021.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.2) Gadchiroli district, often mentioned in news, is located in:

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Karnataka
- c) Gujarat
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans: a

Exp: The herd of 22 wild elephants that has been in Kanker, Balod, Gariaband, and Dhamtari districts of Chhattisgarh for the last nine years, has successfully surmounted the last natural barrier to settle down in its new habitat in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra.

Conservationists say the habitat is ideal for elephants but express concern on possible human-elephant conflict during tendu leaf collection and in case of crop damage.

According to the forest officials, the Chanda Hathni herd entered Dhamtari district from Balod district forest ranges somewhere in February 2021.

Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra

Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra is categorised as tribal dominated with about 76% of its area is covered with forest.

The main river basin of the district is the Godavari, while Vainganga, Pranhita and Dina are three other major rivers flowing through the district, he said.

However, the district does not have any records of regular and resident elephants.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.3) With reference to the “Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI)”, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog.
2. The initiative is only for private hospitals and is based on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s MAA programme for government hospitals launched in 2016.

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

Ans: b

Exp: The Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), in collaboration with the Association of Healthcare Providers of India (AHPI), which comprises more than 12,000 private hospitals, has launched an accreditation programme that will enable hospitals to get a “breastfeeding-friendly” tag.

This programme is called “Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI)”.

The initiative is only for private hospitals and is based on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s MAA programme for government hospitals launched in 2016.

The certification process involves two stages — the first stage includes self-assessment by a hospital, followed by an external assessment by an authorised appraiser who interviews doctors, nurses and patients as well as reviews different practices and training of staff.

The accreditation process costs ₹17,000 per hospital.

The BFHI programme is a worldwide programme of the WHO and UNICEF. Though India adopted it in 1993, it fizzled out by 1998 and is now being revived after more than two decades.

Chennai’s Bloom Healthcare has become the first hospital to be recognised as “breastfeeding-friendly” under this programme.

Early initiation of breastfeeding continues to be low in the country.

According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-2021), while there were 88.6% institutional births, only 41.8% of infants were breastfed within the first one hour, which has improved only marginally from 41.6% during NFHS-4 (2015-2016).

In fact, many States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have shown a decline in the proportion of children breastfed within the first hour.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.4) With reference to the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to link electoral rolls to Aadhaar number has been listed for introduction in the Lok Sabha.
2. People who cannot furnish their Aadhaar numbers will be allowed to present other documents to establish identity.

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

Ans: c

Exp: The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 that seeks to link electoral rolls to Aadhaar number has been listed for introduction in the Lok Sabha.

The Bill allows electoral registration officers to ask for Aadhaar numbers of applicants wanting to register as voters to establish the identity of the applicant.

It also seeks to allow the officers to ask for the number from “persons already included in the electoral roll for the purposes of authentication of entries in electoral roll, and to identify registration of name of the same person in the electoral roll of more than one constituency or more than once in the same constituency”.

People who cannot furnish their Aadhaar numbers will be allowed to present other documents to establish identity.

Various Sections of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951 will be amended.

Section 23 of the RP Act, 1950 will be amended to allow linking of the roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem “to curb the menace of multiple enrolment of the same person in different places”.

Amendment to Section 14 of the RP Act, 1950 will allow to have four “qualifying” dates for eligible people to register as voters. As of now, January 1 of every year is the sole qualifying date.

Now, “the January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 in a calendar year” will be the qualifying dates in relation to the preparation or revision of electoral rolls.

Amendment to Section 20 of the RP Act, 1950 and Section 60 of the RP Act, 1951 will allow the elections become gender-neutral for service voters. It will also help replace the word “wife” with the word “spouse” making the statutes “gender neutral”.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.5) With reference to the Mediation Bill 2021, proposed to be introduced in the Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The Bill provides for establishment of the Mediation Council of India and for community mediation.
2. The Bill safeguards the interest of the litigants to approach the competent adjudicatory forums/ courts in case urgent relief is sought.

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

Ans: c

Exp: The Centre will table the much awaited Mediation Bill in the Rajya Sabha.

The Bill provides for establishment of the Mediation Council of India and for community mediation. The Bill intends to institutionalise the process of mediation by strengthening the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms.

The Bill safeguards the interest of the litigants to approach the competent adjudicatory forums/ courts in case urgent relief is sought.

The successful outcome of mediation in the form of a Mediation Settlement Agreement (MSA) has been made enforceable by law.

Since the Mediation Settlement Agreement is out of the consensual agreement between the parties, the challenge to the same has been permitted on limited grounds.

According to the Bill, the mediation process protects the confidentiality of the mediation undertaken and provides for immunity in certain cases against its disclosure.

The registration of Mediation Settlement Agreement has also been provided for with State/ District/ Taluk Legal Authorities within 90 days to ensure maintenance of authenticated records of the settlement so arrived.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.6) Which of the following legislations prescribe the age of 18 years for the bride and 21 years for the groom?

1. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
2. Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872
3. The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: b

Exp: The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, and the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, prescribe the age of 18 years for the bride and 21 years for the groom. The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, allows marriage if the boy and the girl have attained puberty. The Special Marriage Act, 1954, which governs inter-faith marriages also lays down 18 years for women and 21 years for men as the age of marriage. There is also the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, which prohibits marriage below 18 years for women and 21 years for men.

Q.7) Consider the following statements with regards to the India–Central Asia dialogue:

1. India-Central Asia Dialogue is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and the Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
2. The first India-Central Asia Dialogue was held in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan.
3. All the countries participating in the dialogue are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Choose the Correct statements:

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) All of the above

Ans: a

Exp: It is a ministerial-level discussion between India and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in Central Asia. Hence Statement 1 is correct.

The inaugural meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue was jointly organized by India and Uzbekistan on 13 January 2019 in Samarkand (Uzbekistan). Hence Statement 2 is correct.

Except for Turkmenistan, all of the nations taking part in the debate are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Hence Statement 3 is incorrect.

Q.8) Which one of the following is not a subindex of the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business Index'?

- a) Maintenance of law and order
- b) Paying taxes
- c) Registering property
- d) Dealing with construction permits

Ans: a

Exp: The World Bank Group designed the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index as a rating system.

The parameters of Ease of Doing Business Index are: –

Starting a Business

Dealing with Construction Permits

Getting Electricity,

Registering Property,

Getting Credit,

Protecting Minority Investors,

Paying Taxes,

Trading Across Borders,

Enforcing Contracts and

Resolving Insolvency.

Thus, maintaining law and order is not a factor in the 'Ease of Doing Business Index.'

Hence Option A is correct.

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. PM POSHAN (Poshan SHAKti Nirman) Scheme was earlier popularly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

2. It covers all school children studying in Classes I-V in Government, Government-Aided Schools.

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

Ans: a

Exp: CCEA (Cabinet committee on economic affairs) cleared the PM POSHAN (POshan SHAKti Nirman) Scheme for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26. It was earlier known as 'National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools' popularly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme. This is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII in Government, Government-Aided Schools.

Q.10) The writ of habeas corpus cannot be issued in which of the following cases?

When the detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court

When the proceeding is for the contempt of a legislature or a court

When the detention is lawful

Options:

a) 1 and 2 only



b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: d

Exp: A writ of Habeas Corpus is a command issued by a court with the competent authority to anybody holding a person in custody or detention.

This writ covers all forms of imprisonment that are used illegally or in an unapproved way or to an unapproved degree.

Habeas Corpus cannot be used in the following situations:

When detention is legal, Habeas Corpus cannot be issued.

It is also not stated if the detention or action is for contempt or a violation of a legislative provision.

If the detention is ordered by the High Court or the Supreme Court, this writ cannot be issued.

A Habeas Corpus writ cannot be granted if the detention occurs outside of the court's jurisdiction.

Hence all statements are correct.

Q.1) Which of the given statements with respect to UN Convention to Combat Desertification is/are INCORRECT?

1. It is the only convention stemming from a direct recommendation of the Rio Conference's Agenda 21.
2. It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
3. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) serves as a financial mechanism for UNCCD.

Options:

- a) 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

Exp: Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.

It is the only convention stemming from a direct recommendation of the Rio Conference's Agenda 21. As the dynamics of land, climate and biodiversity are intimately connected, the UNCCD collaborates closely with the other two Rio Conventions; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to meet these complex challenges with an integrated approach and the best possible use of natural resources.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) serves as a financial mechanism for UNCCD.

Q.2) Which among the following was the first military exercise between Indian and Vietnamese armies?

- a) INVITEX
- b) LAMITIYE
- c) VINBAX
- d) Ekuverin

Ans: c

Exp: VINBAX is the military exercise between armies of India and Vietnam. It stands for India-Vietnam Bilateral Army Exercise.

Q.3) Which of the following statements best describes "Operation Vijay"?

- a) A codename assigned to the Indian Air Force's strike to support the ground troops in an Indian operation to push back the infiltrators from the Kargil sector.
- b) A codename given to the operation by the Indian Peace Keeping Forces to wrest control of Jaffna from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

c) A code name assigned to the military operation by which Republic of India took control of Portuguese Indian territories of Goa, Daman and Diu.

d) A code name for the police operation in which the Indian Armed Forces invaded the state of Hyderabad and annexed the state to the Indian Union.

Ans: c

Exp: 2021 marks the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Goa from Portugal, in 1961.

