



CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

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

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March C.A. Quiz compilation

1. With respect to “lateral entry”, consider the following statements:

1. The induction of personnel at middle and senior management levels recommended by NITI Aayog, in its three-year Action Agenda.
2. Individuals would be contracted for three to five years for “reserved/unreserved” posts in the central government.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) issued an advertisement seeking applications “from talented and motivated Indian nationals willing to contribute towards nation building” for three posts of Joint Secretary and 27 of Director in central government Departments.

These individuals, who would make a “lateral entry” into the government secretariat, would be contracted for three to five years. These posts were “unreserved”, meaning there were no quotas for SCs, STs and OBCs. Hence Statement 2 is incorrect.

NITI Aayog, in its three-year Action Agenda, and the Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGoS) on Governance in its report submitted in February 2017, recommended the induction of personnel at middle and senior management levels in the central government. Hence Statement 1 is correct.

These ‘lateral entrants’ would be part of the central secretariat which in the normal course has only career bureaucrats from the All India Services/ Central Civil Services. Lateral recruitment is aimed at achieving the twin objectives of bringing in fresh talent as well as augment the availability of manpower.

2. Which of the following state is trying to revive a “khujli ghar “, a traditional form of punishment that seeks to check crime with an itch in time?

- A.Telangana
- B.Uttar Pradesh
- C.Nagaland

D.Orissa

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Some villages in Nagaland are trying to revive a traditional form of punishment that seeks to check crime with an itch in time. Hence option(c) is correct.

Social offenders or violators of Naga customary laws have over the ages dreaded a cramped, triangular cage made from the logs of Masang-fung, a local tree that people avoid because of the irritation it causes. The dread is more of humiliation or loss of face within the community or clan than of spending at least a day scratching furiously without any space to move. Such itchy cages are referred to as khujli ghar in Nagamese — a pidgin lingua franca — but each Naga community has its own name. The Aos, one of the major tribes of Nagaland, call it Shi-ki that means flesh-house. The cage is usually placed at a central spot in the village, usually in front of the morung, or bachelor's dormitory, for the inmate to be in full public view.

3. New Space India Limited(NSIL) a competitor of Antrix has been launched by ISRO. Consider the following statement about it.

1. It is a PPP(Public private partnership) model under the administrative control of DOS
2. It will commercially exploit the R&D work of ISRO centres
3. It has been incorporated to carry out the Small Satellite technology transfer
4. NSIL will obtain license from ISRO and sub-license it to Industries

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1,2 and 3 only
- B. 1,3 and 4 only
- C. 2,3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: New Space India Limited(NSIL), a competitor of Antrix has been launched by ISRO.

- Wholly owned by GoI, not(PPP) under the administrative control of DOS. THUS STATEMENT 1 IS INCORRECT
- It will commercially exploit the R&D work of ISRO centres & constituent units of DOS. THUS STATEMENT 2 IS CORRECT
- Its functions are
 1. Small Satellite technology transfer to industry. THUS STATEMENT 3 IS CORRECT
 2. wherein NSIL will obtain license from DOS/ISRO and sub-license it to Industries.
 3. Manufacture of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in collaboration with Private Sector. THUS STATEMENT 4 IS CORRECT

4. Consider the following statement about PSLV(Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) Workhouse of the ISRO

1. The PSLV has four stages using solid and liquid propulsion systems alternately.
2. PSLV was recently used to launch Amazonia -1 mission
3. PSLV is known as the workhouse of ISRO.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. All of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: 1. The PSLV has four stages using solid and liquid propulsion systems alternately.

2. The first stage, one of the largest solid rocket motors in the world, carries 138 tonnes of hydroxyl-terminated poly-butadiene urethane-bound (HTPB) propellant. Thus statement 1 is correct

3. 1st dedicated commercial launch of Newspace India Limited(NSIL) and ISRO on PSLV-C51/Amazonia-1 Mission. Thus statement 2 is correct

4. PSLV is known as the workhouse of ISRO. Almost all of the commercial launches in India are done by PSLV. Thus statement 3 is correct.

5. Which of the following are correct about the satellites of PSLV-C51?

1. Amazonia 1 has been placed in a geo-synchronous polar orbit.
2. UNITYsat satellites have been deployed to provide radio relay services.
3. SDSAT is a nano satellite.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, the 53rd flight of PSLV-C51 marked the first dedicated mission for New Space India Ltd (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Amazonia 1 belongs to the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE), was injected into its precise orbit of 758 km in a sun-synchronous polar orbit successfully. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

UNITYsat satellites have been deployed to provide radio relay services. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Satish Dhawan Satellite (SDSAT) is a nano satellite intended to study the radiation levels/space weather and demonstrate long range communication technologies. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

6. With reference to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), consider the following statements:

1. Foodgrains under NFSA are made available to beneficiaries free of cost.
2. NFSA caters to the food demands of the families under Below Poverty Line (BPL).

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: NITI Aayog, through a discussion paper, has recommended reducing the rural and urban coverage under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, to 60% and 40%, respectively.

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 was notified on 10th September, 2013. Foodgrains under NFSA are made available to beneficiaries at subsidized prices. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

NFSA aims to provide for food and nutritional security in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.

NFSA covers 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Overall, NFSA caters to 67% of the total population. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

7. With reference to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, consider the following statements:

1. The NFSA provides a legal right to persons belonging to “eligible households” to receive foodgrains at subsidised price.
2. Under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Act, the term “eligible households” comprises two categories — “priority households”, and families covered by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY).

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The NITI Aayog recently circulated a discussion paper on a proposed revision in the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

The NFSA provides a legal right to persons belonging to “eligible households” to receive foodgrains at subsidised price— rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg and coarse grain at Rs 1/kg — under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

These are called central issue prices (CIPs).

Under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Act, the term “eligible households” comprises two categories — “priority households”, and families covered by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY).

Priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month.

AAY households are entitled to 35 kg per month at the same prices.

Proposed Changes

The national rural and urban coverage ratio be reduced from the existing 75-50 to 60-40. if this reduction happens, the number of beneficiaries under the NFSA will drop to 71.62 crore (on the basis of the projected population in 2020).

To make these changes in the law, the government will have to amend sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the NFSA. For this, it will require parliamentary approval.

If the national coverage ratio is revised downward, the Centre can save up to Rs 47,229 crore (as estimated by the NITI Aayog paper). However, the move may be opposed by some of the states.

Hence both statements are correct.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Himalayan serow:

1. It is a high- altitude dweller usually found 2,000--4,000 metres above sea level.
2. It is a goat-antelope.
3. It is classified as ‘Critically Endangered’ in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Himalayan serow is a goat-antelope.

- The Himalayan mammal is a high-altitude dweller usually found 2,000-4,000 metres above sea level.

- It is classified as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List.

9. Which of these ports of Sri Lanka is the largest natural harbour in the country?

- A. The Port of Colombo
- B. The Port of Galle
- C. The Port of Trincomalee
- D. The Port of Hambantota

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Port of Trincomalee is the largest natural harbour in Sri Lanka.

- The Port of Colombo is the largest port of Sri Lanka with most traffic.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to Manas National Park:

1. It is a UNESCO Natural World Heritage site.
2. It is located in Assam.
3. It is a tiger reserve as well as an elephant reserve.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 2 only

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Manas National Park is a UNESCO Natural World Heritage site.

- It is located in Assam. It is a tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a biosphere reserve.

11. Recently seen in news, Sri Lanka will develop the West Container Terminal (WCT) at the Colombo Port, along with India and which of the following country?

- A.China
- B.U.K
- C.U.S.A
- D.Japan

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Sri Lanka said it will develop the West Container Terminal (WCT) at the Colombo Port, along with India and Japan.

The decision comes a month after the Rajapaksa government ejected the two partners from a 2019 tripartite agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal (ECT), citing resistance to “foreign involvement”.

While the High Commission of India had “approved” Adani Ports, which was to invest in the ECT project earlier, Japan is yet to name an investor.

In the ECT project agreed upon earlier, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) was to hold majority 51%, but in the WCT proposal, India and Japan will be accorded 85% stake, as is the case in the nearby Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT), where China Merchants Port Holdings Company Limited holds 85%.

The WCT is adjacent to the China-run CICT and just a couple of kilometres away from the China-backed Port City being built on reclaimed land, making it a strategically desirable spot for India, whose concerns over China’s presence in Sri Lanka are well known.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

12. Surya Prakash panel, recently seen in news, was related to:

- A. merger of the Lok Sabha TV (LSTV) and the Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV)
- B. decide the appropriate level of reserves that the RBI should hold
- C. review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: After nearly two years of work, the merger of the Lok Sabha TV (LSTV) and the Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV) has been finalised and will be replaced by Sansad TV.

Retired IAS officer Ravi Capoor was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sansad TV. Mr. Capoor’s mandate is also to work out the nitty-gritty of the merger, including the integration of the assets and manpower.

In November 2019, a committee headed by former Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash was set up. It submitted a report in February 2020.

The Surya Prakash panel held a meeting with Members of Parliament from different political parties and they strongly recommended the continuation of the live telecast.

Under the banner of Sansad TV, the LSTV would continue to telecast live the House proceedings and the RSTV that of the Upper House.

