



CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

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

MAY 2021

Q.1) With reference to the India-United Kingdom Virtual Summit, consider the following statements:

1. An ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' was adopted at the Summit to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.
2. A new India-UK 'Global Innovation Partnership' was announced that aims to support the transfer of inclusive Indian innovations to select developing countries, starting with 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

Explanation: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom held a Virtual Summit.

An ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' was adopted at the Summit to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'. The Roadmap will pave the way for a deeper and stronger engagement over the next ten years in the key areas of people to people contacts, trade and economy, defence and security, climate action and health.

The two Prime Ministers launched an 'Enhanced Trade Partnership' (ETP) which sets an ambitious target of more than doubling bilateral trade by 2030. As part of the ETP, India and the UK agreed on a roadmap to negotiate a comprehensive and balanced FTA, including consideration of an Interim Trade Agreement for delivering early gains.

The UK is India's second largest partner in research and innovation collaborations. A new India-UK 'Global Innovation Partnership' was announced at the Virtual Summit that aims to support the transfer of inclusive Indian

innovations to select developing countries, starting with Africa.

India and the UK launched a comprehensive partnership on migration and mobility that will facilitate greater opportunities for the mobility of students and professionals between the two countries.

Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation on new and emerging technologies, including Digital and ICT products, and work on supply chain resilience.

They also agreed to strengthen defence and security ties, including in the maritime, counter-terrorism and cyberspace domains.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.2) With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), consider the following statements:

1. The Government of India will bear the entire cost on implementation of PMGKAY (May-June 2021) scheme, without any sharing by States/UTs.
2. Government will provide 5 kilogram of free food grains to millions of poor covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: 28 States/ UTs start lifting food grains from Food Corporation of India depots for distribution under PMGKAY-III.

The Department of Food & Public Distribution has started implementation of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for a period of 2 months i.e. May and June

2021 to ameliorate the hardships faced by the poor and needy due to various disruptions caused by the resurgence of COVID-19 in the country.

The Government of India will bear the entire cost on implementation of PMGKAY (May-June 2021) scheme, without any sharing by States/UTs.

Under this special scheme, about 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries covered under both categories of NFSA, namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH), are being provided with an additional quota of free-of-cost foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) at a scale of 5 Kg per person per month, over and above their regular monthly entitlements.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.3) Which of the following is/are correct related to G7?

1. All the 7 are top-ranked advanced economies with the current largest GDP and with the highest national wealth
2. United States, Japan, Germany, UK, France, Italy, and Australia are the seven members
3. All the 7 are leaders when it comes to export
4. There are no G7 members from Africa, Latin America, or the southern hemisphere.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1,2 and 3 only

b) 1,3 and 4 only

c) 2,3 and 4 only

d) All of the above

Explanation: • All the 7 are top-ranked advanced economies with the current largest GDP and with the highest national wealth

(United States, Japan, Germany, UK, France, Italy, Canada).

- The G7 are among the 15 top-ranked countries with the highest net wealth per capita (United States, France, Japan, United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, Germany).

- All the 7 are leaders when it comes to export

- There are no G7 members from Africa, Latin America, or the southern hemisphere

THUS ONLY 1,3 AND 4 STATEMENTS ARE CORRECT ONLY

Q.4) Which of the following statement about Production Linked Incentive (PLI) are correct

1. It is launched by the Ministry of commerce and Industry
2. Its objective is to attain self-reliance and reduce import dependence
3. It will also include setting up greenfield Critical bulk drugs plants

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) All of the above

Explanation: PLI(Product linked incentive) Scheme: It proposes a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in various manufacturing sectors.

It was initially started only for electronic manufacturing companies, later expanded to other sectors. Thus statement 2 is correct

It is launched by Ministry of commerce and Industry, in collaboration with other ministries.