Operation Vijay was the military action by which India liberated the territories of Goa, Daman and Diu from Portuguese rule in 1961.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Global Innovation Index 2021, seen recently in news:

1. It is released by the US Chambers of Commerce
2. India jumps to 46th position in Global Innovation Index 2021.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Exp: Statement 1 is Incorrect & Statement 2 is correct:

India has improved its position on the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021 prepared by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). India has been ranked 46th this year, marking an improvement from last year when it occupied the 48th position.

The GII report has been published by WIPO in collaboration with the Portulans Institute with support from corporate network partners such as the Confederation of Indian Industry, Brazilian National Confederation of Industry, Ecopetrol Group from Columbia, and the Turkish Exporters Assembly.

The list said the world's top innovation leaders in 2021 are Switzerland, Sweden, the US, the UK, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Finland, Singapore, Denmark, and Germany.

Q.5) Which of the following organizations releases the Asian Development Outlook?

- a) ASEAN.
- b) Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation.
- c) Asian Development Bank.
- d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Ans: c

Exp: Asian Development Outlook (ADO) is a series of annual economic reports on the Developing Member Countries (DMCs) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The Asian Development Bank recently released the Asian Development Outlook. The growth projection has been kept at 8%. These announcements are part of the Asian Development Outlook.

According to the Asian Development of Outlook, developing Asia is to contract by 0.4 % in 2020 and grow by 6.8% in 2021. The Asian Development Bank also declared that the growth of South Asia in the fiscal year 2020-21 will be at 7.2%.

Q.6) Panna Tiger reserve, belongs to which of the following Indian state:

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujrat
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Jharkhand

Ans: c

Exp: Option c is correct: Panna National Park is a national park located in Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh in India

Q.7) Project Devil, in news is relate to which of the following:

- a) It was launched by Indian Army to end the terrorism in Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- b) It was launched by DRDO for the development of a medium range Surface-to-Surface Missile.
- c) It was launched by government of India to end corruption and bring transparency in all the government organizations.
- d) It was launched by Indian Army to probe the killings in Nagaland.

Ans: b

Exp: Statement b is correct: "In 1972, Project Devil, was introduced by DRDO, for the development of a medium range Surface-to-Surface Missile was initiated. A large number of infrastructure and test facilities were established during this period.

Q.8) Consider the following statements about 'Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)'

1. The members of OIC are found across three continents only.
2. India is granted the status of an observer and has applied for membership recently

Choose the correct statements:

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

Ans: d

Exp: Statement Analysis

Statement 1 Incorrect: The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation founded in 1969 has 57 members spanning four continents namely Asia, Africa, Europe and South America.

Statement 2 Incorrect: India is not a member of OIC due to opposition from Pakistan. It is also not an observer at OIC but was invited as a 'Guest of Honor' at its plenary in 2019.

Q.9) The Objectives of 'Extended producer responsibility (EPR)' which is part of 'Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021' are

1. Integration of environmental costs
2. Reduction of disposal
3. Reduction of burden on municipalities

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Ans: d

Exp: The objectives of EPR are as follows:

Integration of environmental costs

Improved waste management

Reduction of disposal

Reduction of burden on municipalities

Design of environmentally sound products

Q.10) Consider the following statements

1. Elephant corridors are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act,1986.
2. Maharashtra has the highest number of elephants in India.

Select the correct statements

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement Analysis:

Statement 1 Correct: According to the rules, the state government needs to send a proposal of notification of these corridors to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), who could then notify it under the Environment (Protection) Act,1986.

Statement 2 Incorrect: Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049), followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054).

Q.1) With reference to the Chillia Kalan, consider the following statements:

1. It is the local name given to 40-day period of harsh winter in Gujarat.
2. Chillai-Kalan is followed by 20-day long Chillai Khurd that occurs between January 30 and February 18.

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

Ans: b

Exp: Kashmir is in a deep freeze as the 40-day harshest spell of winter, locally called 'chillai kalan', started on December 21, 2021, with the minimum temperature already sub-zero in the entire Valley.

Chillai Kalan or Chillia Kalan is a Persian word which literally means forty days of intense cold.

It is the local name given to 40 day period of harsh winter in Kashmir.

It is the coldest part of winter, starting from 21 December to January 29 every year.

Chillai-Kalan is followed by 20-day long Chillai Khurd (small cold) that occurs between January 30 and February 18 and a 10-days long Chillai Bachha (baby cold) which is from February 19 to February 28.

Impact of Chillai Kalan on daily life of Kashmiris: Use of Pheran (Kashmiri dress) and a traditional firing pot called Kanger increases. Due to subzero temperature, tap water pipelines freeze partially during this period and world-famous Dal Lake also freezes.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are the applications of drones in agriculture?

1. Monitoring crop stress
2. Predict yields
3. Deliver props like herbicides

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: d

Exp: Union Agriculture Minister releases Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for use of Drone in Pesticide Application for Crop Protection and for spraying Soil and Crop Nutrients.

The SOP for drone regulation for pesticide application covers important aspects like statutory provisions, flying permissions, area distance restrictions, weight classification, drone registration, safety insurance, piloting certification, operation plan, air flight zones, weather conditions, SOPs for pre, post and during operation etc.

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) commonly known as drones have great potential to revolutionize Indian agriculture and ensure country's food security.

The National drone policy has been notified and the Drone Rules 2021 have been made significantly easier for people and companies in the country to now own and operate drones.

#### Use of drones in Agriculture

Drones are well-equipped with many features like multi-spectral and photo cameras and can be used in many areas of agriculture sector such as monitoring crop stress, plant growth, predict yields, deliver props like herbicides, fertilizer and water.

Drones can be used for assessing the health of any vegetation or crop, field areas inflicted by weeds, infections and pests and based on this assessment, the exact amounts of chemicals needed to fight these infestations can be applied thereby optimizing the overall cost for the farmer.

Drone planting systems have also been developed by many start-ups which allow drones to shoot pods, their seeds and spray vital nutrients into the soil. Thus, this technology increases consistency and efficiency of crop management, besides reducing the cost.

The Minister informed that the drones were used for the first time in warding off the locust attacks in various states of the country.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.3) With reference to the 'anti-national' activity, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution (Forty–Second Amendment) Act, 1976 inserted in the Constitution Article 31D (during Emergency) which defined 'anti-national activity'.
2. Article 31D was omitted by the Constitution (Forty-third Amendment) Act, 1977.

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

Ans: c

Exp: The word 'anti-national' has not been defined in statutes, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha.

Ministry of Home said this in response to a question by All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen member Asaduddin Owaisi on whether the government had defined the meaning of 'anti-national' under any legislation or 11 rules or any other legal enactment that is enforced in the country.



It added that 'anti-national activity' was inserted in the Constitution during Emergency in 1976 but was removed later.

The Constitution (Forty–Second Amendment) Act, 1976 inserted in the Constitution Article 31D (during Emergency) which defined 'anti-national activity' and this Article 31D was, subsequently, omitted by the Constitution (Forty-third Amendment) Act, 1977.

The word 'anti-national' has not been defined in statutes. However, there are criminal legislation and various judicial pronouncements to sternly deal with unlawful and subversive activities which are detrimental to the unity and integrity of the country.

Value Addition:

'Public Order' and 'Police' were State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and the "data about number of people arrested for indulging in anti-national activities is not maintained centrally".

In 2019, when the National Crime Records Bureau released the annual 'Crime in India' report for 2017, it included for the first time a chapter on 'Crime Committed by Anti National Elements'. The chapter listed "North East insurgents, Left Wing Extremists and Terrorists (including Jihadi terrorists)" as the three anti-national elements.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding 'Indian Desert Cat'

It is listed as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List.

It is found in semi-arid and arid regions of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh.

Choose the correct code:

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

Ans: b

Exp: Statement Analysis:

Statement 1 Incorrect: IUCN status is Least Concern.

Statement 2 Correct: It is found in arid and semi-arid regions of India which includes Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding India's 'Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP)'

1. Ethanol is an agro-based product, mainly produced from a by-product of the sugar industry namely molasses.
2. Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) comes under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Choose the correct code:

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement Analysis:

Statement 1 correct: Ethanol is an agro-based product, mainly produced from a by-product of the sugar industry, namely molasses. Following raw materials apart from molasses which are allowed are sugarcane juice, sugar, sugar syrup, damaged food grains like wheat and rice unfit for human consumption.

Statement 2 Incorrect: This Programme comes under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Q.6) Which of the following has launched The UNITE AWARE platform in collaboration with India?

- a) OECD
- b) G-20
- c) ASEAN
- d) United Nations

Ans: d

Exp: UNITE Aware is a situational awareness software programme that will utilize modern surveillance technology for real-time threat assessments to peacekeepers

India, in collaboration with the UN, on 18th August, launched a technology platform to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers who are operating in an increasingly complex and risky environment across the world.

The launch of the UNITE AWARE platform came as India assumed the Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of August.

India has contributed USD 1.64 million to the project.

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary

1. It has become the 4th Tiger reserve in West Bengal.
2. At present India has 52 Tiger reserves.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1& 2.
- d) None of the above.

Ans: b

Exp: Statement 1 is Incorrect & Statement 2 is correct:

India added another feather to its cap in tiger conservation efforts. The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Rajasthan got the green signal from the NTCA or National Tiger Conservation Authority.

The Ramgarh wildlife sanctuary is the country's 52nd tiger reserve.