During the inter-session period and beyond the working hours of Parliament, both will telecast common content to a large extent. The LSTV platform would telecast programmes in Hindi, while RSTV would do so in English.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

13. Which of the following is true about the recently published ‘Freedom in the World’ Report?

1. It is being published since 1973 by 'Freedom house' annually.
2. It assesses the condition of political rights and civil liberties around the world.
3. India's status has been demotivated from "free" to "partly free".
4. There is a decline in authoritarianism in the world since 2006.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: It is being published since 1973 by Freedom house annually. It assesses the condition of political rights and civil liberties around the world. Thus statement 1 and 2 are correct.

India's status has been demotivated from "free" to "partly free". Thus statement 3 is correct

Other findings:

Authoritarian actors grew bolder during 2020 as major democracies turned inward, contributing to a 15th consecutive year of decline in global freedom.

“the countries experiencing deterioration outnumbered those with improvements by the largest margin recorded since the negative trend began in 2006”.

Thus statement 4 is incorrect

14. Consider the following statements about Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019:

1. It is commonly referred to as the “Privacy Bill”
2. The Bill derives its inspiration from a previous draft version prepared by Justice B N Srikrishna.
3. The Bill do not gives the government powers to authorize the transfer of certain types of personal data overseas

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: It is commonly referred to as the “Privacy Bill” and intends to protect individual rights by regulating the collection, movement, and processing of data that is personal, or which can identify the individual. Thus statement 1 is correct

• The Bill derives its inspiration from a previous draft version prepared by a committee headed by retired Justice B N Srikrishna. Thus statement 2 is correct.

- The Bill gives the government powers to authorise the transfer of certain types of personal data overseas and has given exceptions allowing government agencies to collect personal data of citizens. Thus statement 3 is incorrect

15. Consider the following statement about Ease of Living Index.

1. The rankings under Ease of Living Index were announced for cities with a population of more than a million, and cities with less than a million people.
2. Pune emerged as the top performer in 2020 index.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 or 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The rankings under Ease of Living Index were announced for cities with a population of more than a million, and cities with less than a million people. In addition to this it also ranked Million+ (municipalities having over a million population) and Less than Million Population. THUS STATEMENT 1 IS CORRECT

• Bengaluru emerged as the top performer, Followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai. THUS STATEMENT 2 IS INCORRECT

16. With reference to the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020, consider the following statements:

1. In the Million+ category, Mysuru has emerged as the highest ranked municipality.
2. The five verticals under MPI are Services, Finance, Policy, Technology and 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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs announced the release of the final rankings of Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020.

In the Million+ category, Indore has emerged as the highest ranked municipality, followed by Surat and Bhopal.

In the Less than Million category, New Delhi Municipal Council has emerged as the leader, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

The MPI examined the sectoral performance of 111 municipalities (with Delhi being assessed separately for NDMC, and the three Municipal Corporations) across five verticals which comprise of 20 sectors and 100 indicators in all totality.

The five verticals under MPI are Services, Finance, Policy, Technology and Governance.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

17. Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020 was published by:

- A.NITI Aayog
- B.Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- C.Association for Democratic Rights
- D.Greenpeace

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs announced the release of the final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020.

The EoLI aims to measure the well-being of Indian citizens in 111 cities, across the pillars of Quality of Life, Economic-ability, and Sustainability, with 49 indicators under 13 categories.

The EoLI 2020 strengthens its scope by consolidating the framework with the addition of a Citizen Perception Survey in the index, holding a weightage of 30%.

The rankings under Ease of Living Index 2020 were announced for cities with a population of more than a million, and cities with less than a million people.

Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the Million+ category.

In the Less than Million category, Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

18. What is 'Bao-dhaan', recently seen in news?

- A.A rice variety
- B.Exoplanet
- C.Cryptocurrency
- D.None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: In a major boost to India's rice exports potential, the first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off to the USA.

Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer.

The rice variety is referred as 'Bao-dhaan', which is an integral part of the Assamese food.

As the exports of 'red rice' grow, it would bring enhance incomes of farming families of the Brahmaputra flood plains.

APEDA has promoting rice exports through collaborations with various stakeholders in the value chains. The government had set up the Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF), under the aegis of the APEDA.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

19. Simlipal forest reserve is a forest fire prone area. In this regard consider the following statements

1. It is a national park situated in state of West Bengal
2. It is home the Royal Bengal tiger and Asian elephant

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 or 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: This park is situated in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha state. Thus statement 1 is incorrect.

• The park is home to Bengal Tiger, Asian Elephant, Gaur and Chausingha along with beautiful waterfalls like Joranda and Barehipani falls. Thus statement 2 is correct.

20. Consider the following statement about International energy agency (IEA)

1. IEA is an autonomous organisation which works to ensure affordable and clean energy.
2. It was set up in 1974 after the OPEC cartel which steep increase in oil pricesIt is headquartered in Paris, France
3. India is not the member of the International Energy Agency

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The International Energy Agency (IEA) is an autonomous organisation which works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy. Thus statement 1 is correct.

• It was established in the wake of 1973 (set up in 1974) oil crisis after the OPEC cartel had shocked the world with a steep increase in oil prices. Thus statement 2 is also correct

• India became an associate member of the International Energy Agency in 2017. Thus statement 3 is incorrect

21. The Leadership Group on Industry Transition (LeadIT) is a joint initiative of India and which of the following country?

- A.France
- B.Sweden
- C.Germany
- D.U.K

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Sweden H.E. Stefan Löfven held a Virtual Summit where they discussed bilateral issues and other regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

The Prime Minister Modi recalled his 2018 visit to Sweden for the first India-Nordic Summit, and the India visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Sweden in December, 2019.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the Joint Action Plan and Joint Innovation Partnership agreed during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Sweden in 2018.

Prime Minister Modi welcomed Sweden's decision to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

The leaders also noted the growing membership of the India-Sweden joint initiative – the Leadership Group on Industry Transition (LeadIT) that was launched during the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 in New York.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

22. With reference to the black-browed babbler, consider the following statements:

1. The species is endemic to India
2. Its IUCN conservation status is Critically Endangered.

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Long-Lost Babbler Bird Documented in Borneo for the First Time in Over 170 Years. The Bird was last recorded between 1843 and 1848, when a scientist collected the first and only museum specimen.

The black-browed babbler (*Malacocincla perspicillata*) is a songbird species in the family Pellorneidae.

The species is endemic to Borneo.

Its IUCN conservation status is Data Deficient. Formerly, it was classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN.

Only a single specimen, collected in the nineteenth century was known, until the bird was rediscovered in Indonesia during 2020.

Borneo is the third-largest island in the world and the largest in Asia.

The island is politically divided among three countries: Malaysia and Brunei in the north, and Indonesia to the south.

Hence both statements are incorrect.

23. Consider the following statements about sugarcane production in India

1. Sugarcane is grown as a Kharif Crop in india.
2. It needs hot and humid climate
3. Ideal soil for sugarcane is deep rich loamy soil.
4. India is the world's leading producer of sugarcane

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1,2 and 3 only
- B. 1,3 and 4 only
- C. 2,3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Sugarcane Crop

In India, Sugarcane is grown as a Kharif Crop. Thus statement 1 is correct

It needs hot and humid climate with an average temperature of 21°C to 27°C. 75-150 cm rainfall is favorable for sugar cane cultivation. Thus statement 2 is correct

Sugarcane can grow in any soil which can retain moisture. Ideal soil for sugarcane is deep rich loamy soil. Thus statement 3 is correct

It is the Brazil who is the leading producer not the India. Thus statement 4 is incorrect.

24. With reference to the Brahmaputra, consider the following statements:

1. It is known as Yarlung Zangbo river in Tibet.
2. In 2015 China operationalised its first hydropower project at Zangmu in Tibet, while three other dams at Dagu, Jiexu and Jiacha are being developed, all on the upper and middle reaches of the river.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: A draft of China's new Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), which is set to be formally approved on March 11, 2021, has given the green light for the first dams to be built on the lower reaches of Yarlung Zangbo river, as the Brahmaputra is known in Tibet before it flows into India.

The draft outline of the new Five-Year Plan (FYP) for 2025 and "long range objectives through the year 2035" specifically mentions the building of hydropower bases on the lower reaches of the river as among the priority energy projects to be undertaken in the next five years.

The lower reaches refer to the sections of the river in Tibet before it flows into India.

The inclusion of the projects in the draft plan suggests the authorities have given the go-ahead to begin tapping the lower reaches for the first time, which marks a new chapter in the hydropower exploitation of the river.

Other major projects include the construction of coastal nuclear power plants and power transmission channels.

The project is also listed along with the Sichuan-Tibet railway and the national water network.

In 2015 China operationalised its first hydropower project at Zangmu in Tibet, while three other dams at Dagü, Jiexu and Jiacha are being developed, all on the upper and middle reaches of the river.

Hence both statements are correct.

25. With reference to the International Women's Day (IWD), consider the following statements:

1. International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8 every year.
2. This year's theme is #ChooseToChallenge.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: International Women's Day 2021 is being celebrated on 8th of March with theme #ChooseToChallenge. It indicates that a "challenged world is an alert world, and from challenge comes change".

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8 every year.

History:

IWD has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.

Prior to this the Socialist Party of America, United Kingdom's Suffragists and Suffragettes, and further groups campaigned for women's equality.

Organized by: IWD is not country, group or organization specific. IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere.

Objective: It is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

Hence both statements are correct.

26. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

| Supreme Court Judgements | Related to |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Indira Sawhney case (1992) | Article 356 |
| 2. Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) | Basic structure of the Constitution |
| 3. S. R. Bommai case (1994) | Reservation |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The Supreme Court decided to examine whether its nearly three-decade-old judgment which fixed reservation for the marginalised and the poor in government jobs and educational institutions at 50% needs a relook.

In the Indira Sawhney verdict of 1992, a nine-judge Bench of the court had drawn the “Lakshman rekha” for reservation in jobs and education at 50%, except in “extraordinary circumstances”.

However, over the years, several States, such as Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, have crossed the Rubicon and passed laws which allow reservation shooting over 60%.

A five-judge Bench, led by Justice Ashok Bhushan, set up to hear the challenge to the Maratha quota law, decided not to confine the question of reservation spilling over the 50% limit to just Maharashtra.

The Bench expanded the ambit of the case by making other States party and inviting them to make their stand clear on the question of whether reservation should continue to remain within the 50% boundary or not.

Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) defined the basic structure of the Constitution. The SC held that although no part of the Constitution, including Fundamental Rights, was beyond the Parliament's amending power, the "basic structure of the Constitution could not be abrogated even by a constitutional amendment".

S. R. Bommai case (1994) related to the blatant misuse of Article 356. The verdict concluded that the power of the President to dismiss a State government is not absolute.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

27. With reference to the drinking water, consider the following statements:

1. According to information provided to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources, only half of government schools and anganwadis have tap water supply.
2. A 100-day campaign for 100% coverage being launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in October 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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: According to information provided to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources, Only half of government schools and anganwadis have tap water supply, despite a 100-day campaign for 100% coverage being launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in October 2020.

Less than 8% of schools in Uttar Pradesh and 11% in West Bengal have it, while it is available in only 2-6% of anganwadis in Assam, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Bengal.

The campaign to provide potable piped water supply for drinking and cooking purposes and tap water for washing hands and in toilets in every school, anganwadi and ashramshala or residential tribal school was launched on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti.

The 100-day period should have ended on January 10, 2021. However, as of February 15, only 48.5% of anganwadis and 53.3% of schools had tap water supply, the Ministry told the Parliamentary panel.

Seven States — Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Punjab — achieved 100% coverage.

Hence both statements are correct.

28. Which of the following schemes comes under the Ministry of Women and Child Development?

1. Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0
2. Mission VATSALYA
3. Mission Shakti

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: For effective implementation of various schemes and programmes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, all major schemes of the Ministry have been classified under 3 umbrella schemes viz. Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.

Schemes included under the Umbrella Scheme are as follows:

Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0:

Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, National Creche Scheme.

Mission VATSALYA:

Child Protection Services and Child Welfare Services.

Mission Shakti (Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women):

SAMBAL (One Stop Centre, Mahila Police Volunteer, Women's Helpline/Swadhar/Ujjawala/Widow Homes etc.)

SAMARTHYA (Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Creche, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana/ Gender Budgeting/Research/

Mission Shakti will run in convergence with the other Missions/ Umbrella Schemes of M/o WCD [viz. Mission POSHAN 2.0; Mission VATSALYA; & Mission SAKSHAM-ANGANWADI (including-common-knowledge-cum-admin-backbone-from-national-to-panchayat-level).

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

29. Consider the following statement about New Space India Limited(NSIL)

1. It is a wholly owned by the government of India, under the administrative control of Department of Space(DOS)
2. It will commercially exploit the R&D work of ISRO centers & constituent units of DOS.
3. Recently it transfer Small Satellite of brazil

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. All of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: New Space India Limited(NSIL), a competitor of Antrix has been launched by ISRO.

Wholly owned by GoI, under the administrative control of DOS[on 6th Mar 2019]. THUS STATEMENT 1 IS CORRECT

It will commercially exploit the R&D work of ISRO centres & constituent units of DOS. THUS STATEMENT 2 IS CORRECT

It has been incorporated to carry out the following roles and functions as part of its mandate:

- 1) Small Satellite technology transfer to industry, wherein NSIL will obtain license from DOS/ISRO and sub-license it to Industries;
- 2) Manufacture of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in collaboration with Private Sector;
- 3) Productionisation of PSLV through Indian Industry. THUS STATEMENT 3 IS CORRECT

30. The bridge 'Maitri Setu' has been built over which of the following river?

- A.Ganga
- B.Teesta
- C.Damodar
- D.Feni

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh

The bridge 'Maitri Setu' has been built over Feni river which flows between Indian boundary in Tripura State and Bangladesh.

The 1.9 Km long bridge joins Sabroom (in Tripura) with Ramgarh (in Bangladesh).

The name 'Maitri Setu' symbolises growing bilateral relations and friendly ties between India and Bangladesh.

The construction was taken up by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd at a project cost of Rs 133 crore.

With this bridge, Tripura is set to become the 'Gateway of North East' with access to Chittagong Port of Bangladesh, which is just 80 km from Sabroom.

PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for setting up an Integrated Check Post at Sabroom.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

31. Consider the following pairs:

| India's Joint Military Exercises | Partner Countries |
|---|--------------------------|
|---|--------------------------|

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1.Dustlik | Mongolia |
| 2.Nomadic Elephant | Uzbekistan |
| 3.Yudh Abhyas | USA |
| 4.Bold Kurukshetra | Nepal |

Which of the pairs given above is/are not correctly matched?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B.3 only
- C.1, 2 and 4
- D. 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Yudh Abhyas is a joint military exercise between India-US. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched

Dustlik is the joint military exercise of India and Uzbekistan.

Recently, the second edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise "Dustlik-2" has started in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.

The Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise is termed as Nomadic Elephant. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.

Bold Kurukshetra is a Joint Military Exercise of India and Singapore. Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.

32. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Uighur Muslim is an indigenous minority community of China.
- 2. The largest population of Uighurs live in Xinjiang region of China.
- 3. The Xinjiang region of China shares borders with India and Pakistan only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Uighurs are a predominantly Muslim minority Turkic ethnic group, whose origins can be traced to Central and East Asia.

The Uighurs speak their own language, similar to Turkish, and see themselves as culturally and ethnically close to Central Asian nations.

The Uighurs are considered to be one of the 55 officially recognized ethnic minority communities in China.

However, China recognises the community only as a regional minority and rejects that they are an indigenous group. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Currently, the largest population of the Uighur ethnic community lives in Xinjiang region of China. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

A significant population of Uighurs also lives in the neighbouring Central Asian countries such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Xinjiang is technically an autonomous region within China — its largest region, rich in minerals, and sharing borders with eight countries, including India, Pakistan, Russia, Mongolia and Afghanistan. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

33. With reference to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of MSME has rolled out the Technology Centres Systems Programme to develop the competitiveness ecosystems of MSME in the country.
2. So far there are 22 Technology Centres across 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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises inaugurated two technology centres at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, three extension centres of big technological centres and seven mobile Udyam Express.

The Ministry of MSME has rolled out the Technology Centres Systems Programme to develop the competitiveness ecosystems of MSME in the country.

These Technology Centres will train more than 16 thousand students annually and have infrastructure for training and production.

The minister also launched the 7 Udyan Express Mobile Vans with a view to provide assistance to MSME in remote areas and also make aware the youth of rural areas about government's schemes.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

34. Ramagundam, recently seen in news, is located in:

- A.Kerala
- B.Andhra Pradesh
- C.Tamil Nadu
- D.Telangana

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The country's biggest floating solar power plant till date, by generation capacity, which is being developed by the NTPC in the reservoir of its thermal plant at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district, Telangana, is set to be commissioned by May-June next.

Work on this 100 megawatt floating solar power plant at Ramagundam is in the final stages of completion.

This will be one of the renewable (solar) energy plants being developed by the NTPC with an installed capacity of 447 MW in the southern region and the entire capacity will be commissioned by March 2023.

Except for the 230 MW ground-mounted solar power plant at Ettayapuram in Tamil Nadu, the remaining 217 MW capacity was to be commissioned by May-June this year.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

35. With reference to the INS Karanj, consider the following statements:

1. It is part of six Scorpene Class submarines built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.
2. INS Karanj would form part of the Western Naval Command's Submarine fleet.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Indian Navy's third stealth Scorpene class Submarine INS Karanj has been commissioned at the Naval Dockyard Mumbai through a formal commissioning ceremony.

Six Scorpene Class submarines are being built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.

INS Karanj would form part of the Western Naval Command's Submarine fleet.

The Scorpene Submarines are one of the most advanced conventional submarines in the world.

These platforms are equipped with the latest technologies in the world. More deadly and stealthier than their predecessors, these submarines are equipped with potent weapons and sensors to neutralise any threat above or below the sea surface.

Hence both statements are correct.

36. Which of the following can be the significances of the Genome mapping mission conducted by national institute of oceanography(NIO) in the Indian Ocean?