- Objective: to attain self-reliance and reduce import dependence in these critical technologies.
- Scheme: It will include setting up greenfield Critical bulk drugs plants with minimum domestic value addition with a total outlay of Rs. 6,940 cr. for the period 2020-21 to 2029-30. The commercial production is projected to commence from 1st April, 2023. Thus statement 3 is correct

Q.5) Which one of the following is the best description of 'Pox 186', that was in the news recently?

- a) Recently spotted the first 'blow-away' galaxy.**
- b) Microsatellite launched by SpaceX.
- c) A decentralized, open-source blockchain with smart contract functionality.
- d) A malicious computer worm developed by Israel.

Explanation: Astrophysicists using the Gemini telescope have spotted the first 'blow-away' galaxy, in which the hydrogen clouds have been stripped off exposing high-energy light.

This finding could give a clue to solving the puzzle of the reionisation of the universe.

The galaxy, named Pox 186, is so small that it could fit inside the Milky Way.

The researchers suspect that its compact size, coupled with its large population of stars -- which amount to a hundred thousand times the mass of the sun -- made the blow-away possible.

The Gemini Observatory is an astronomical observatory consisting of two 8.1-metre telescopes, Gemini North and Gemini South, which are located at two separate sites in Hawaii and Chile, respectively. The twin Gemini telescopes provide almost complete

coverage of both the northern and southern skies

They are currently among the largest and most advanced optical/infrared telescopes available to astronomers.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.6) With reference to the SUTRA model, consider the following statements:

1. SUTRA model is used for charting the trajectory of COVID-19 in the country.
2. It can only predict future with some certainty so long as virus dynamics and its transmissibility don't change substantially over time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Scientists working on the SUTRA model have rejected media reports claiming that they had cautioned the Government regarding the second wave of the corona pandemic in March this year.

SUTRA model is used for charting the trajectory of COVID-19 in the country.

In a media statement, group of scientists working on the model stated that a mathematical model can only predict future with some certainty so long as virus dynamics and its transmissibility don't change substantially over time.

They added that in the case of COVID-19, the nature of the virus has been changing very rapidly.

In such a context, they said any prediction for COVID-19 must be continually readjusted.

The Scientists working on the SUTRA model said that they continue their efforts to better estimate the future trajectory of the pandemic.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.7) With reference to the 5G technology, consider the following statements:

1. Conducting trials for use and applications of 5G technology is not allowed in India.
2. The 5Gi technology has been developed by Cisco Systems.
3. 5G works only in mid and high frequency spectrum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) None of the above

Explanation: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India approved permissions to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for conducting trials for use and applications of 5G technology. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

The applicant TSPs include Bharti Airtel Ltd., Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd., Vodafone Idea Ltd. and MTNL. The duration of the trials, at present, is for a period of 6 months.

Each TSP will have to conduct trials in rural and semi-urban settings also in addition to urban settings so that the benefit of 5G Technology proliferates across the country and is not confined only to urban areas.

The objectives of conducting 5G trials include testing 5G spectrum propagation characteristics especially in the Indian context; model tuning and evaluation of

chosen equipment and vendors; testing of indigenous technology; testing of applications; and to test 5G phones and devices.

5G technology is expected to deliver improved user experience in terms of data download rates (expected to be 10 times that of 4G), up to three times greater spectrum efficiency, and ultra low latency to enable Industry 4.0.

The TSPs are encouraged to conduct trials using 5Gi technology in addition to the already known 5G Technology. It will be recalled that International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has also approved the 5Gi technology, which was advocated by India, as it facilitates much larger reach of the 5G towers and Radio networks. The 5Gi technology has been developed by IIT Madras, Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology (CEWiT) and IIT Hyderabad. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

5G or fifth generation is the latest upgrade in the long-term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks. 5G mainly works in 3 bands, namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum — all of which have their own uses as well as limitations. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

Q.8) World is facing a refugee crisis. Consider the following statements regarding 1951 Refugee convention:

1. India is neither a party to the convention nor its 1967 Protocol.
2. Convention defines a refugee's obligations to host countries.
3. UNHRC serves as a guardian of the 1951 Convention.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: India is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a national refugee protection framework

Statement 2 is correct: The 1951 Refugee Convention is the key legal document that forms the basis of UNHCR's work. It defines the term 'refugee' and outlines the rights of the displaced, as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them. The convention also defines a refugee's obligations to host countries and specifies certain categories of people, such as war criminals, who do not qualify for refugee status.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Correct answer is UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees), not UNHRC (UN Human Rights Council).