With the addition of this tiger reserve, Rajasthan gets its fourth one after Ranthambore, Sariska, and Mukundra tiger reserves.

More about it:

The Ramgarh Sanctuary is like a buffer for the Ranthambore National Park, one of the most famous wildlife sanctuaries in India.

Rich in biodiversity and wild animals, the Ramgarh sanctuary covers an area of around 252 square kilometers.

One can spot a variety of wild animals like the Indian wolf, leopard, striped hyena, sloth bear, golden jackal, chinkara, nilgai among other animals at the Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to the MALABAR Exercise:

1. MALABAR series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992 as a bilateral IN-USN exercise.
2. The 2021 edition of the Malabar naval exercise will be conducted on the coast of Guam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Exp: Both Statements 1 & 2 are CORRECT:

The Malabar exercise started in 1992 as a bilateral drill between the Indian Navy and the U.S. Navy in the Indian Ocean.

Japan became a permanent member of the exercise in 2015.

This annual exercise was conducted off the coast of Guam in 2018 and off the coast of Japan in 2019.

The Quad countries — India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan — will conduct the next edition of the high-voltage Malabar naval exercise from August 26 to 29 off the coast of Guam in the face of China's growing military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific.

Indian stealth frigate INS Shivalik and anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kadmatt arrived in Guam, an island territory of the U.S. in the Western Pacific, on August 21 to take part in the exercise that will feature an array of complex drills.

Q.9) With reference to the sacrilege in Sikhism, consider the following statements:

1. The concept of beadbi or sacrilege in Sikhism emanates largely from the fact that Sikhs consider the Guru Granth Sahib to be a living Guru.

2. Section 295A of the IPC provides for seven years of imprisonment for the “deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings of any class of citizens”.

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

Ans: a

Exp: The debate about sacrilege in Sikhism — and what the appropriate punishment for such conduct is — has heated up again after some incidents in the past few years.

The lynching of a man Saturday for allegedly trying to desecrate the Guru Granth Sahib at the Golden Temple adds to what has been a long-simmering controversy.

The concept of beadbi or sacrilege in Sikhism emanates largely from the fact that Sikhs consider the Guru Granth Sahib to be a living Guru.

For all incidents of sacrilege in Punjab, police invoke Sections 295 and 295A of the IPC. The punishment is two years’ imprisonment in the case of Section 295, which involves destruction, damage to or defiling of a “place of worship”, or “any object held sacred”.

Section 295A provides for three years of imprisonment for the “deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings of any class of citizens”.

Amendments

In the wake of criticism for the sacrilege incidents of 2015, the then Akali-BJP government passed a bill in the state assembly that amended the IPC. This amendment added Section 295AA, which would invite life imprisonment for sacrilege of the Guru Granth Sahib.

But the bill did not receive the assent of the President, and was returned by the Union Home Ministry on the grounds that it was against the secular spirit of the Constitution of India.

In 2018, when Captain Amarinder Singh was chief minister, the amendment was again passed by the assembly, and it covered holy books of all religions, to tide over the objection raised by the home ministry. But this bill, too, was never enacted.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.10) Which space agency had launched Yusaku Maezawa, the first private passenger to the international space station, recently?

a) NASA

b) ISRO

c) ROSCOSMOS

d) ESA

Ans: c

Exp: Yusaku Maezawa, a Japanese billionaire was launched to the international space station by Russian space agency, ROSCOSMOS on December 8 in a Soyuz Spacecraft. He has returned to earth after spending 12 days on the International Space Station

The landing completed a successful test run for his 2023 flight to the Moon with Elon Musk's SpaceX.

Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to the Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*):

1. It is only found in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
2. Its IUCN status is Vulnerable.
3. These turtles are omnivores.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Exp: The Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*) is a freshwater species of turtle found in South Asia. Apart from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, it is also found in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

It is morphologically an evolutionary link between the softshell and hardshell aquatic turtles.

Exploitation for profit and habitat change are threats to their survival. Its IUCN status is Vulnerable.

The Indian flapshell turtle is known to be omnivorous. Its diet consists of frogs, shrimp, snails, aquatic vegetation, plant leaves, flowers, fruits, grasses, and seeds.

Q.2) Which of the following statements about compassionate employment is/are correct?

1. Compassionate appointment is not a matter of right.
2. Dependent family of missing government employees can be considered for compassionate appointment.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Ans: c

Exp: Compassionate Appointment is a social security scheme launched by the Government to grant appointment to a dependent family member on a compassionate basis when a government servant dies while in service or retires on medical grounds.

The Supreme Court has held in an order that compassionate employment is not a vested right, but is to enable the family to tide over an immediate crisis that may result from the death of the employee.

Q.3) Global Competitiveness Report is released by which of the following organizations?

- a) WB
- b) UNCTAD
- c) WEF
- d) WTO

Ans: c

Exp: The report is released by World Economic Forum (WEF)

Q.4) With reference to the All-India Quarterly Establishment Based Employment Survey (AQEES), consider the following statements:

1. It enumerates data regarding employment in both organized and unorganized segments.
2. It covers sectors like Manufacturing, Construction and Agriculture.

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement 1 is correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: It covers the following nine selected sectors: Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/ BPO and Financial Services.

Q.5) With reference to Gharials, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed as endangered in the IUCN red list of species.
2. They are the only living crocodylian with visible sexual dimorphism.

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

Ans: b

Exp: Statement 1 is incorrect: IUCN Status: Critically Endangered

Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

CITES: Appendix I

Statement 2 is correct: Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) is a fish-eating crocodile. It is also the only living crocodilian with visible sexual dimorphism.

Q.6) With reference to Beej Gram Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to upgrade the quality of farmer's saved seeds.
2. Financial assistance is available for up to one acre per farmer for distribution of certified seeds at 50% of seed cost for cereal crops and 60% for pulses, oilseeds, fodder and green manure crops.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both the statements are correct

Q.7) With reference to the 'Pralay', consider the following statements:

1. It is an air-to-surface missile.
2. It was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

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

Ans: b

Exp: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted maiden flight test of indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay', from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on December 22, 2021.

The Missile is powered with solid propellant rocket motor and many new technologies.

The missile has a range of 150-500 kilometre and can be launched from a mobile launcher.

The missile guidance system includes state-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.8) With reference to the Exercise "Prasthan", consider the following statements:

1. The biannual exercise was coordinated and controlled by NOIC (APD) from Joint Operations Centre (JOC) Vizag under the aegis of Indian Navy.



2. The objective was to assess overall security architecture to provide support during an emergent situation at Offshore Development Area (ODA).

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

Ans: c

Exp: The security of the Offshore Development Area (ODA) in Krishna Godavari Basin on the East Coast of India was reviewed during exercise "Prasthan" conducted from 21 December to 22 December 21.

The biannual exercise was coordinated and controlled by NOIC (APD) from Joint Operations Centre (JOC) Vizag under the aegis of Indian Navy.

Objective was to assess overall security architecture to provide support during an emergent situation at ODA and for the Oil Operators to validate their Standard Operating Procedures laid out for various contingencies related to ODA.

Indian Naval Ships Kamorta, Tarmugli along with ISVs, T 36, T 38, T 39 and ICG ship Kanaklata Barua participated in the exercise along with MARCOS from INS Karna and naval helicopters from INS Dega.

Oil Operators namely ONGC Ltd, Reliance Ltd & Vedanta Ltd, Coastal Police, Department of Port and Department of Fisheries also participated.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.9) Recently seen in the news, which of the following city is picked up by UNESCO as Creative City for Crafts & Folk Arts?

- a) Delhi
- b) Srinagar
- c) Chennai
- d) Varanasi

Ans: b

Exp: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has picked up Srinagar among 49 cities as part of the creative city network under the Crafts and Folk Arts category

The process of nomination of Srinagar under the UNESCO 'Creative City Network' was undertaken and funded under the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project. This is the recognition of the historical crafts and arts of the city.

The network involves folk art, media, film, literature, design, gastronomy, and media arts. Srinagar was among one more cities from India competing for the coveted recognition this year. The dossier for its nomination was filed first in 2019 and again in 2021.

Only Jaipur (Crafts and Folk Arts) in 2015, Varanasi and Chennai (Creative city of Music) in 2015 and 2017 respectively have so far been recognized as members of the UCCN for creative cities.

Q.10) Recently seen in the news, the Lumding Reserve Forest is in?

- a) Manipur
- b) Nagaland
- c) Odisha
- d) Assam

Ans: d

Exp: Weeks after an eviction drive in Darrang district's Dholpur turned violent, leaving two dead, the Assam government Recently carried out a similar drive to clear alleged encroachers from Hojai district's Lumding Reserve Forest in the presence of heavy security

Lumding Reserve Forest, part of Dhansiri-Lumding Elephant Reserve, is considered an important wildlife habitat in Assam and stretches through the Lanka and Lumding ranges of the Nagaon South Forest division. It covers an area of 22,403 hectares.

Q.1) With reference to World Food Programme (WFP), consider the following statements:

1. It was initially launched as an experiment to provide food aid through the United Nations (UN) system.
2. Its operations are funded entirely by the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: WFP was created in 1961 as an experiment to provide food aid through the UN system and in 1965, it was enshrined as a fully-fledged UN programme. It launched its 1st development program in Sudan.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Its operations are funded entirely by voluntary donations from world governments, corporations and private donors. It raised US\$8 billion in 2019.