1. The large pool of RNA, DNA library of the oceans will be utilised for using the Indian Ocean to human benefit in the future.
2. It will enable an increase in the growing number of commercial biotechnology applications, extending from multiple anticancer treatments to cosmetics and industrial enzymes, to antiviral molecules

Select the correct code from the options given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 or 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The large pool of RNA, DNA library of the oceans will be utilised for using the Indian Ocean to human benefit in the future. THUS STATEMENT 1 IS CORRECT

○ It will enable an increase in the growing number of commercial biotechnology applications, extending from multiple anticancer treatments to cosmetics and industrial enzymes, to antiviral molecules. THUS STATEMENT 2 IS CORRECT

37. LUPEX MISSION is a joint lunar polar exploration mission between:

- A. India and Japan
- B. India and U.S.A
- C. India and Australia
- D. India and Russia

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The Lunar Polar Exploration mission (LUPEX) is a robotic lunar mission concept by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration

Agency (JAXA) of Japan that would send a lunar rover and lander to explore the south pole region of the Moon in 2024.[1][2][6] JAXA is likely to provide the under-development H3 launch vehicle and the rover, while ISRO would be responsible for the lander. THUS OPTION A IS CORRECT.

38. Consider the following statements:

1. Indian and Japanese space agencies recently reviewed cooperation in earth observation, lunar cooperation and satellite navigation.
2. India and Italy decided to explore opportunities in earth observation, space science and robotic and human exploration.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Indian and Japanese space agencies reviewed cooperation in earth observation, lunar cooperation and satellite navigation, and also agreed to explore opportunities for cooperation in “space situational awareness and professional exchange programme”.

This was agreed during a bilateral meeting between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) held virtually.

Both agencies signed an Implementing Arrangement for collaborative activities on rice crop area and air quality monitoring using satellite data.

India and Japan are already working on a joint lunar polar exploration (LUPEX) mission and the two space agencies have been working on the mission that aims to send a lander and rover to the Moon’s south pole around 2024.

Space collaboration with other countries

Early this month, India and Italy decided to explore opportunities in earth observation, space science and robotic and human exploration.

Last month, India and Australia signed an amendment to the MoU which will build on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both countries are also in discussions for Australia to host vital tracking infrastructure to support the Gaganyaan manned space flight mission.

Hence both statements are correct.

39. With reference to the genome mapping in Indian Ocean, consider the following statements:

1. The first-of-its-kind research project in the country is aimed at understanding the biochemistry and the response of the ocean to climate change, nutrient stress and increasing pollution.
2. The researchers will collect samples from various stretches of the ocean at an average depth of about 5 km.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Scientists from the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Panaji onboard its research vessel Sindhu Sadhana will spend the next three months traversing the course of over 10,000 nautical miles in the Indian Ocean on a research project to reveal the internal working of the body of the ocean at a cellular level.

The first-of-its-kind research project in the country is aimed at understanding the biochemistry and the response of the ocean to climate change, nutrient stress and increasing pollution.

The research project will take three years to complete.

Researchers will travel the Indian Ocean from India's east coast, all the way to Australia, then onward towards Port Louis in Mauritius and up to the border of Pakistan, off India's west coast, gathering samples for genome mapping of microorganisms in the Indian Ocean.

The researchers will collect samples from various stretches of the ocean at an average depth of about 5 km.

Just like gene mapping is carried out on blood samples collected from humans, the scientists will map these in the bacteria, microbes found in the ocean. This will help scientists understand the internal working of the ecosystem of the Indian Ocean.

At various stages and stretches, samples will be collected by lowering a Kevlar cable of up to 8 km with a set of 24 teflon coated bottles to collect samples.

Hence both statements are correct.

40. Which of the following union ministry launched Mera Ration Mobile App for the benefit of those ration card holders who move to new places in search of livelihood?

- A.Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- B.Ministry of Rural Development
- C.Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- D.Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched Mera Ration Mobile App for the benefit of those ration card holders who move to new places in search of livelihood.

At present 32 States and Union Territories are covered under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) and integration of remaining four States and UTs is expected to be completed in next few months.

At present, the system covers nearly 69 Crore National Food Security Act- NFSA beneficiaries in the country.

The ONORC scheme is being implemented by the Department of Food & Public Distribution under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution for the nation-wide portability of ration cards under National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

41. What is 2001 FO32, recently seen in news?

- A. Genetically modified rice
- B. ISRO's unmanned Gaganyaan spacecraft
- C. A dual band radar imaging satellite
- D. Asteroid

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: On March 21, the largest asteroid predicted to pass by Earth in 2021 will be at its closest. It is called 2001 FO32.

It is a near-Earth asteroid classified as a potentially hazardous asteroid of the Apollo group.

With an estimated diameter of 440–680 m (1,400–2,200 ft), it was discovered by the Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research at Socorro, New Mexico on 23 March 2001.

The asteroid will safely pass by Earth on 21 March 2021.

It won't come closer than 2 million km to Earth, but still, that distance is close in astronomical terms, which is why 2001 FO32 has been designated a "potentially hazardous asteroid".

During this approach, 2001 FO32 will pass by at about 124,000 kph – faster than the speed at which most asteroids encounter Earth.

The reason for the asteroid's unusually speedy close approach is its highly eccentric orbit around the Sun, an orbit that is tilted 39° to Earth's orbital plane. This orbit takes the asteroid closer to the Sun than Mercury, and twice as far from the Sun as Mars.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer

42. Consider the following statements:

1. Bureaucrats are eligible to be appointed as the State Election Commissioners.
2. The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor.
3. The courts cannot interfere in the conduct of polls to local bodies and self-government institutions once the electoral process has been set in motion.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 only

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Supreme Court has directed that independent persons and not bureaucrats should be appointed State Election Commissioners.

- Courts cannot interfere in the conduct of polls to local bodies and self-government institutions once the electoral process has been set in motion.
- Constitution bars interference in poll matters set in motion by the SECs and EC.
- Only after the polls are over can the SECs' decisions or conduct be questioned through an election petition.
- The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor.
- However, the State Election Commissioners can only be removed by impeachment.

43. With reference to the River Sarasvati, consider the following statements:

1. The Central government has reconstituted an advisory committee to chalk out a plan for studying the mythical Sarasvati river for the next two years.
2. The committee would continue to be chaired by the Culture Minister.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Centre has reconstituted an advisory committee to chalk out a plan for studying the mythical Sarasvati river for the next two years, after the earlier panel's term ended in 2019.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on March 10 issued a notification for “reconstitution of the Advisory Committee for the Multidisciplinary Study of the River Sarasvati”.

The ASI had first set up the committee on December 28, 2017 for a period of two years.

The committee would continue to be chaired by the Culture Minister.

It would include officials from the Culture, Tourism, Water Resources, Environment and Forest, Housing and Urban Affairs Ministries; representatives of the Indian Space Research Organisation; officials from the governments of Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan; and an ASI official.

The committee would review the work done by the previous panel and then formulate a plan.

The committee would advise the Government Departments conducting research.

Hence both statements are correct.

44. Consider the following statements:

1. Seabuckthorn is a shrub found in the cold desert of India.
2. The cold desert of India stretches from Ladakh to Sikkim in the Himalayas.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Seabuckthorn is a **shrub** which produces an orange-yellow coloured edible berry.

- In India, it is found above the tree line in the Himalayan region, generally in dry areas such as the **cold deserts** of Ladakh and Spiti. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A major part is covered by this plant in Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **The cold desert of India** is situated in the Himalayas and **stretches from Ladakh** in the north **to Kinnaur** (in the state of **Himachal Pradesh**) in the south. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The region has harsh climatic conditions such as very low rainfall and very high elevation (ranging from 3000–5000m Above Sea Level)] that adds to the coldness in its environment.
 - The soil is not very fertile and the climatic conditions allow very short growing seasons making it a bare landscape

45.Consider the following statements regarding to KALIA Scheme.

1. The aim of the scheme is to accelerate agricultural prosperity and reduce poverty.
2. The scheme will provide free fertilizers and pesticides to the farmers
3. All the farmer community is the beneficiary of this scheme.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. All of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: KALIA or “Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation” scheme was launched by the Odisha Government for farmer’s welfare.

- The aim of the scheme is to accelerate agricultural prosperity and reduce poverty in the State payments to encourage cultivation and associated activities. **THUS STATEMENT 1 IS CORRECT**

- The scheme is being seen as a viable alternative to farm loan waivers. Under the scheme, around Rs, 10,180 crores will be spent over three years until 2020-21 in providing financial assistance (not free inputs) to cultivators and landless agricultural laborers. **THUS STATEMENT 2 IS INCORRECT.**

- Small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural household, vulnerable agricultural household, landless agricultural laborers and sharecroppers (actual cultivators) are eligible under different components of the scheme. **THUS STATEMENT 3 IS INCORRECT.**

46. With reference to the Great Indian Bustard, consider the following statements:

1. India, effectively the only home of the bustards, now harbours less than 150 individuals in five States.
2. It is listed in Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The Supreme Court intervened on behalf of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustards over the birds falling dead after colliding with power lines running through their dwindling natural habitats in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Black crown on the forehead contrasting with the pale neck and head. The body is brownish and the wings are marked with black, brown and grey.

They feed on grass seeds, insects like grasshoppers and beetles, and sometimes even small rodents and reptiles.

Distribution:

India, effectively the only home of the bustards, now harbours less than 150 individuals in five States.

Today, its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small population also occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

It is the State bird of Rajasthan.

Habitat:

Bustards generally favour flat open landscapes with minimal visual obstruction and disturbance, therefore adapt well in grasslands.

They avoid grasses taller than themselves and dense scrub like thickets.

Conservation status:

Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972,

Listed in Appendix I of CITES,

Listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Recent development:

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde will examine on a priority basis whether overhead power cables can be replaced with underground ones to save one of the heaviest flying birds on the planet.