UNHCR serves as the guardian of 1951 convention

Q.9) R21/Matrix M, recently seen in news, is a new vaccine candidate for which of the following disease?

- a) Malaria**
- b) Covid 19
- c) Ebola
- d) Swine flu

Explanation: A malaria vaccine candidate has shown promise in phase 2b clinical trials, with high efficacy at 77%. The results of the trial were published recently in preprints with The Lancet.

The new vaccine candidate, called R21/Matrix M, is a modified version of RTS, S — another candidate against malaria that has been in

development for more than 30 years by Walter Reed Institute of Research, GlaxoSmithKline and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative.

This vaccine is designed to stop the Plasmodium falciparum malaria parasite from entering the liver and preventing the subsequent deadly blood stages. It targets the liver stage protein of the Plasmodium falciparum life cycle.

Thirty years in the making, RTS,S is the first, and to date the only, vaccine to reduce malaria in children. But it is not highly efficacious.

The new version

R21/Matrix M has been developed by scientists at University of Oxford, the same location where the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine was developed. They' have been working on this version for almost 6-7 years now.

This vaccine was produced in the Serum Institute of India.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.10) With reference to the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for IT Hardware, consider the following statements:

1. The target IT hardware segments under the proposed Scheme include Laptops, Tablets, All-in-One Personal Computers (PCs) and Servers.
2. The Scheme shall extend an incentive of 4% to 2% / 1% on net incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment, to eligible companies, for a period of four years (FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: A total of 19 companies have filed their application under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for IT Hardware.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for IT Hardware was notified on 03.03.2021.

The PLI Scheme extends an incentive of 4% to 2%/ 1% on net incremental sales (over base year of FY 2019-20) of goods under target segments that are manufactured in India to eligible companies, for a period of four years (FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25).

The target IT hardware segments under the proposed Scheme include Laptops, Tablets, All-in-One Personal Computers (PCs) and Servers.

The scheme proposes production linked incentives to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the value chain of these IT Hardware products.

Benefits:

Over the next 4 years, the Scheme is expected to lead to total production of about INR 1,60,000 crore. Out of the total production, IT Hardware companies have proposed a production of over INR 1,35,000 crore, and Domestic Companies have proposed a production of over INR 25,000 crore.

The scheme is expected to promote exports significantly. Out of the total production of INR 1,60,000 crore in the next 4 years, more than 37% will be contributed by exports of the order of INR 60,000 crore.

The scheme will bring additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of INR 2,350 crore.

The scheme will generate approximately 37,500 direct employment opportunities in next 4 years along with creation of additional indirect employment of nearly 3 times the direct employment.

Domestic Value Addition is expected to grow from the current 5-12% to 16-35%.

Hence both statements are correct

Q.11) With reference to the Global Innovation Partnership (GIP), consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of India and U.S.A
2. GIP will develop an open and inclusive e-market place (E-BAAZAR) for cross border innovation transfer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to the signing of MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom on Global Innovation Partnership (GIP).

Through this MoU, India and UK agree to launch the Global Innovation Partnership.

GIP will support Indian innovators to scale up their innovations in third countries thereby helping them explore new markets and become self-sustainable. It will also foster the innovative ecosystem in India.

GIP innovations will focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) related sectors

thereby assisting recipient countries achieve their SDGs.

Through seed funding, grants, investments and technical assistance, the Partnership will support Indian entrepreneurs and innovators to test, scale up and take their innovative development **Explanations** to select developing countries.