Q.2) With reference to Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), consider the following statements:

1. India is an observer state at the organization.
2. It is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations.

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

Ans: b

Exp: Statement 1 is incorrect: India is neither a member nor an observer state at OIC.

Statement 2 is correct

Q.3) With reference to Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), consider the following statements:

1. It is a company registered under the Companies Act.
2. They are regulated by the RBI as Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
3. One ARC cannot acquire debt from another ARC.

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: ARC is a company registered under the Companies Act and registered with Reserve Bank of India under section 3 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.

Statement 2 is correct: ARCs are regulated by RBI as a Non-Banking Financial Company [NBFC] (under RBI Act, 1934). They function under the supervision and control of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Statement 3 is incorrect: One ARC can be a sponsor or investor in another ARC or it can acquire debt from another ARC.

Q.4) With reference to compassionate job, consider the following statements:

1. It is a social security scheme to provide job to a dependent family member when a Government servant dies while in service or retires on medical grounds.

2. The compassionate employment is a vested right for all government employments.

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect: Supreme Court on hearing the appeal filed by the Union government said that compassionate employment is not a vested right. Earlier, the Madras High Court held to provide compassionate employment to the widow of the sergeant in IAF.

Q.5) With reference to James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and Hubble Space Telescope (HST), consider the following statements:

1. HST can observe mainly in the ultraviolet and visible parts of the spectrum. On the other hand, JWST will primarily study the universe in the infrared spectrum.

2. HST was present at the Earth-Sun L2 Lagrange point. On the other hand, JWST will orbit the Earth.

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect: Hubble orbits the Earth at an altitude of ~570 km. Webb will not orbit the Earth, instead it will sit at the Earth-Sun L2 Lagrange point, 1.5 million km away. This means that Webb will orbit the Sun along with the Earth, but will stay fixed at the same spot in relation to the Earth and the Sun.

Q.6) With reference to Election Laws (Amendment) Act,2021, consider the following statements:

1. The Act amend certain sections of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951.
2. The Act made Linking Aadhaar Card with the Voter ID on a mandatory basis.
3. From January 1, 2022, voters turning 18 will have the opportunity to register at four different times of the 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) 3 only

Ans: c

Exp: Statement 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is incorrect: Linking of the Aadhaar Card with the Voter ID will be allowed on a voluntary basis.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding 'Sahariya Tribe'.

1. They are found in Chhattisgarh
2. Swang is the name of their dance form.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Ans: b

Exp: Statement analysis:

Statement 1 Incorrect: Sahariya are an ethnic group in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India. The Saharias are mainly found in the districts of Morena, Sheopur, Bhind, Gwalior, Datia, Shivpuri, Vidisha and Guna districts of Madhya Pradesh and Baran district of Rajasthan. They are classified as Particularly vulnerable tribal group.

Statement 2 Correct: Swang is the dance form of this tribal group.

Q.8) Consider the following Statements regarding Agni-P Missile:

1. It is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class (under IGMDP - Integrated Guided Missile Development Program).
2. It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km.
3. In comparison to other Agni class missiles, Agni-P has improved parameters including manoeuvring and accuracy.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: Agni-P is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class (under IGMDP - Integrated Guided Missile Development Program).

Statement 2 is correct: It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km.

Canisterisation of missiles reduces the time required to launch the missile while improving its storage and mobility.

Many advanced technologies including composites, propulsion systems, innovative guidance and control mechanisms and state-of-the-art navigation systems have been introduced. The Agni-P missile would further strengthen India's credible deterrence capabilities.

Statement 3 is correct: In comparison to other Agni class missiles, Agni-P has improved parameters including manoeuvring and accuracy.

Agni Class of Missiles: They are the mainstay of India's nuclear launch capability.

Range of other Agni Missiles:

Agni I: Range of 700-800 km.

Agni II: Range more than 2000 km.

Agni III: Range of more than 2,500 Km

Agni IV: Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.

Agni-V: The longest of the Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.

Q.9) Consider the following Statements regarding 'Pralay' Missile:

1. Pralay' is India's first conventional quasi-ballistic missile and is an answer to any conventional missile attack from northern or western borders.

2. The missile has been developed in a way that it is able to defeat the interceptor missiles and also has the ability to change its path after covering a certain range mid-air.

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

Ans: c

Exp: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted maiden flight test of a new indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay'.

The missile was tested from the Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

Statement 1 is correct: Pralay' is India's first conventional quasi-ballistic missile and is an answer to any conventional missile attack from northern or western borders.

A quasi-ballistic missile has a low trajectory, and while it is largely ballistic, it can maneuver in flight.

Statement 2 is correct: The missile has been developed in a way that it is able to defeat the interceptor missiles and also has the ability to change its path after covering a certain range mid-air.

It is powered with a solid propellant rocket motor and many new technologies.

The missile guidance system includes state-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics.

Background: It is a derivative of the Pahaar missile programme, which was first tested in 2011.

Pahaar is a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 150 km.

Primary objective is to bridge the gap between the unguided Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher and the guided Prithvi missile variants.

Range: The missile has a range of 150-500 kilometre and can be launched from a mobile launcher.

Pralay will be the longest-range surface-to-surface missile in the inventory of the Army.

The Army also has the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile in its arsenal, with a stated range of 290-plus kilometres.

Significance: It will completely change the tactical battlefield dynamics and India will have two conventional missiles with long range.

The BrahMos will be a cruise option and this one will be the ballistic option.

Q.10) Survival International sometimes seen in news advocates the rights of

- a) Trafficked human beings
- b) Refugees
- c) Tribal people

d) Leprosy patients

Ans: c

Exp: Survival International is a human rights organisation formed in 1969 that campaigns for the rights of indigenous and/or tribal peoples and uncontacted peoples. The organisation's campaigns generally focus on tribal peoples' desires to keep their ancestral lands. Survival International states that it aims to help foster tribal people's self-determination.



Q.1) With reference to the Tokenisation, consider the following statements:

1. Tokenisation refers to replacement of actual credit and debit card details with an alternate code called the “token”, which will be unique for a combination of card, token requestor and device.
2. A tokenised card transaction is considered safer as the actual card details are not shared with the merchant during transaction processing.

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

Ans: a

Exp: The Reserve Bank of India has extended the implementation date of card-on-file (CoF) tokenisation norms by six months to June 30, 2022.

In September 2021, the RBI prohibited merchants from storing customer card details on their servers with effect from January 01, 2022, and mandated the adoption of card-on-file (CoF) tokenisation as an alternative to card storage. It applies to domestic, online purchases.

Tokenisation refers to replacement of actual credit and debit card details with an alternate code called the “token”, which will be unique for a combination of card, token requestor and device.

A tokenised card transaction is considered safer as the actual card details are not shared with the merchant during transaction processing.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.2) With reference to the Good Governance Index 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It prepared by the Association for Democratic Reforms.
2. In the North-East and Hill States category, Mizoram and Jammu and Kashmir have registered an overall increase of 10.4% and 3.7% respectively over GGI 2019.

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

Ans: b

Exp: Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Mr Amit Shah released the Good Governance Index 2021 prepared by DARPG on Good Governance Day.

Good Governance Index, GGI 2021 Framework covered ten sectors and 58 indicators.

The sectors of GGI 2020-21 are 1) Agriculture and Allied Sectors, 2) Commerce & Industries, 3) Human Resource Development, 4) Public Health, 5.) Public Infrastructure & Utilities, 6) Economic Governance, 7) Social Welfare & Development, 8) Judicial & Public Security, 9) Environment, and 10) Citizen-Centric Governance.

The GGI 2020-21 categorises States and UTs into four categories, i.e., (i) Other States – Group A; (ii) Other States – Group B; (iii) North-East and Hill States; and (iv) Union Territories.

Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa top the composite rank score covering 10 sectors.

Rajasthan has topped the Other States (Group B) category in Judiciary and Public Safety, Environment & Citizen Centric Governance.

In the North-East and Hill States category, Mizoram and Jammu and Kashmir have registered an overall increase of 10.4% and 3.7% respectively over GGI 2019.

In the Union Territories category, Delhi tops the composite rank registering a 14 percent increase over the GGI 2019 indicators.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.3) Which of the following statements with regards to NASA's James Webb Space Telescope is not correct?

a) It is the most powerful infrared telescope of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

b) It is also considered a successor of the Hubble Telescope and will extend and complement its discoveries.

c) It was launched into low Earth orbit in 1990, and has made more than 1.4 million observations, including tracking interstellar objects, capturing a comet colliding with Jupiter, and discovering moons around Pluto.

d) The telescope is the result of an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

Answer: d

Exp: The James Webb Space Telescope is the most powerful infrared telescope of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Hence Statement 1 is correct.

It is also considered a successor of the Hubble Telescope and will extend and complement its discoveries. Hence Statement 2 is correct.

Launched into low Earth orbit in 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope has made more than 1.4 million observations, including tracking interstellar objects, capturing a comet colliding with Jupiter, and discovering moons around Pluto. Hence Statement 3 is correct.

The telescope is the result of an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency. Hence Statement 4 is not correct.

Q.4) Chillai-Kalan, a weather phenomenon, is related to

a) Dreaded evening thunderstorms in Bengal and Assam

- b) Dry and oppressing winds blowing in Northern Plains
- c) Period of harsh cold conditions in Kashmir
- d) Violent dust squalls that occur after monsoon in the north-western parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain

Ans: c

Exp: Chillai Kalan is a period of forty extremely cold days starting from 21st of December, the date on which Winter Solstice is observed in the Northern Hemisphere.