The court found further that an alternative mechanism — to install flight bird divertors — to guide the birds away from the power lines would be expensive.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

47. With reference to the Project RE-HAB, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of Greenpeace International.
2. It intends to create “bee fences” to thwart elephant attacks in human habitations using honeybees.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: A pilot project launched in Kodagu, Karnataka entails installing bee boxes along the periphery of the forest and the villages with the belief that the elephants will not venture anywhere close to the bees and thus avoid transgressing into human landscape. This idea stems from the elephants' proven fear of the bees.

An initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Project RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees) intends to create "bee fences" to thwart elephant attacks in human habitations using honeybees.

The pilot project was launched at four locations around Chelur village in Kodagu district by KVIC. These spots are located on the periphery of the Nagarahole National Park and Tiger Reserve, known conflict zone.

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

Between 2015 and 2020, nearly 2,500 people have lost their lives in elephant attacks across India, of which 170 human fatalities have been reported in Karnataka alone, says the KVIC.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

48. With reference to the National Capital Territory of Delhi, consider the following statements:

1. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 proposes to amend Sections 21, 24, 33 and 44 of the 1991 Act.
2. The Bill gives discretionary powers to the L-G even in matters where the Legislative Assembly of Delhi is empowered to make laws.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) moved a Bill in the Lok Sabha in which it proposed that the "government" in the National Capital Territory of Delhi meant the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi.

The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 proposes to amend Sections 21, 24, 33 and 44 of the 1991 Act.

Section 44 of the 1991 Act says that all executive actions of the L-G, whether taken on the advice of his Ministers or otherwise, shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the L-G.

The Bill gives discretionary powers to the L-G even in matters where the Legislative Assembly of Delhi is empowered to make laws.

The proposed legislation also seeks to ensure that the L-G is “necessarily granted an opportunity” to give her or his opinion before any decision taken by the Council of Ministers (or the Delhi Cabinet) is implemented.

Delhi is a Union Territory with a legislature and it came into being in 1991 under Article 239AA of the Constitution inserted by the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991.

As per the existing Act, the Legislative Assembly has the power to make laws in all matters except public order, police and land.

Hence both statements are correct.

49. With reference to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. Currently, abortion requires the opinion of one doctor if it is done within 20 weeks of conception, and two doctors if it is done between 20 and 24 weeks.
2. According to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 for a pregnancy to be terminated after 24 weeks in case of substantial foetal abnormalities, the opinion of the State-level medical board is essential.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Rajya Sabha passed the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 that increases the time period within which an abortion may be carried out. The Bill was passed in March last year in the Lok Sabha.

Currently, abortion requires the opinion of one doctor if it is done within 12 weeks of conception, and two doctors if it is done between 12 and 20 weeks.

The Bill allows abortion to be done on the advice of one doctor up to 20 weeks, and two doctors in the case of certain categories of women, between 20 and 24 weeks.

For a pregnancy to be terminated after 24 weeks in case of substantial foetal abnormalities, the opinion of the State-level medical board is essential.

Opposition MPs said the Bill still did not give women the freedom to decide, since they would need a nod from a medical board in the case of pregnancies beyond 24 weeks.

The original Bill was framed in 1971.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

50. World Energy Transitions Outlook report, recently seen in news, released by:

A. International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

B. World Economic Forum

C. World Bank

D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) released the World Energy Transitions Outlook report.

Previewed at the virtual Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue, which began on March 16, 2021, the report proposes energy transition solutions for the narrow pathway available to contain the rise of temperature to 1.5 degree Celsius.

The COVID-19 crisis offers an unexpected opportunity for countries to decouple their economies from fossil fuels and accelerate the shift to renewable energy sources,

It estimated that by 2050, 90% of total electricity needs would be supplied by renewables, followed by 6% from natural gas and the remaining from nuclear.

The agency has identified 30 innovations for the integration of wind and solar PV in power systems.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is an intergovernmental organisation mandated to facilitate cooperation and promote the adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy.

It was founded in 2009 and its statute entered into force in 2010.

The agency is headquartered in Masdar City, Abu Dhabi.

IRENA is an official United Nations observer.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

51. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 239AB deals with creation of the Legislative Assembly in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
2. Article 239AA provides for a legislative assembly of Delhi which can make laws on all subjects under the State List and Concurrent List.
3. At present, the Union Territories of Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir are provided with a legislative assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Article 239AB provides that the President may by order suspend the operation of any provision of Article 239AA (National Capital Territory of Delhi) or of all or any of the provisions of any law made in pursuance of that article. This provision resembles Article 356 (President's Rule). Hence, statement 1 is not correct

Article 239AA created a legislative assembly for Delhi which can make laws on subjects under the State List and Concurrent List except on these matters: public order, land, and police. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

At present, the Union Territories of Puducherry (in 1963), Delhi (in 1992) and Jammu and Kashmir (in 2019) are provided with a legislative assembly. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

52. Global Wage Report 2020-21: Wages and minimum wages in the time of COVID-19, recently seen in news, released by:

- A. International Labour Organization
- B. World Bank
- C. World Economic Forum
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The ILO report titled 'Global Wage Report 2020-21: Wages and minimum wages in the time of COVID-19' was recently released.

The Report inter-alia, comments on various issues including on Indian workers having low average wages, longer hours as well as that the workers in Asia and the Pacific enjoyed the highest real wage growth among all regions over the period 2006–19.

Further, while comparing average wage, the report has taken into account the National Floor Level Minimum Wage which is Rs.176/- per day. However, actual wages are far higher.

If the median of the minimum wages in different states is drawn, it would be Rs.269/- per day in the country.

The Code on Wages, 2019 which has been notified on 8th August, 2019 universalises and creates a statutory right of minimum wages for all workers whether in organized or unorganised sector.

A new concept of statutory floor wage has also been introduced in the Code on Wages.

The Code also provides that the minimum wages are to be ordinarily reviewed and revised by the appropriate Governments in intervals not exceeding five years.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

53. With reference to the Appropriation Bill 2021-22, consider the following statements:

1. Under Article 72 of the Constitution, no amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund without the enactment of such a law by Parliament.

2. Both appropriation and finance bills are classified as money bills which do not require the explicit consent of the Rajya Sabha.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Lok Sabha cleared the Appropriation Bill 2021-22, allowing the Central government to draw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for its operational requirements and implementation of various programmes.

Under Article 114(3) of the Constitution, no amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund without the enactment of such a law by Parliament.

After the Demands for Grants are voted by the Lok Sabha, Parliament's approval to the withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of the amounts so voted and of the amount required to meet the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund is sought through the Appropriation Bill.

Guillotine

The Bill was passed after Speaker Om Birla put it through guillotine, a legislative mechanism to approve the fast-tracking of the passage of outstanding demands for grants without discussion.

While guillotine literally is a large, weighted blade used for executing a condemned person, in legislative parlance, to "guillotine" means to bunch together and fast-track the passage of financial business.

It is a fairly common procedural exercise in Lok Sabha during the Budget Session.

Finance Bill

The Lok Sabha will now discuss the Finance Bill, which essentially contains the government's tax proposals. Once the Finance Bill is passed, the budget exercise is complete.

Both appropriation and finance bills are classified as money bills which do not require the explicit consent of the Rajya Sabha. The upper house only discusses them and returns the bills.

After passing the Finance Bill, it enters the statute as the Finance Act. Thus, the final Budget gets approved.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

54. Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan, often mentioned in news, is an initiative of:

A.Ministry of Rural Development

- B.Ministry of Labour and Employment
- C.Ministry of Finance
- D.Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Minister for Labour & Employment informed Rajya Sabha about initiatives for Safety of Inter-State Migrant Workers.

To safeguard the interest of the migrant workers, the Central Government had enacted the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.

This Act has now been subsumed in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and the Code has been notified on 29.09.2020.

This Code, provides for decent working conditions, minimum wages, grievances redressal mechanisms, protection from abuse and exploitation, enhancement of the skills and social security to all category of workers including Migrant workers.

The Ministry of Labour and employment proposes to develop National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW), which will be a comprehensive data base of the Unorganised Workers including the Building and other Construction Workers and Migrant workers, seeded with Aadhaar.

Schemes/programme implemented by Government for welfare of migrant labourers includes: Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri SVANIDHI Scheme, Aatm Nirbhar Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, One Nation One Ration Card, financial assistance to Building and Other Construction workers etc.

Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour& Employment, has been entrusted with the task of conducting the All India Survey on Migrant Workers.

An Expert Group has been constituted by the Government of India on 9th September, 2020 to examine and finalize the schedules, sampling design and other technical details of the aforesaid survey being conducted by the Labour Bureau.

The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

55. With reference to the electoral bonds, consider the following statements:

1. An electoral bond is like a promissory note that can be bought by any Indian citizen or company incorporated in India from select branches of State Bank of India.
2. It has to be redeemed by Political parties within 365 days only in their specified account.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Chief Justice of India agreed to urgently hear a plea by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms to stay the sale of a new set of electoral bonds on April 1, before the Assembly elections in crucial States such as West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

An electoral bond is like a promissory note that can be bought by any Indian citizen or company incorporated in India from select branches of State Bank of India.

An individual or party will be allowed to purchase these bonds digitally or through cheque after disclosing their identity through know your customer (KYC) norms

The citizen or corporate can then donate the same to any eligible political party of his/her choice.