GIP will also develop an open and inclusive e-market place (E-BAAZAR) for cross border innovation transfer and will focus on results-based impact assessment thereby promoting transparency and accountability.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.12) With reference to the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), consider the following statements:

1. At present, organic products are exported provided they are produced, processed, packed and labelled as per the requirements of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).
2. It has been implemented by Union Ministry of Agriculture.
3. It has been recognized by the Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) for trade of organic products in the domestic market.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: In a major boost to organic products exports from the country, first consignment of millets grown in Himalayas from snow-melt water of Ganges in Dev Bhoomi (Land of the God), Uttarakhand would be exported to Denmark.

APEDA, in collaboration with Uttarakhand Agriculture Produce Marketing Board (UKAPMB) & Just Organik, an exporter, has sourced & processed ragi (finger millet), and jhingora (barnyard millet) from farmers in Uttarakhand for exports, which meets the organic certification standards of the European Union.

Millets are gaining a lot of popularity globally because of high nutritive values and being gluten free also.

Oil cake meal is a major commodity of the organic product exports from the country followed by oil seeds, fruit pulps and purees, cereals & millets, spices, tea, medicinal plant products etc.

At present, organic products are exported provided they are produced, processed, packed and labelled as per the requirements of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

The NPOP has been implemented by APEDA since its inception in 2001 as notified under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992.

NPOP has also been recognized by the Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) for trade of organic products in the domestic market. Organic products covered under the bilateral agreement with NPOP need not to be recertified for import in India.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Q.13) Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020, recently seen in news, is related to:

- a) Collection of data of workers including migrant workers.**
- b) Gratuity payable to an employee on the termination of his employment.
- c) Employees' Insurance Court
- d) None of the above

Explanation: Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020 has been notified by Ministry of Labour & Employment covering applicability of Aadhar.

The notification of section will enable Ministry of Labour and Employment to collect Aadhar details for the database of beneficiaries under various social security schemes.

National Data Base for unorganised workers (NDUW) is at an advanced stage of development by National Informatics Centre.

The portal is aimed at collection of data for unorganised workers including migrant workers for the purpose of giving benefits of the various schemes of the Government.

An inter-state migrant worker can register himself on the portal on the basis of submission of Aadhar alone.

Union Minister of State (I/c) for Labour and Employment Shri Santosh Gangwar has clarified that the section under the Social Security Code has been notified only for collection of data of workers including migrant workers. No benefit will be denied to workers for want of Aadhar.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.14) Which of the following are the measures announced by Reserve Bank of India to support the nation's fight against the second wave of COVID-19 infections?

1. Lending by Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to MFIs for on-lending to be classified as priority sector lending
2. Scheduled banks were allowed to deduct credit given to new MSME borrowers from Net Time & Demand Liabilities for calculation of CRR, is now extended to December 31, 2021.
3. Rationalization of KYC norms for enhanced customer experience.

4. Banks can now use 100% of floating provisions held by them, as on December 31, 2020.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation: The RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced a series of measures to support the nation's fight against the second wave of COVID-19 infections.

Term Liquidity Facility of Rs. 50,000 crore with tenure of up to 3 years, at repo rate, to ease access to emergency health services, for ramping up COVID-related health infrastructure & services.

Special Long Term Repo Operations for Small Finance Banks: In order to provide further support to micro, small and other unorganized sector entities, 3-year repo operations of Rs. 10,000 crore at repo rate, for fresh lending up to Rs 10 lakh per borrower; facility is available up to 31 October, 2021.

Lending by Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to MFIs for on-lending to be classified as priority sector lending: In view of fresh challenges, SFBs are now permitted to regard fresh on-lending to MFIs with asset size up to Rs. 500 crore, as priority sector lending. This facility will be available up to 31 March, 2022.

Credit flow to MSME Entrepreneurs: To further incentivize inclusion of unbanked MSMEs into banking system, exemption provided in February, 2021 wherein scheduled banks were allowed to deduct credit given to new MSME borrowers from Net Time & Demand Liabilities for calculation of CRR, is now extended to December 31, 2021.