Chillai Kalan is followed by a period of another 20 days of Chillai Khurd and 10 days of Chillai Bacha.

As for its impact on J&K, the period of Chillai Kalan is accompanied by temperate cyclonic conditions of Western Disturbances.

Collectively, Chillai Kalan and Western Disturbances render J&K both cold and wet (snowy) during winters.

Hence Option C is correct.

Q.5) "PAHAL" which was seen in news recently is

- a) Star rating scheme for energy efficiency
- b) Shoulder fired missiles developed by DRDO
- c) Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG
- d) Ration card portability

Ans: c

Exp: PAHAL or Pratyaksh Hanstantrit Labh Scheme aims to provide direct benefits to consumers. The scheme, which was originally introduced in 2013 was relaunched to cover the entire country. As per the scheme, LPG consumers can get the subsidy amount directly into their bank account, eliminating the need for any third party

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Olive Ridley turtles

1. They are one of the largest and the most abundant turtles species found in the world.
2. Their IUCN status is Endangered.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Ans: d

Exp: Statement Analysis:

Statement 1 Incorrect: The olive ridley sea turtle is the second-smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.

Statement 2 Incorrect: The IUCN status is vulnerable

Q.7) Consider the following pairs regarding India's missile system:

1. Nag: Anti-Tank Guided missile
2. Akash: Surface to air missile
3. Astra: New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile
4. Rudram: Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Ans: b

Exp: ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE: Nag has already been inducted into the services. Nag is the only "fire-and-forget ATGM meeting all weather requirements for its range (around 20 km)".

SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE: The short-range SAM system Akash has already been inducted in the Army and the Air Force.

AIR-TO-AIR: Astra, India's Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), has been completely tested and is under induction. It has a range of around 100 km.

AIR-TO-GROUND: Rudram, a New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (NGRAM). With a maximum range of around 200 km, the missile mainly targets communication, radar and surveillance systems of the adversary.

Q.8) With reference to the "right to be forgotten", consider the following statements:

1. It is part of the fundamental right to privacy.
2. United States of America in 2018 adopted the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Article 17 of which provides for the right to erasure of certain categories of personal data.

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

Ans: a

Exp: The Centre told the Delhi High Court that the “right to be forgotten” is part of the fundamental right to privacy, but added it has no significant role to play in the matter.

The right to be forgotten allows a person to seek deletion of private information from the Internet.

The concept has found recognition in some jurisdictions abroad, particularly the European Union. The EU in 2018 adopted the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Article 17 of which provides for the right to erasure of certain categories of personal data.

While the right is not recognised by law in India, courts in recent months have held it to be an intrinsic part of the right to privacy. Petitions across courts have been seeking enforcement of this “right” — a legal principle that is not yet backed by statute in India.

In May 2019, Justice Pratibha M Singh of the Delhi High Court, said the “right to be forgotten” and “right to be left alone” are inherent aspects of the right to privacy, and restrained republication of these news reports.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.9) With reference to Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements:

1. Due to national security interests, its primary service area is restricted within Indian territory.
2. Satellites of the IRNSS constellation are parked in both Geostationary orbits and Geosynchronous orbits.

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

Ans: b

Exp: Statement 1 is incorrect: It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, which is its primary service area. An Extended Service Area lies between primary service area and area enclosed by the rectangle from Latitude 30°South to 50° North, Longitude 30°East to 130°East.

Statement 2 is correct: Three satellites are located in suitable orbital slots in the geostationary orbit and the remaining four are located in geosynchronous orbits with the required inclination and equatorial crossings in two different planes.

Q.10) With reference to Pralay Missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is a surface-to-surface conventional quasi-ballistic missile aims to defeat interceptor missiles.
2. It can strike targets up to 60-70 km from the launchers.

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect: The missile has the ability to change its path after covering a certain range in the mid-air. The missile has a range of 150-500 kilometres. The indigenous Pinaka can strike targets up to 60-70 km from the launchers; while variants of the Prithvi missile can strike the target upto 250-350 km away. The territory between them where the key targets will be located in wartime will be engaged by the Shourya, Prahar and Pralay missile systems.

Q.1) With reference to the State Health Index 2019–20, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by Indian Medical Association.
2. On overall ranking based on the composite index score in 2019–20, the top-ranking states were Kerala and Tamil Nadu among the 'Larger States'.

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

Ans: b

Exp: NITI Aayog released the fourth edition of the State Health Index for 2019–20.

The report, titled "Healthy States, Progressive India", ranks states and Union Territories on their year-on-year incremental performance in health outcomes as well as their overall status.

Round IV of the report focuses on measuring and highlighting the overall performance and incremental improvement of states and UTs over the period 2018–19 to 2019–20.

The report has been developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, and in close consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

#### Methodology

The State Health Index is annual tool to assess the performance of states and UTs.

It is a weighted composite index based on 24 indicators grouped under the domains of 'Health Outcomes', 'Governance and Information', and 'Key Inputs/Processes'.

Each domain has been assigned weights based on its importance with higher score for outcome indicators.

To ensure comparison among similar entities, the ranking is categorized as 'Larger States', 'Smaller States' and 'Union Territories'.

#### The Findings

Among the 'Larger States', in terms of annual incremental performance, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Telangana are the top three ranking states.

Among 'Smaller States', Mizoram and Meghalaya registered the maximum annual incremental progress.

Among UTs, Delhi, followed by Jammu and Kashmir, showed the best incremental performance.

On overall ranking based on the composite index score in 2019–20, the top-ranking states were Kerala and Tamil Nadu among the 'Larger States', Mizoram and Tripura among the 'Smaller States', and DH&DD and Chandigarh among the UTs.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.2) With reference to the key initiatives/achievements of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, consider the following statements:

1. Poshan Tracker application has been built on latest technology for ensuring real-time monitoring of supplementary nutrition and providing information for prompt supervision and management of services.
2. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) envisages providing cash incentive amounting to ₹ 5,000/- in three installments directly to the Bank/Post Office Account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mother (PW&LM) in DBT Mode during pregnancy and lactation.

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

Ans: c

Exp: The key initiatives/achievements of the Ministry of Women and Child Development during the Year 2021 are as under:

**Age of Marriage of Women:** The Bill on Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2021 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 21.12.2021 for raising the age of marriage of women from 18 years to 21 years.

**Poshan Tracker application** has been built on latest technology for ensuring real-time monitoring of supplementary nutrition and providing information for prompt supervision and management of services.

**Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** The Scheme envisages providing cash incentive amounting to ₹ 5,000/- in three installments directly to the Bank/Post Office Account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mother (PW&LM) in DBT Mode during pregnancy and lactation.

The Juvenile Justice Act 2015 has been amended through Govt notification on 9.8.2021 and one of the most important features of the amendments is that it includes authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act, in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.

**Expansion of Childline:** Childline 1098, a 24-hour a day, 365 days a year, free, emergency phone service, is a nation-wide initiative for rescuing and assisting children in need of aid. This year, Childline has also started Childline Services at Bus Stands and presently is available at 9 Bus Stands, in addition to its presence in railway stations.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.3) With reference to the Counter-Terrorism Committee of United Nations Security Council (UNSC), consider the following statements:



1. China will chair the Counter-Terrorism Committee of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in January 2022 after 10 years.

2. The Counter-Terrorism Committee was established by Security Council resolution 1373 adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks in the US.

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

Ans: b

Exp: India will chair the Counter-Terrorism Committee of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in January 2022 after 10 years.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee was established by Security Council resolution 1373 adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks in the US.

The Committee was tasked with monitoring implementation of resolution 1373 which requested countries to implement a number of measures aimed at enhancing their legal and institutional ability to counter terrorist activities at home and around the world.

This includes taking steps to criminalize the financing of terrorism, freezing any funds related to persons involved in acts of terrorism, deny all forms of financial support for terrorist groups, suppress the provision of safe haven, sustenance or support for terrorists and share information with other governments on any groups practicing or planning terrorist acts.

Besides, the Committee monitors steps taken to cooperate with other governments in the investigation, detection, arrest, extradition and prosecution of those involved in terror acts and criminalizes active and passive assistance for terrorism.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.4) The area known as 'Golan Heights' appears in the news in the context of events related to

a) Central Asia

b) South-East Asia

c) Western Africa

d) Middle East

Ans: d

Exp: The Golan Heights refers to the border region captured from Syria by Israel during the Six-Day War of 1967.

Q.5) It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value. This tariff is known as -

a) Counter Vailing Duty

b) Anti-Dumping Duty

c) Import Duty

d) Customs Duty

Ans: b

Exp: Dumping is a process wherein a company exports a product at a price that is significantly lower than the price it normally charges in its home (or its domestic) market.

In order to protect their respective economy, many countries impose duties on products they believe are being dumped in their national market; this is done with the rationale that these products have the potential to undercut local businesses and the local economy.

An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

Anti-dumping measures are taken to ensure fair trade and provide a level-playing field to the domestic industry.