The bonds are similar to bank notes that are payable to the bearer on demand and are free of interest. It has to be redeemed by Political parties within 15 days only in their specified account.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

56. With reference to the Insurance Amendment Bill, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It increases the maximum foreign investment allowed in an insurance company from 49% to 100%.
2. The Act requires insurers to hold a minimum investment in assets which would be sufficient to clear their insurance claim liabilities.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Rajya Sabha passed the Insurance Amendment Bill, 2021 which increases the maximum foreign investment allowed in an insurance company from 49% to 74%

The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938 to increase the maximum foreign investment allowed in an Indian insurance company.

The Act provides the framework for functioning of insurance businesses and regulates the relationship between an insurer, its policyholders, its shareholders, and the regulator (the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).

Foreign investment:

The Act allows foreign investors to hold up to 49% of the capital in an Indian insurance company, which must be owned and controlled by an Indian entity.

The Bill increases the limit on foreign investment in an Indian insurance company from 49% to 74%, and removes restrictions on ownership and control.

However, such foreign investment may be subject to additional conditions as prescribed by the central government.

Investment of assets:

The Act requires insurers to hold a minimum investment in assets which would be sufficient to clear their insurance claim liabilities.

If the insurer is incorporated or domiciled outside India, such assets must be held in India in a trust and vested with trustees who must be residents of India.

The Act specifies in an explanation that this will also apply to an insurer incorporated in India, in which at least: (i) 33% capital is owned by investors domiciled outside India, or (ii) 33% of the members of the governing body are domiciled outside India.

The Bill removes this explanation.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

57. With reference to the Vehicle Scrapping Policy, consider the following statements:

1. The new policy provides for fitness tests after the completion of 20 years in the case of privately owned vehicles and 15 years in the case of commercial vehicles.
2. Any vehicle that fails the fitness test or does not manage renewal of its registration certificate may be declared as an End of Life Vehicle.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: India will implement a GPS-based toll collection system and do away with all toll booths within a year, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha.

GPS-based toll collection system:

It means that toll collection will happen via GPS. The money will be collected based on GPS imaging of vehicles.

He said 93% of the vehicles were paying toll using FASTag — a system that facilitates electronic payment of fee at toll plazas seamlessly — but the remaining 7% had still not adopted it despite paying double the toll.

Vehicle Scrapping Policy

He also shared details of the vehicle scrapping policy, first announced in the Union Budget for 2021-22, according to which the automobile industry in India will see a jump in turnover to ₹10 lakh crore from ₹4.5 lakh crore.

The new policy provides for fitness tests after the completion of 20 years in the case of privately owned vehicles and 15 years in the case of commercial vehicles.

Any vehicle that fails the fitness test or does not manage renewal of its registration certificate may be declared as an End of Life Vehicle.

The policy will kick in for government vehicles from April 1, 2022. Mandatory fitness testing for heavy commercial vehicles will start from April 1, 2023, and for all other categories of vehicles, including personal vehicles, it will start in phases from June 1, 2024 .

Hence both statements are correct.

58. Which of the following is incorrect about the constitutional status of NCT of Delhi under Article 239AA

- A. Delhi is a union Territory with a legislative assembly
- B. The Delhi government does not have power over all items mentioned in the list two of the seventh schedule
- C. Delhi has a Lieutenant Governor as the executive head of the government.
- D. All of the above statements are correct

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Important Constitutional articles regarding Delhi

ART 239(4) says that Delhi is a UT. The Governor appointed by the president "shall exercise his functions as such administrator independently of his Council of Ministers."

Thus statement a is correct.

Art 239AA: (69th Amendment) 1991:

§ Precludes Delhi from control over land, police & public order. Thus it does not have all matters of LIST II of 7th schedule. Statement b is also correct.

§ 239AA(4) states that "... CoM consisting of not more than 10% of the total number of members in LA, with CM at the head to aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Legislative Assembly has power to make laws...

§ Further... In case of difference of opinion between the LG and his Ministers on any matter, the LG shall refer it to the President for decision... and pending such decision it shall be competent for the LG... to take action... where the matter is... so urgent that it is necessary for him to take immediate action."

Thus statement c is also correct

59. With reference to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. The amendment proposes to allow captive miners of both coal and other minerals to sell up to 50 per cent of their production after meeting the requirements of the end-use plant and on paying additional royalty to the state government.
2. The amendment proposes to fix additional royalty payments to states for the extension of mining leases for central public sector enterprises.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Lok Sabha passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021 to streamline the renewal of the auction process for minerals and coal mining rights.

The amendment proposes to allow captive miners of both coal and other minerals to sell up to 50 per cent of their production after meeting the requirements of the end-use plant and on paying additional royalty to the state government.

Operators are currently only allowed to use coal and minerals extracted from captive mines for their own industrial use. This increased flexibility would allow miners to maximise output from captive mines as they would be able to sell output in excess of their own requirements.

The amendment also proposes to fix additional royalty payments to states for the extension of mining leases for central public sector enterprises.

The Bill also proposes to empower the central government to conduct auctions or re-auction processes for the grant of a mining lease if a state government fails to complete the auction process in a specified period, decided after consultations between the Centre and state.

Hence both statements are correct.

60. Ranthambore tiger sanctuary, recently seen in news, is located in:

- A.Uttar Pradesh
- B.Madhya Pradesh
- C.Assam
- D.Rajasthan

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Six tigers — four adults and two sub-adults — have been unaccounted for since March 2020 in the Ranthambore tiger sanctuary, Rajasthan. However, State forest officials are not willing to label them “missing” and denied reports that they may have been poached.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority, a wing of the Union Environment Ministry, has constituted a committee to ascertain the disappearance of the tigers.

The Ranthambore Reserve is the only source of tigers in the territory with about 53 tigers constituting over 90% of the population in this block, as per the latest census made public last year.

India has 2,967 tigers, a third more than in 2014, according to results of a census made public on July 29 last year. Ranthambore, according to this exercise, had 55 tigers.

Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers at 526, closely followed by Karnataka (524) and Uttarakhand (442).

Chhattisgarh and Mizoram saw a decline in tiger population and all other States saw an increase.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

61. With reference to the ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain’ campaign, consider the following statements:

1. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will launch the ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain’ campaign on World Water Day i.e. on 22nd March 2021.
2. It will be launched as a Jan Andolan to take water conservation at grass-root level through people’s participation.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will launch the ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain’ campaign on World Water Day i.e. on 22nd March 2021.

The Campaign will be undertaken across the country, in both rural and urban areas, with the theme “catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls”.

It will be implemented from 22nd March 2021 to 30th November, 2021 - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period in the country.

It will be launched as a Jan Andolan to take water conservation at grass-root level through people’s participation.

It is intended to nudge all stakeholders to create rainwater harvesting structures suitable to the climatic conditions and subsoil strata, to ensure proper storage of rainwater.

After the event, Gram Sabhas will be held in all Gram Panchayats of each district (except in the poll bound states) to discuss issues related to water and water conservation. Gram Sabhas will also take 'Jal Shapath' for water conservation.

Hence both statements are correct.

62. With reference to the Ken – Betwa link 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. The Project will be of immense benefit to the water starved region of Saurashtra.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Memorandum of Agreement between the Union Minister of Jal Shakti and the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to implement the Ken Betwa Link Project, the first project of the National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers, will take place on 22nd March 2021.

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.

It will provide annual irrigation of 10.62 lakh ha, drinking water supply to about 62 lakh people and also generate 103 MW of hydropower.

The Project will be of immense benefit to the water starved region of Bundelkhand, especially to the districts of Panna, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Sagar, Damoh, Datia, Vidisha, Shivpuri and Raisen of Madhya Pradesh and Banda, Mahoba, Jhansi and Lalitpur of Uttar Pradesh.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

63. Recently seen in news, Whitsun Reef is located in:

- A.Dead Sea
- B.Red Sea
- C.Arabian Sea

D.South China Sea

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The Philippines government has claimed that around 220 Chinese boats have been spotted at a reef in the South China Sea waters controlled by Manila.

It urged China to recall the boats saying the presence of the vessels violated Manila's maritime rights by encroaching into the Philippines' sovereign territory.

The boats are believed to be manned by Chinese maritime militia personnel. The boats were spotted on March 7 at the Whitsun Reef, which Manila calls the Julian Felipe Reef.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

64. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ken and Betwa rivers are the tributaries of river Yamuna.
2. The Ken Betwa Link Project aims to transfer surplus water from Betwa river in UP to Ken river in MP.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of Yamuna. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Ken meets with Yamuna in Banda district of UP and with Betwa in Hamirpur district of UP.

Recently, the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh signed a memorandum of agreement to implement the Ken Betwa Link Project (KBLP), the first project of the National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers.

The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is the river interlinking project that aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken river in MP to Betwa in UP to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

The project involves building a 77-metre tall and a 2-km wide Dhaudhan dam and a 230-km canal.

65. Which of the following statements are correct about Indus Water Treaty?

1. India can use 20% of total water carried by Indus river system.
2. Control of 3 eastern rivers Satluj, Beas and Ravi was given to India for exclusive use by India before they enter Pakistan.
3. It provided for a 10 year transition period India was bound to supply water to Pakistan until it was able to build canal system from western rivers.

Which of the above statements correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Indus Water Treaty(IWT): Over one-third of Indus river basin is located in India.

According to IWT(1960), India can use 20% of total water carried by Indus river system.