Rationalization of KYC norms for enhanced customer experience: Steps being proposed include –

Extending scope to video KYC for new customer categories such as proprietorship firms,

Conversion of limited KYC accounts to fully KYC compliant accounts,

Introduction of more customer-friendly options in KYC updating and

enabling the use of KYC Identifier of Centralised KYC Registry (CKYCR) for V-CIP and submission of electronic documents as identify proof

Floating Provisions and Countercyclical Provisioning Buffer: Banks can now use 100% of floating provisions held by them, as on December 31, 2020, for making specific provisions for NPAs; such utilization is permitted up to March 31, 2022.

Relaxation of overdraft facility for states: Maximum number of days of overdraft in a quarter for state governments has been increased from 36 to 50 days. The number of consecutive days of OD has been increased from 14 to 21 days; facility available up to September 30, 2021.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.15) Which one of the following is the best description of 'Pox 186', that was in the news recently?

a) Recently spotted the first 'blow-away' galaxy.

b) Microsatellite launched by SpaceX.

c) A decentralized, open-source blockchain with smart contract functionality.

d) A malicious computer worm developed by Israel.

Explanation: Astrophysicists using the Gemini telescope have spotted the first 'blow-away' galaxy, in which the hydrogen clouds have been stripped off exposing high-energy light.

This finding could give a clue to solving the puzzle of the reionisation of the universe.

The galaxy, named Pox 186, is so small that it could fit inside the Milky Way.

The researchers suspect that its compact size, coupled with its large population of stars -- which amount to a hundred thousand times the mass of the sun -- made the blow-away possible.

The Gemini Observatory is an astronomical observatory consisting of two 8.1-metre telescopes, Gemini North and Gemini South, which are located at two separate sites in Hawaii and Chile, respectively. The twin Gemini telescopes provide almost complete coverage of both the northern and southern skies

They are currently among the largest and most advanced optical/infrared telescopes available to astronomers.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.16) With reference to the Reserve Bank of India, consider the following statements:

1. Individuals, borrowers and MSMEs with aggregate exposure up to Rs. 25 crore, who have not availed restructuring under any previous frameworks, who were classified as standard on 31 March, 2021, will be eligible to be considered under ReExplanation Framework 2.0.

2. Restructuring under new framework can be invoked till September 30, 2021 and will have to be implemented within 90 days after invocation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: RBI has announced following set of measures to relieve stress faced by most vulnerable categories of borrowers – namely individuals, borrowers and MSMEs.

Individuals, borrowers and MSMEs with aggregate exposure up to Rs. 25 crore, who have not availed restructuring under any previous frameworks, who were classified as standard on 31 March, 2021, will be eligible to be considered under **ReExplanation Framework 2.0.**

Restructuring under new framework can be invoked till September 30, 2021 and will have to be implemented within 90 days after invocation.

For individuals and small businesses who have availed restructuring of loans under **ReExplanation Framework 1.0**, where moratorium of less than 2 years was permitted, lending institutions can now increase the period and/or extend residual tenure up to a total period of 2 years.

In respect of small businesses and MSMEs restructured earlier, lending institutions are now permitted to review working capital sanction limits, as a one-time measure.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.17) Consider the following statements related to article 14 of the Indian Constitution

1. No criminal proceeding shall be initiated or continued against the President or the governor in any court during his/her term of office.

2. No court can issue an arrest warrant of the President or Government during his/her term of office.

3. No member of state Legislature shall be liable to any proceeding in any court in respect of any statement or any vote given by him in the state Legislature.

Which of the above is/are correct statements?

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

d) All of the above

Explanation: It is not like that the 'Rule of Equality' applies thoroughly. There are some exceptions to this, that is why it does not apply in case of these circumstances and individuals.

I. No criminal proceeding shall be initiated or continued against the President or the governor in any court during his/her term of office.