Q.6) Consider the following statements

1. Swamitva Yojana seeks to map agricultural and residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology like drone mapping
2. Property records under swamitva yojana are entitled to free from taxation.
3. It is implemented by the Ministry of Panchyati Raj.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 &3 only

c) only 3

d) None of the above

Ans: c

Exp: Statement 1 & 2 are INCORRECT & Statement 3 is CORRECT:

Swamitva Yojana Launched by the Panchayati Raj ministry on Panchayati Raj Diwas (April 24th, 2020).

The scheme seeks to map residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology like the use of drones.

The scheme aims to revolutionise property record maintenance in India.

Under the scheme, residential land in villages will be measured using drones to create a non-disputable record.

Property cards for every property in the village will be prepared by states using accurate measurements delivered by drone mapping. These cards will be given to property owners and will be recognised by the land revenue records department.

The delivery of property rights through an official document will enable villagers to access bank finance using their property as collateral.

The property records for a village will also be maintained at the Panchayat level, allowing for the collection of associated taxes from the owners. The money generated from these local taxes will be used to build rural infrastructure and facilities.

Freeing the residential properties including the land of title disputes and the creation of an official record is likely to result in appreciation in the market value of the properties.

The accurate property records can be used for facilitating tax collection, new building and structure plans, issuing of permits and thwarting attempts at property grabbing.

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Chandigarh is the first Indian city to launch a mobile application, 'Carbon Watch', to assess the carbon footprint of an individual.
2. Making the people Climate-Smart Citizens by providing them with steps to reduce their carbon footprint is the motive behind the 'Carbon Watch' application.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both Statements 1 & 2 are CORRECT:

Chandigarh became the first state or Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch, a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of an individual. Although the app can be accessed by everyone, it has specific options for the residents of Chandigarh to compile a detailed study.

The application can be downloaded through a QR code in Android supported smart cell phones.

Carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gases especially carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by particular human activity.

Making the people Climate-Smart Citizens while making them capable of accessing their carbon footprint, along with providing them with steps to reduce it, is the motive behind the application.

Q.8) Consider the following Statements regarding Good Governance Index:

1. Prepared by the Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
2. The objectives of GGI are to provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and union territories, enable them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance.

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

Ans: c

Exp: About the GGI:

Statement 1 is correct: Prepared by the Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

Statement 2 is correct: The objectives of GGI are to provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and union territories, enable them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance and shift to result oriented approaches and administration.

The GGI 2021 framework covered 10 sectors and 58 indicators:

The sectors are agriculture and allied sectors, commerce and industries, human resource development, public health, public infrastructure and utilities, economic governance, social welfare and development, judicial and public security, environment and citizen-centric governance.

The GGI 2020-21 categorizes states and union territories into four categories:

Other states – Group A; other states – group B; North-East and hill states and union territories.

Performance of various states:

Gujarat has topped the composite ranking, followed by Maharashtra and Goa.

As many as 20 states have improved their composite GGI scores in 2021.

Delhi has topped the union territories category composite ranking.

Among the sectors, Uttar Pradesh secured top position in the commerce and industry sector.

In the Northeast and Hill States category, Mizoram, and Jammu and Kashmir have registered an overall increase of 10.4 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively over GGI 2019.

Limitations of the Good Governance Index:

The limitations of the index are determined largely by the availability of data, which can be overcome with time as data becomes available from authentic and reliable government sources.

While agreeing the importance of input and process-based indicators, the framework is also limited by its focus only on outcome/output-based indicators.

Q.9) Consider the following Statements:

1. Anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.
2. In the long-term, anti-dumping duties can reduce the international competition of domestic companies producing similar goods.
3. The use of anti-dumping measures as an instrument of fair competition is not permitted by the World Trade Organisation.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: Anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

Statement 2 is correct: In the long-term, anti-dumping duties can reduce the international competition of domestic companies producing similar goods.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The use of anti-dumping measures as an instrument of fair competition is not permitted by the World Trade Organisation.

Dumping:

Dumping is said to occur when the goods are exported by a country to another country at a price lower than the price it normally charges in its own home market.

This is an unfair trade practice which can have a distortive effect on international trade.

Objective of Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD):

Imposition of Anti-dumping duty is a measure to rectify the situation arising out of the dumping of goods and its trade distortive effect.

In the long-term, anti-dumping duties can reduce the international competition of domestic companies producing similar goods.

It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

The use of anti-dumping measures as an instrument of fair competition is permitted by the World Trade Organisation.

Different from Countervailing Duties:

ADD is a customs duty on imports providing a protection against the dumping of goods at prices substantially lower than the normal value whereas Countervailing duty is a customs duty on goods that have received government subsidies in the originating or exporting country.

WTO's Provisions Related to Anti-Dumping Duty:

Validity: An anti-dumping duty is valid for a period of five years from the date of imposition unless revoked earlier.

Sunset Review: It can be extended for a further period of five years through a sunset or expiry review investigation.

A Sunset review/ expiry review is an evaluation of the need for the continued existence of a program or an agency. It allows for an assessment of the effectiveness and performance of the program or agency.

Such a review can be initiated suo moto or on the basis of a duly substantiated request received from or on behalf of the domestic industry.

Q.10) Consider the following Statements:

1. A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA.
2. An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
3. 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.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA.

Statement 2 is correct: An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.

Statement 3 is correct: 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.

What does the AFSPA mean?

In simple terms, AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”.

Powers given to armed forces:

They 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 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.

Q.1) With reference to the Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (zg) of sub-section (2) of section 101 read with section 94 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has notified the Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021.
2. Direct selling entities will be liable for the grievances arising out of the sale of goods or services by its direct sellers.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (zg) of sub-section (2) of section 101 read with section 94 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has notified the Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021.

These Rules shall apply to all goods and services bought or sold through direct selling, all models of direct selling, all direct selling entities offering goods and services to consumers in India, all forms of unfair trade practices across all models of direct selling.

These Rules shall also apply to a direct selling entity which is not established in India, but offers goods or services to consumers in India.

Existing direct selling entities need to comply of these rules within ninety days from the date of publication of these rules in the Official Gazette.

The direct sellers as well as the direct selling entities using e-commerce platforms for sale shall comply with the requirements of the Consumer Protection (e-Commerce) Rules, 2020.

Both direct selling entity and direct sellers are prohibited from promoting Pyramid Scheme or money circulation scheme.

State Government must set up a mechanism to monitor or supervise the activities of direct sellers and direct selling entities.

Direct selling entities will be liable for the grievances arising out of the sale of goods or services by its direct sellers.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. India's 'Annual Health Index' has been developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Kerala has consistently topped the index.

Options:

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

Ans: d

Exp: Both statements are correct.

Q.3) Sabar tribe can be mainly found in

- 1. Madhya Pradesh
- 2. Odisha
- 3. West Bengal

Options:

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

Ans: c

Exp: The Sabar people (also Shabar and Saora) are one of the Adivasi of the Munda ethnic group who live mainly in Odisha and West Bengal.

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), registration is mandatory for any NGO or association to receive foreign funds or donations.
- 2. The act is enforced by the Ministry of Finance.

Options:

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

Ans: a

Exp: The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act is a consolidating act whose scope is to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality by certain individuals or associations or companies and to prohibit acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or



foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), registration is mandatory for any NGO or association to receive foreign funds or donations.

The act is enforced by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Flex-fuel vehicles are capable of running on a combination of 100% petrol or 100% bio-ethanol and their blends.
2. Ministry for Road Transport and Highways is working with automobile manufacturers to manufacture flex-fuel vehicles complying with BS-6 norms.

Options:

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

Ans: c

Exp: Indian Minister for Road Transport and Highways has asked automobile manufacturers to manufacture flex-fuel vehicles complying with BS-6 norms within six months.

Flex-fuel vehicles are capable of running on a combination of 100% petrol or 100% bio-ethanol and their blends.

Q.6) 'Yedoorlagayi', 'Siddhulagayi', 'Guralapadah' recently seen in news are related to

- a) Mango varieties
- b) Ramsar sites
- c) Saline lakes
- d) Rock art sites

Ans: d

Exp: Newly explored rock art sites in the Kundu river valley in Gadivemula Mandal are 40 Km from Kurnool and these caves are locally known as Yedoorlagayi, Siddhulagayi, Guralapadah. These sites are reportedly dated back to the Megalithic period and early historical period.

Q.7) Recently seen in the news, Sydney Dialogue is related to which of the following?

- a) Cyber Security related
- b) Climate Change related
- c) Proliferation of Weapons of Mass destruction related
- d) Space debris related

Ans: a

Exp: Sydney Dialogue is an initiative of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

It is an annual summit of cyber and critical technologies to discuss the fallout of the digital domain on the law and order situation in the world.

Indian PM delivers the keynote address at The Sydney Dialogue, speaks on India's technology evolution and revolution

Lists five important transitions taking place in India

"The biggest strength of democracy is openness. At the same time, we should not allow a few vested interests to misuse this openness"

"India's digital revolution is rooted in our democracy, our demography, and the scale of our economy"

"We use data as a source of empowerment of people. India has unmatched experience in doing this in a democratic framework with strong guarantees of individual rights"

"India's democratic traditions are old; its modern institutions are strong. And, we have always believed in the world as one family"

Gives a roadmap for democracies to work together that recognizes national rights and, at the same time, promote trade, investment, and the larger public good

"It is important that all democratic nations work together on crypto-currency and ensure it does not end up in wrong hands, which can spoil our youth"

Q.8) Consider the following Statements regarding Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

1. The JCPOA was the result of prolonged negotiations from 2013 and 2015 between Iran and P5+1.
2. Under the deal, Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for nuclear weapons.