This is used for irrigation in Punjab, Haryana & southern & Western parts of Rajasthan.

Thus statement 1 is correct.

Control of 3 eastern rivers Satluj, Beas & Ravi was given to India for exclusive use by India before they enter Pakistan, while the 3 western rivers Indus, Jhelum & Chenab was given to Pakistan. Thus statement 2 is correct

In 10 year transition period India was bound to supply water to Pakistan until it was able to build canal system from western rivers. Thus statement 3 is correct.

Other Provisions:

Pak also received on-time financial compensation for the loss of water from eastern rivers.

More controversial, however, were the provisions on how the water were to be shared.

India was allowed to use rivers for irrigation, transport & power generation, while laying down precise do's & don'ts for Indian building projects along the way.

Pak's fear were that it could create droughts & famines in Pakistan, esp. in times of war. But its been one of the most successful water-sharing endeavours in the world today.

The countries agree to exchange data & co-operate in matters related to the treaty, which creates Permanent Indus Commission with a commissioner appointed by each country

It has a member expert of Hydrology & water use.

66. With reference to the Climate Financing in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Climate Change Finance Unit (CCFU) was established under the National Action Plan for Climate Change.
2. The CCFU is a nodal agency for all climate change financing matters under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The largest source of climate financing in India is public funding, which is routed through budgetary allocation and several funds and schemes related to climate change established by the Government of India such as National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) and National Adaptation Fund (NAF).

The Government of India also provides funding through eight missions established under the National Action Plan for Climate Change.

The government has established a Climate Change Finance Unit (CCFU) in the Ministry of Finance, which is the nodal agency for all climate change financing matters. Hence, statement 1 is correct but statement 2 is not correct.

However, public funding in India is inadequate and misused. For example, NCEF funds have been used to meet budgetary shortfalls in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MoNRE).

Additionally, there is no assessment of climate relevance of publicly funded projects in India, making it difficult to evaluate financial allocation towards climate action.

67. With reference to the Permanent Indus Commission, consider the following statements:

1. The Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) is a bilateral commission consisting of officials from India and Pakistan.
2. It was created to implement and manage the goals and objectives and outlines of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) which was signed in September 1960 with United Nations standing guarantee for any dispute resolution.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: After a gap of more than two and half years Indian and Pakistani delegations began the 116th Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission.

The Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) is a bilateral commission consisting of officials from India and Pakistan.

It was created to implement and manage the goals and objectives and outlines of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) which was signed in September 1960 with World Bank standing guarantee for any dispute resolution.

The last meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission was held on August 29, 2018.

The meeting which coincided with the National Day of Pakistan is being viewed as part of the broader process of normalisation of bilateral ties between the two neighbours.

The two-day meeting of the Commission is being led on the Indian side by Indus Water Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena. The Pakistani delegation is led by Pakistan's Commissioner for Indus Waters Syed Mohammad Mehr Ali Shah.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

68. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

| Ethnic group | Country |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1.Uighurs: | Pakistan |
| 2.Catalans: | Spain |
| 3.Kurds: | Qatar |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A.2 only
- B.1 and 2 only
- C.2 and 3 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: In a coordinated move, the European Union, the US, Britain, and Canada imposed sanctions on Chinese officials and entities, for human rights abuses against Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang province. The sanctions from EU, UK and Canada include travel bans and freezing of assets.

This is the first time the EU has imposed sanctions on China since an arms embargo after the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. That embargo is still in place.

Although the EU sanctions are not very damaging, they show a hardening of stance against its largest trading partner. Also significant is that the Western powers moved together.

China retaliated with sanctions of its own. It has consistently denied all reports of atrocities against Uighurs, maintaining it is only “deradicalizing” elements of its population in the interests of security.

Background:

Xinjiang has a large number of Uighurs, Muslims of Turkic descent.

Over the past few decades, more and more Han Chinese have settled in Xinjinag, which saw violent clashes between them and the Uighurs.

China is now accused of putting over a million people in internment camps to “de-Muslimise” them and make them integrate better in the Communist country.

Survivors and human rights organisations have alleged physical, psychological and sexual torture.

People can be sent to the camps for showing any signs of “extremism” — sporting beards, fasting during Ramzan, dressing differently from the majority, sending Eid greetings, praying “too often” etc.

"Catalans" are the citizens of Catalonia, an autonomous community in Spain.

Kurds inhabit a mountainous region straddling the borders of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Armenia. They make up the fourth-largest ethnic group in the Middle East, but they have never obtained a permanent nation state.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

69. With reference to the Indus Water Treaty, 1960, consider the following statements:

1. The treaty was brokered by the United Nations in 1960.
2. India, Pakistan and China have signed this treaty to share the water of river Indus.
3. India has been given the right to generate hydroelectricity from Sutlej, Beas and Ravi rivers.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The Indus Water Treaty, 1960 is a treaty brokered by the World Bank and signed by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan’s President Ayub Khan which administers how the waters of the Indus and its tributaries that flow in both the countries will be utilised. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

According to the treaty, waters of the eastern rivers — Sutlej, Beas and Ravi had been allocated to India, while the western rivers — the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab to Pakistan.

Under the treaty, India has been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through a run of the river projects on the western rivers subject to specific criteria for design and operation. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

India has cleared several hydropower projects in Ladakh: Darbuk Shyok (19 MW), Shankoo (18.5 MW), Nimu Chilling (24 MW), Rongdo (12 MW), Ratan Nag (10.5 MW) for Leh; and Mangdum Sangra (19 MW), Kargil Hunderman (25 MW) and Tamasha (12 MW) for Kargil.

It also gives Pakistan the right to raise concerns on the design of Indian hydroelectric projects on western rivers.

The Treaty also provides an arbitration mechanism to solve disputes amicably.

There have been disagreements and differences between India and Pakistan over dams. For eg. In 2010, Pakistan instituted international arbitration proceedings over India's 330-megawatt hydropower project on a small Indus tributary, the Kishenganga (known as Neelum in Pakistan).

Though Indus originates from Tibet, China has been kept out of the Treaty. If China decides to stop or change the flow of the river, it will affect both India and Pakistan. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

70. With reference to the Chief Justice of India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 124 of the Constitution of India provides for the manner of appointing judges to the Supreme Court (SC).
2. Seniority at the apex court is determined by age.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde has recommended Justice N.V. Ramana, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, as the next top judge.

Justice Ramana is now set to take over as the 48th Chief Justice of India from April 24.

The Centre had recently asked Chief Justice Bobde, who is retiring on April 23, to initiate the transition process to the top judicial office.

Justice Ramana will be the CJI till August 26, 2022.

Appointment of CJI:

Article 124 of the Constitution of India provides for the manner of appointing judges to the Supreme Court (SC). But there is no specific provision in the Constitution for appointing the Chief Justice.

CJI should be the senior most judge of the Supreme Court (SC). Law Minister has to seek recommendation of the outgoing CJI for appointment of new CJI at an appropriate time.

In case of doubt about the fitness of the senior-most Judge to hold office of CJI consultation with other Judges under Article 124(2) to be made.

Law Minister then puts up recommendation to Prime Minister (PM) who will advise the President on appointment.

Seniority at the apex court is determined not by age, but by The date a judge was appointed to the SC.

If two judges are elevated to the Supreme Court on the same day, (1) the one who was sworn in first as a judge would trump another; (2) if both were sworn in as judges on the same day, the one with more years of high court service would 'win' in the seniority stakes; (3) an appointment from the bench would 'trump' in seniority an appointee from the bar.

Tenure:

Once appointed, the Chief Justice remains in office until the age of 65 years.

Article 124(4) of Constitution of India provides that a SC Judge including CJI can be moved only through a process of impeachment by Parliament

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

71. With reference to the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professionals Bill, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. The Bill sets up the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions.
2. The Commission will constitute a Professional Council for every recognised category of allied and healthcare professions.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Lok Sabha cleared the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professionals Bill, 2021. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha last week.

The Bill seeks to regulate and standardise the education and practice of allied and healthcare professionals.

The Bill defines 'allied health professional' as an associate, technician, or technologist trained to support the diagnosis and treatment of any illness, disease, injury, or impairment. Such a professional should have obtained a diploma or degree under this Bill.

A 'healthcare professional' includes a scientist, therapist, or any other professional who studies, advises, researches, supervises, or provides preventive, curative, rehabilitative, therapeutic, or promotional health services. Such a professional should have obtained a degree under this Bill.

The Bill specifies certain categories of allied and healthcare professions as recognised categories. These include life science professionals, trauma and burn care professionals, surgical and anaesthesia related technology professionals, physiotherapists, and nutrition science professionals.

The Bill sets up the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions. It will

frame policies and standards for regulating education and practice,
create and maintain an online Central Register of all registered professionals, and
providing for a uniform entrance and exit examination, among others.

The Commission will constitute a Professional Council for every recognised category of allied and healthcare professions.

Within six months from the passage of the Bill, state governments will constitute State Allied and Healthcare Councils.

Hence both statements are correct.