II. No court can issue an arrest warrant of the President or Government during his/her term of office.

III. No member of state Legislature (MLA) shall be liable to any proceeding in any court in respect of any statement or any vote given by him in the state Legislature.

IV. No Member of Parliament (MP) shall be liable to any proceeding in any court in respect of any statement or any vote given by him in the Parliament.

V. The United Nations and its agencies also have diplomatic immunity.

VI. Foreign (sovereign ruler), ambassadors and diplomatic persons will be free from criminal and civil cases.

Thus, all the above statements are correct

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding National Social Assistance Programme

1. NSAP is a centrally sector scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. It aims to provide financial assistance only to elderly, widows and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions.
3. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) is a sub-scheme of NSAP

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: It is a centrally sponsored scheme

Statement 2 is correct: It aims to provide financial assistance to the elderly, widows and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions. It currently covers more than three crore people who are below the poverty line (BPL), including about 80 lakh widows, 10 lakh disabled and 2.2 crore elderly.

Statement 3 is correct: NSAP has 5 components: Presently NSAP comprises of five schemes, namely:

- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
- Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)
- Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)
- National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
- Annapurna

Q.19) Consider the following statements related to Indira Sawhney case

1. The concept of 'creamy layer' gained currency through this judgment
2. It laid down a 50 percent limit on reservations
3. Reservation for backward classes should be confined to initial appointments as well as in promotions too

Which of the above is/are correct statements?

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

Explanation: The concept of 'creamy layer' gained currency through this judgment. Those among the OBCs who had transcended their social backwardness were to be excluded from the reservation. Thus statement 1 is correct

- It laid down a 50 percent limit on reservations and observed that economic, social, and educational criteria were needed to define backward classes. Thus statement 2 is correct
- Reservation for backward classes (which include OBCs and SCs & STs) should be confined to initial appointments and not extend to promotions. Thus statement 3 is incorrect

Q.20) Xylophis Deepaki was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) It is the new species of snake identified in South India**
- b) It is a new strain of the Covid-19 virus

c) It is a new soybean variety that provide more yields

d) It is the new butterfly identified in Amazon forests

Explanation: It is a new snake species discovered recently in Tamil Nadu.

It is a tiny wood snake of just 20 cm length with iridescent scales.

The species is named in honour of Indian herpetologist Deepak Veerappan. As he contributed in erecting a new subfamily Xylophiinae to accommodate wood snakes.

About wood snakes: These are harmless and often found while digging soil in farms and under the logs in the Western Ghat forests

Q.21) With respect to “Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)”, consider the following statements:

1. It was negotiated at the end of the Doha Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
2. It is an international legal agreement between all the member nations of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
3. It establishes minimum standards for the regulation by national governments of different forms of intellectual property (IP) as applied to nationals of other WTO member nations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Explanation: The United States will support an initiative at the World Trade Organisation

(WTO) to waive Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) protection for COVID-19 vaccines.

The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) is an international legal agreement between all the member nations of the World Trade Organization (WTO). It establishes minimum standards for the regulation by national governments of different forms of intellectual property (IP) as applied to nationals of other WTO member nations. It was negotiated at the end of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) between 1989 and 1990 and is administered by the WTO. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q.22) With reference to instant messaging app Signal, consider the following statements:

1. It is a cross-platform centralized encrypted messaging service.
2. It can be used to make one-to-one and group voice and video calls.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: An attempt by instant messaging app Signal to use Instagram ads to demonstrate how Facebook collects and sells user data resulted in Signal’s Instagram account getting blocked.

Signal is a cross-platform centralized encrypted messaging service developed by the Signal Technology Foundation and Signal Messenger LLC. It uses the Internet to send one-to-one and group messages, which can

include files, voice notes, images and videos. It can also be used to make one-to-one and group voice and video calls.

Signal, which is owned by a non-profit corporation, competes with WhatsApp. Both WhatsApp and Instagram are owned by social media giant Facebook.