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

Ans: c

Exp: About the Iran Nuclear Deal:

Also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Statement 1 is correct: The JCPOA was the result of prolonged negotiations from 2013 and 2015 between Iran and P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union, or the EU).

Statement 2 is correct: Under the deal, Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for nuclear weapons.

What's the concern now?

Trump pulled the U.S. out of the accord in 2018. Besides, he opted for a "maximum pressure" campaign by imposing sanctions and other tough actions.

Iran responded by intensifying its enrichment of uranium and building of centrifuges, while maintaining its insistence that its nuclear development was for civilian and not military purposes.

Again, In January 2020, following the drone strike on Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander Gen. Qasem Soleiman, Iran announced that it would no longer observe the JCPOA's restraints.

The collapse of the JCPOA drags Iran towards nuclear brinkmanship, like North Korea, which has created major geopolitical instability in the region and beyond.

Significance of the deal for India:

Removing sanctions may revive India's interest in the Chabahar port, Bandar Abbas port, and other plans for regional connectivity.

This would further help India to neutralize the Chinese presence in Gwadar port, Pakistan.

Restoration of ties between the US and Iran will help India to procure cheap Iranian oil and aid in energy security.

Q.9) Consider the following Statements regarding the retrospective taxation:

1. It allows a country to pass a rule on taxing certain products, items or services and deals and charge companies from a time behind the date on which the law is passed.
2. Retrospective Taxation hurts companies that had knowingly or unknowingly interpreted the tax rules differently.

Which of the Statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: d

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: Retrospective taxation allows a country to pass a rule on taxing certain products, items or services and deals and charge companies from a time behind the date on which the law is passed.

Countries use this route to correct any anomalies in their taxation policies that have, in the past, allowed companies to take advantage of such loopholes.

Statement 2 is correct: Retrospective Taxation hurts companies that had knowingly or unknowingly interpreted the tax rules differently.

Apart from India, many countries including the USA, the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Australia and Italy have retrospectively taxed companies.

Q.10) Consider the following Statements regarding Green Financing:

1. Green financing is to increase the level of financial flows (from banking, micro-credit, insurance and investment) from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to sustainable development priorities.

2. A key part of this is to better manage environmental and social risks, take up opportunities that bring both a decent rate of return and environmental benefit and deliver greater accountability.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: Green financing is to increase the level of financial flows (from banking, micro-credit, insurance and investment) from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to sustainable development priorities.

Statement 2 is correct: A key part of this is to better manage environmental and social risks, take up opportunities that bring both a decent rate of return and environmental benefit and deliver greater accountability.

Need for Climate (Green) Finance:

Polluter Pays: The 'polluters pays' principle is the commonly accepted practice according to which those who produce pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment.

Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capability (CBDR-RC): It acknowledges the different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change.

Underlying Principle: Developed Countries historically have been the major environmental polluters.

Therefore, based on above mentioned principles, the developed countries are morally responsible to provide technology and finance to combat climate change.

Status of Climate Financing:

Expected Contributions from Developed Countries: Required climate finance from developed countries is to transfer USD 1 trillion annually to developing countries to meet their climate targets.

Actual Contributions by Developed countries: Through the Cancun Agreements in 2010 developed countries committed to a goal of mobilising jointly USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.

However, the Glasgow Climate Pact (COP26) noted that the goal of developed country parties has not yet been met.

In this regard, the COP26 has requested the Standing Committee on Finance to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to prepare a report in 2022 on progress towards achieving the goal of mobilising USD 100 billion per year to address the needs of developing countries.

Global framework for Climate Financing:

To facilitate the provision of climate finance, the UNFCCC has established the financial mechanism to provide financial resources to developing country Parties.

The Adaptation Fund under Kyoto Protocol: It aims to finance concrete projects and programmes that help vulnerable communities in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to adapt to climate change.

Green Climate Fund: It is the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, established in 2010.

India has been pushing for rich countries to meet their Paris Accord climate finance commitment of USD 100 billion per year.

Global Environment Fund (GEF): GEF has served as an operating entity of the financial mechanism since the Convention came into force in 1994.

It is a private equity fund focused on seeking long term financial returns by investments in clean energy under climate change.

GEF also maintains two additional funds, the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF).

Q.1) With reference to the positive indigenisation list, consider the following statements:

1. The list contains 2,500 imported items which have already been indigenised and 351 imported items which will be indigenised in next three years.
2. The positive indigenisation list is an intrinsic part of the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020.

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

Ans: c

Exp: A positive indigenisation list of sub-systems/assemblies/sub-assemblies/components has been notified by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, as part of the efforts to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing and minimise imports by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

The list contains 2,500 imported items which have already been indigenised and 351 imported items which will be indigenised in next three years. This Aatmanirbhar initiative will save foreign exchange approximately equivalent to Rs. 3,000 cr every year.

They will only be procured from Indian Industry after the timelines indicated in the list.

Two positive indigenisation lists of weapons/platforms/ systems/ammunitions etc have already been notified by the Department of Military Affairs, in order to provide impetus to self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

The positive indigenisation list is an intrinsic part of the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020.

For a product to be considered as an indigenous system, items on the positive indigenisation list must not only use technologies designed and developed by the Indian defence industry or the DRDO but also meet the specified requirement of sourcing indigenous content of 50 per cent.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.2) With reference to the Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Act, consider the following statements:

1. With the passage of the Bill, it became the second state in India after Andhra Pradesh to approve death penalty for heinous offences of rape and gangrape.
2. The Act requires the trial in these cases to be conducted on a day-to-day basis and completed within 30 working days from the date of filing of the chargesheet.

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

Ans: c

Exp: The Maharashtra Assembly passed the Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Act unanimously. With the passage of the Bill, it became the second state in India after Andhra Pradesh to approve death penalty for heinous offences of rape and gangrape.

The Act has amended the existing criminal laws to include death penalty as punishment in cases of rape and gangrape "in cases which have the characteristic of offence is heinous in nature and where adequate conclusive evidence is there and the circumstances warrant exemplary punishment, with death".

The existing law on rape had provisions for death penalty only in cases of repeated offences.

The Act has also enhanced fines and punishment for offences of sexual violence against women and minors. Under the POCSO Act too, punishment for penetrative sexual assault in heinous cases has been enhanced to death penalty.

The Act requires the trial in these cases to be conducted on a day-to-day basis and completed within 30 working days from the date of filing of the chargesheet.

It also requires for the investigation to be completed within a month of the FIR which can be extended by another month by the concerned Special Inspector General of Police or Commissioner of Police only for specific reasons given in writing.

In cases of grievous hurt caused due to acid attacks under Section 326A, the punishment has been enhanced to a minimum of 15 years which can be extended to the remainder of the natural life of the perpetrator along with fine.

In cases of voluntarily throwing acid or attempting to throw it, punishment under section 326B has been enhanced to a minimum of seven years and a maximum of ten years.

The fine amount in these cases will be towards medical expenses including plastic surgery and face reconstruction, the Act states.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.3) Which of the following country recently joined as the fourth new member of BRICS New Development Bank that was established by the BRICS countries six years ago?

a) Egypt

b) Thailand

c) Indonesia

d) Singapore

Ans: a

Exp: India has welcomed Egypt as the fourth new member of BRICS New Development Bank that was established by the BRICS countries six years ago.

Bangladesh, UAE, and Uruguay joined in September 2021. Membership expansion enables New Development Bank to position itself as a premier development institution for emerging economies.

The New Development Bank aims to mobilize resources for development projects in BRICS, emerging economies, and developing countries.

The BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) set up the bank with an aim to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging economies.

The bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China. The first regional office of the NDB is in Johannesburg, South Africa. The second regional office was established in 2019 in São Paulo, Brazil, followed by Moscow, Russia.

The NDB said it has so far approved about 80 projects in all of its member countries, totalling a portfolio of USD 30 billion. Projects in areas such as transport, water and sanitation, clean energy, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure and urban development are within the scope of the bank.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.4) 'Emergency Use Listing' is used in the context of

- a) Import of essential commodities during crisis
- b) Deployment of nuclear warheads
- c) Approval of new or unlicensed vaccines
- d) Contingency fund utilization during emergencies

Ans: c

Exp: Covovax is produced by the Serum Institute of India under license from Novovax, a US based biotechnology company. The vaccine has been approved by the World Health Organization(WHO) under its Emergency Use Listing.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Countervailing duties or CVDs are a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value
2. An anti-dumping duty is a tariff on imported goods that are imposed to offset subsidies given by the exporting country's government

Choose the correct statements:

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

Ans: d

Exp: Statement 1 Incorrect: Countervailing duties or CVDs are tariffs on imported goods that are imposed to offset subsidies given by the exporting country's government. The WTO only permits countervailing duties to be charged after the importing nation has conducted an in-depth investigation into the subsidized exports



Statement 2 Incorrect: An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding 'Apatani' tribe:

1. The tribe predominantly weaves shawls known as jig-jiro and jilan or jackets called supuntarii.
2. The Apatani practice aquaculture along with rice farming uniquely known as Rice-fish culture.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Ans: c

Exp: Statement 1 correct: The tribe predominantly weaves shawls known as jig-jiro and jilan or jackets called supuntarii. The people here use different leaves and plant resources for organic dyeing the cotton yarns in their traditional ways. And only women folk are engaged in weaving.