72. Which of the following statement is/are correct related to the procedure of collegium system

1. In the procedure of selections of judges of the SC, consultation with the collegium comprising the CJI and first four puisne judges
2. Recommendation must be made on the basis of consensus; one would not be appointed in case of difference of opinion

Select the correct code from the options given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 or 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: In the procedure of selections of judges of the SC, consultation with the collegium comprising the CJI and first four puisne judges (senior-most). their views must be obtained in writing. **THUS STATEMENT 1 IS CORRECT.**

Recommendation must be made on the basis of consensus, one would not be appointed in case of difference of opinion, if CJI dissents or more than one member dissent. **THUS STATEMENT 2 IS CORRECT.**

73. With reference to Cape of Good Hope, consider the following statements:

1. The Cape of Good Hope is a rocky headland on the Atlantic coast of the Cape Peninsula in South Africa.
2. Cape of Good Hope is the southern tip of Africa.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: With \$200 billion of India's trade flows with Europe, North America and South America at risk due to the blockage of the Suez Canal, the Department of Commerce is planning re-routing shipments through the Cape of Good Hope.

The Cape of Good Hope is a rocky headland on the Atlantic coast of the Cape Peninsula in South Africa.

A common misconception is that the Cape of Good Hope is the southern tip of Africa. Contemporary geographic knowledge instead states the southernmost point of Africa is Cape Agulhas.

When following the western side of the African coastline from the equator, however, the Cape of Good Hope marks the point where a ship begins to travel more eastward than southward.

Cape Agulhas is a rocky headland in Western Cape, South Africa.

It is the geographic southern tip of the African continent and the beginning of the dividing line between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

74. With reference to the NISAR, consider the following statements:

1. NISAR is an SUV-sized satellite that is being jointly developed by the space agencies of the US and India.
2. The satellite will be launched in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, India, into a near-polar orbit.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: NASA and ISRO are collaborating on developing a satellite called NISAR, which will detect movements of the planet's surface as small as 0.4 inches over areas about half the size of a tennis court.

NISAR is an SUV-sized satellite that is being jointly developed by the space agencies of the US and India.

The name NISAR is short for NASA-ISRO-SAR. SAR here refers to the synthetic aperture radar that NASA will use to measure changes in the surface of the Earth.

Essentially, SAR refers to a technique for producing high-resolution images.

Because of the precision, the radar can penetrate clouds and darkness, which means that it can collect data day and night in any weather.

The partnership agreement was signed between NASA and ISRO in 2014.

NASA will provide one of the radars for the satellite, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers and a payload data subsystem.

ISRO, on the other hand, will provide the spacecraft bus, the second type of radar (called the S-band radar), the launch vehicle and associated launch services.

The satellite will be launched in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, India, into a near-polar orbit.

It will scan the globe every 12 days over the course of its three-year mission of imaging the Earth's land, ice sheets and sea ice to give an "unprecedented" view of the planet.

Hence both statements are correct.

75. The 'World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives' is published by which of the following?

- A. United Nations
- B. World Bank
- C. International Monetary Fund
- D. World Economic Forum

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, the World Bank has published the World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives.

The World Development Report 2021 provides a blueprint on how to harness the power of data for development, to ensure no one is left behind.

Hence, option B is correct.

76. With reference to the India and Bangladesh relations, consider the following statements:

1. India and Bangladesh recently signed 5 MoUs in the fields of Disaster Management, trade, NCC, ICT and setting up of sports facilities.
2. A direct passenger train named 'Mitali Express' will run between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: India and Bangladesh signed 5 MoUs in the fields of Disaster Management, trade, NCC, ICT and setting up of sports facilities during the official visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh.

Foundation stone was laid for infrastructure development for power evacuation facilities from the Rooppur Nuclear power plant.

The Bangladesh leg of the Bangabandhu-Bapu Digital Exhibition was inaugurated by the two Prime Ministers. It will be taken to other parts of the world including the UN.

Both the leaders also unveiled the foundation stone for the construction of a memorial at Ashuganj honoring the martyrs of Indian armed forces in the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh.

India gifted 109 life support ambulances to Bangladesh and also 1.2 million doses of the Covishield vaccine.

Three border haats were also opened along the India-Bangladesh border.

During the visit a number of announcements were made.

A direct passenger train named 'Mitali Express' will run between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri.

Prime Minister Modi invited 50 young entrepreneurs from Bangladesh to connect with India's start up ecosystem.

1000 Subarno Jayanti Scholarships were announced for the Bangladeshi students to study in India at the Undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

A Bangabandhu Chair will be established at Delhi University to facilitate Bangladesh studies.

Both countries agreed to start a new area of cooperation in the Civil nuclear and space sectors.

Places visited

Prime Minister also visited the birthplace of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara and placed a wreath at his mausoleum to pay tribute to the father of the nation of Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Modi visited the Jeshoreshwari temple in Satkhira. He announced that a cyclone shelter cum community hall will be built at the temple for use by the people.

He also visited Orakandi where he was given a community reception. He paid respect at Harimandir in Orakandi and addressed the representatives of the Matua community.

Hence both statements are correct.

77. China and which of the following country recently signed what was described as a 25-year "strategic cooperation pact"?

A.Iran

B.South Korea

C.Japan

D.India

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: China and Iran signed what was described as a 25-year “strategic cooperation pact”.

While details of the new 25-year pact were not immediately available, it includes “political, strategic and economic” components.

This document can be very effective in deepening relations and would establish a blueprint for “reciprocal investments in the fields of transport, ports, energy, industry and services”.

Background: Nuclear Deal and Sanctions

The agreement comes amid a major push from China to back Iran, which counts on Beijing, its largest trading partner, as it deals with the continuing weight of sanctions re-instated following then U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Iranian nuclear deal.

Earlier this week, China and Russia called for the U.S. to “unconditionally return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as soon as possible and revoke the unilateral sanctions against Iran”.

In this context, they proposed “the establishment of a regional security dialogue platform to converge a new consensus on resolving the security concerns of countries in the region”.

China and West Asia

This was signed during Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s ongoing six-nation tour to West Asia. Mr. Wang is visiting Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, the UAE, Bahrain and Oman.

Five-point initiative: In Riyadh, Mr. Wang proposed “a five-point initiative on achieving security and stability in the Middle East” advocating “mutual respect, upholding equity and justice, achieving non-proliferation, jointly fostering collective security, and accelerating development cooperation.”

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

78. With reference to Hypnea, consider the following statements:

1. They grow in the intertidal regions of the coast, namely the area that is submerged during the high tide and exposed during low tides.
2. Recently Hypnea indica and Hypnea bullata was discovered in India.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Two new species of seaweed have been discovered by a group of marine biologists from Central University of Punjab, Bathinda.

Named *Hypnea indica* (after India) and *Hypnea bullata* (because of the blisterlike marks on its body – bullate), the seaweeds are part of the genus *Hypnea* or red seaweeds.

While *Hypnea indica* was discovered Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, and Somnath Pathan and Sivrajpur in Gujarat, *Hypnea bullata* was discovered from Kanyakumari and Diu island of Daman and Diu.

They grow in the intertidal regions of the coast, namely the area that is submerged during the high tide and exposed during low tides.

The genus *Hypnea* consists of calcareous, erect, branched red seaweeds. There are 61 species of which 10 were reported in India. With our two new species, the total number of species now would be 63.

Hence both statements are correct.

79. Recently, a group of lepidopterists have found a new butterfly species. In which part of India has it been discovered?

A. Andaman Islands

B. Tropical rain forests of northeast

C. Maikala Hills

D. Agasthyamalai

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: A group of lepidopterists have found a new butterfly species in India.

The discovery of the species *Nacaduba sinhala ramaswamii* Sadasivan, 2021 in the Agasthyamalais in the Western Ghats a decade ago has now found place in the Journal of Threatened Taxa.

The new taxon of Lycaenid butterflies belongs to the *Nacaduba* genus.

Line Blues are small butterflies belonging to the subfamily Lycaenidae and their distribution ranges from India and Sri Lanka to the whole of southeastern Asia, Australia and Samoa.

It is the first time that a butterfly species was discovered by an all-Indian research team from the Western Ghats.

Lepidopterology is a branch of entomology concerning the scientific study of moths and the three superfamilies of butterflies.

Someone who studies in this field is a lepidopterist or, archaically, an aurelian.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

80. The joint exercise named VAJRA PRAHAR by the Special Forces of India and which of the following country?

A.U.S.A

B.U.K

C.France

D.Germany

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The 11th edition of Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR was conducted at Special Forces Training School located at Bakloh, HP in March 2021.

The joint exercise by the Special Forces of both the countries is conducted alternatively between India and the United States.

Objective is to share the best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics as also to improve interoperability between the Special Forces of both nations.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

81. With reference to the World Immunisation and Logistics Summit, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of HOPE Consortium spearheaded by the Department of Health, Abu Dhabi.

2. The HOPE Consortium brings together leading brands to deliver an end-to-end solution to distribute COVID-19 vaccines globally.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare digitally participated in a panel discussion on vaccine production and distribution across Asia at the “World Immunisation and Logistics Summit”.

The HOPE Consortium’s World Immunisation & Logistics Summit opened on March 30, 2021 to enhance collaboration in the world’s approach to tackle COVID-19 and ensure a healthier future for all.

The two-day virtual Summit, hosted in by Abu Dhabi, kicked off under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, with the participation of acclaimed global healthcare and philanthropic leaders, decision-makers, experts and senior government officials, to explore a unified global approach to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

HOPE Consortium spearheaded by the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, who has led the formation of the emirate-wide consortium, the HOPE Consortium brings together leading brands to deliver an end-to-end solution to distribute COVID-19 vaccines globally.

Hence both statements are correct.