Statement 2 Correct: The Apatani are a tribe inhabiting the Ziro Valley of Lower Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh. The Apatani practice aquaculture along with rice farming on their plots. Rice – fish culture in the valley is a unique practice in the state where two crops of rice (Mipya and Emoh) and one crop of fish (Ngih) are raised together

Q.7) With reference to eNAM, consider the following statements:

1. It networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
2. Implementation is being done by Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both statements are correct.

It is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

Implementation: Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Q.8) With reference to Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), consider the following statements:

1. It is a component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
2. It focuses mainly on individuals engaged in unregulated sectors.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both statements are correct.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). It is a skill certification component to enable Indian youth to take on industry relevant skill certification which will help them to secure a better livelihood.

Individuals with prior learning experience or skills can register themselves and get assessed and certified under the RPL. It focuses mainly on individuals engaged in unregulated sectors.

Q.9) With reference to Foreign Contribution Regulation (Amendment), Act 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The act states that foreign contributions must be received only in an FCRA account opened in the State Bank of India, New Delhi Branch.
2. The Act increases administrative expenses through foreign funds by an organisation to 50% from 20%.
3. The amendment forbids sub-granting by NGOs to smaller NGOs who work at the grassroots.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Exp: Statement 2 is incorrect: The Act decreases administrative expenses through foreign funds by an organisation to 20% from 50% earlier. Statement 1 and 3 is correct.

Q.10) With reference to Jute-ICARE, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by National Jute Board (NJB).
2. The objective is to support the small and marginal jute growers with adequate pre- and post-harvesting operations.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Both the statements are correct.

Q.1) Which of these nations is not a member of the New Development Bank?

1. Egypt
2. Bangladesh
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Ukraine
5. India
6. China

Choose the correct code:

- a) 1 & 3 only
- b) 1, 3 & 4 only
- c) 3 & 4 only
- d) 1, 5 & 6 only

Ans: c

Exp: The New Development Bank, formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states.

The New Development Bank (NDB) aims to mobilize resources for development projects in BRICS, emerging economies and developing countries.

Member countries include-

Egypt

Brazil

Russia

India

China

South Africa

Bangladesh

United Arab Emirates

Uruguay

Q.2) Consider the following Statements regarding Gig Economy:

1. A gig economy is a free market system in which temporary positions are common and organisations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements.
2. An estimated 56% of new employment in India is being generated by the gig economy companies across both the blue-collar and white-collar workforce.

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

Ans: c

Exp: About Gig Economy:

Statement 1 is correct: A gig economy is a free market system in which temporary positions are common and organisations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements.

According to a report by Boston Consulting Group, India's gig workforce comprises 15 million workers employed across industries such as software, shared services and professional services.

Statement 2 is correct: An estimated 56% of new employment in India is being generated by the gig economy companies across both the blue-collar and white-collar workforce.

Reasons Gig Economy's Exponential Growth:

In the digital age, the worker need not sit at a fixed location—the job can be done from anywhere, so employers can select the best talent available for a project without being bound by geography.

The millennial generation seems to have quite a different attitude to careers. They seek to do work that they want to do rather than have careers that may not satisfy their inner urges.

Heightened migration and readily available job training.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Poshan Abhiyaan aims to achieve improvement in the nutritional status of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.
2. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country.

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

Ans: c

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: LaQshya (Labor room Quality Improvement Initiative) intended to improve the quality of care in the labor room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities.

Statement 2 is correct: Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.

Other Programmes

The goal of Poshan Abhiyaan is to achieve improvement in the nutritional status of Children (0-6 years) and Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time-bound manner.

The Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme.

It is being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and infant mortality by promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) has been launched to focus on conducting special AnteNatal Check-ups (ANC) checkup on 9th of every month with the help of Medical officers to detect and treat cases of anaemia.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.

Q.4) Which of the following do NOT have Geographical Indication (GI) tag status?

1. Tirur Betel Leaf (Tirur Vettila)
2. Khola Chilli
3. Apatani textile
4. Dindigul locks

Select the correct option using the code given below.

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

Ans: d

Exp: Recently, an application seeking Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the Arunachal Pradesh Apatani textile product has been filed by a firm, Zeet Zeero Producer Company Limited.

Except Apatani textile all three have got GI tag status.

Geographical Indication (GI)

It is an insignia on products having a unique geographical origin and evolution over centuries with regard to its special quality or reputed attributes.

It is a mark of authenticity and ensures that registered authorized users or at least those residing inside the geographic territory are allowed to use the popular product names.

GI tag in India is governed by Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999.

It is issued by the Geographical Indications Registry (Chennai).

Q.5) With reference to Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) consider the following:

1. It brings together public and private sectors with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines.
2. The GAVI Board oversees the operations of the Vaccine Alliance and monitors programme implementation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1& 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer

Ans: c

Exp: Statement 1 is correct: Created in 2000, Gavi is an international organisation – a global Vaccine Alliance, bringing together public and private sectors with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries.

Statement 2 is correct: With membership drawn from a range of partner organisations, as well as experts from the private sector, the Board provides a forum for balanced strategic decision making, innovation and partner collaboration.

It normally meets twice a year.

Q.6) With reference to Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA), consider the following statements:

1. In a PTA, the partners can reduce the tariffs on entry of certain products to a certain limit but not to completely zero.
2. India has signed a PTA with Afghanistan.

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

Ans: b

Exp: Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)

PTAs or Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a special status given in trade by various countries. In this type of agreement, two or more partners give preferential right of entry to certain products by reducing duties on an agreed number of tariff lines.

Tariffs may even be reduced to zero for some products even in a PTA. India signed a PTA with Afghanistan. Hence, statement 1 is not correct but statement 2 is correct.

Q.7) The Minsk II Peace Process (2015) is associated with the dispute between which of the following countries?

- a) Russia-Crimea
- b) Belarus-Poland
- c) Russia-Belarus
- d) Russia-Ukraine

Ans: d

Exp: Minsk Agreements

Minsk I: Ukraine and the Russian-backed separatists agreed a 12-point ceasefire deal in the capital of Belarus in September 2014.

Its provisions included prisoner exchanges, deliveries of humanitarian aid and the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

The agreement quickly broke down, with violations by both sides.

Minsk II: In 2015, an open conflict was averted after the 'Minsk II' peace agreement was signed, under the mediation of France and Germany.

It was designed to end the fighting in the rebel regions and hand over the border to Ukraine's national troops.

It was signed by Representatives of Russia, Ukraine, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the leaders of two pro-Russian separatist regions.

Hence, option D is correct.

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Inactivated Vaccines use a weakened (or attenuated) form of the germ that causes a disease.
2. They are used to protect diseases such as Hepatitis A, Flu ,Polio and Rabies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Exp: Inactivated Vaccines

Inactivated vaccines use the killed version of the germ that causes a disease. Hence statement 1 is not correct.



Vaccines of this type are created by inactivating a pathogen, typically using heat or chemicals such as formaldehyde or formalin. This destroys the pathogen's ability to replicate, but keeps it "intact" so that the immune system can still recognize it. ("Inactivated" is generally used rather than "killed" to refer to viral vaccines of this type, as viruses are generally not considered to be alive.)

They usually don't provide immunity (protection) that's as strong as live vaccines. So you may need several doses over time (booster shots) in order to get ongoing immunity against diseases.

They are used to protect: Hepatitis A, Flu (shot only), Polio (shot only), Rabies. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Q.9) With reference to the AUKUS deal, consider the following statements:

1. It is a defence alliance of Australia, the UK and the US.
2. It is established to confront strategic tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.
3. Under this Australia would obtain nuclear-powered submarines.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans: d

Exp: In September 2021, the US announced a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific, between Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It is the first agreement on the technology to be publicly signed since the three countries announced the formation of a defence alliance, AUKUS, to confront strategic tensions in the Pacific where China-US rivalry is growing. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Under the AUKUS deal, Australia would obtain eight state-of-the-art, nuclear-powered but conventionally armed submarines capable of stealthy, long-range missions. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Q.10) Consider the following pairs:

Jobs      Nature of Work

1. Blue-Collar      Manual labour
2. Gold-Collar      Highly-skilled Workers
3. Red-Collar      Government Workers

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only

c) 2 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: d

Exp: Different Collar Jobs

Blue-Collar Worker: It is a member of the working class, who performs manual labour and earns an hourly wage. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.

White-Collar Worker: It is a salaried professional, typically referring to general office workers and management.

Gold-Collar Worker: It is used to refer to highly-skilled knowledge people who are highly valuable to the company. Example: Lawyers, doctors, research scientists, etc. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

Grey-Collar Worker: It refers to the balance of employed people not classified as white or blue-collar.

Although grey-collar is something used to describe those who work beyond the age of retirement. Example: Firefighters, police officers, health care professionals, Security Guards, etc.

Green-Collar Worker: It is a worker who is employed in the environmental sectors of the economy.

Example: People working in alternative energy sources like solar panels, Greenpeace, World Wide Fund for nature, etc.

Pink-Collar Worker: It is employed in a job that is traditionally considered to be women's work and is often low-paid.

Scarlet-Collar Worker: It is a term often used to refer to people who work in the pornography industry, especially women entrepreneurs in the field of internet pornography.

Red-Collar Worker: Government workers of all types. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

Open-Collar Worker: It is a worker who works from home, especially via the internet.