Signal, which has a specific focus on privacy (its tagline is 'Say hello to privacy'), claims companies like Facebook collect user data from their bouquet of apps "in order to sell visibility into people and their lives".

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.23) With reference to Proning, consider the following statements:

1. It is a medically approved position in which patients are made to lie on their abdomen to boost their oxygen levels.
2. Proning as an exercise is being advised to Covid patients in hospitals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: As the second wave of Covid-19 sweeps through the country with deadly consequences, doctors across the state have started advocating proning exercises to improve oxygen levels in Covid positive patients — both in home isolation as well as in hospital.

Proning a medically approved position — which is also being promoted by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare — in which patients are made to lie on their abdomen to boost their oxygen levels.

Proning as an exercise is being advised to Covid patients in hospitals, so that they may not require additional oxygen support.

While proned, the patient is made to lie on his/her belly using pillows. One can also lie on their right side (right lateral), left side (left lateral) or sit at a 60–90-degree angle in the 'fowler position'.

Medically, doctors suggest that a patient remain prone for a minimum of 30 minutes to a maximum of 2 hours. This helps improve ventilation to the lungs and hence oxygen levels start improving.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.24) Consider the following statements about Reservation in India

1. At present the maximum reservation provided by central government is within 50%
2. Centre alone has the powers to notify backward classes

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2**
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Explanation: In 1990, the government accepted the recommendations of the Mandal Commission and implemented it. By this, the reservation in India raised to 49.5 per cent.

22.5% reservation for SCs and STs (7.5% for STs, 15% for SCs)

27% reservation for the OBCs

The government under the 103rd Constitution Amendment Act, 2019 again provided a 10% reservation for the EWS in India. The Act also amended Article 15 and 16 correspondingly.

So, at present, the total reservation stands at 59.5 per cent. Few State governments also provide the reservation over and above 59.5 per cent. (Statement 1 is wrong)

The Supreme Court recently declared the Maratha reservation law as unconstitutional. The judgement also upheld the constitutional validity of the 102nd Amendment Act, the President alone has the power to notify backward classes from now on. Further, the Central List will now be the “only list” for the SEBC. This means that the Centre alone is empowered to identify SEBC from now on.

Q.25) Justice M.G. Gaikwad committee was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following is correctly describes the committee?

- a) It is a committee that recommended reservation for Maratha community
- b) It is a committee that recommended the Covid-19 containment plan to contain second wave
- c) It is a committee that recommended reforms to resolve pending cases in Judiciary
- d) It is a committee that recommended steps towards gender equity in judiciary

Explanation: Maharashtra government appointed a nine-member Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission headed by Justice M.G. Gaikwad. The commission recommended reservation for the Marathas in 2018.

In 2018 itself, the Maharashtra government enacted a law, it provides 16 per cent reservation to the Maratha community in jobs and admissions. But recently the Supreme court held that as unconstitutional.

Q.26) Mayflower 400 was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following is correctly describes it?

a) It is a new type of flowering species that provide more honey.

b) It is a new supercomputer that can perform high precision monsoon prediction

c) It is the world’s first Artificial Intelligence (AI) ship which is completely autonomous

d) It is the new giant planet identified in the milky way

Explanation: Mayflower 400 is an unmanned and completely autonomous ship. It is powered by Artificial Intelligence and the Sun’s energy via solar panels.

Purpose: Main aim of this ship is to study marine pollution and analyse plastics in the water. It will also track the aquatic animals. The ship is set to sail on a transatlantic voyage.

Q.27) Consider the following statements related to IPR

1. India is a member of the World Trade Organisation and committed to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Agreement).
2. India is not a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization

Which of the above is/are correct statements?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Explanation: India is a member of the World Trade Organisation and committed to the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Agreement). **THUS STATEMENT 1 IS CORRECT**

• India is also a member of World Intellectual Property Organization, a body responsible for

the promotion of the protection of intellectual property rights throughout the world. **THUS STATEMENT 2 IS INCORRECT**

- India is also a member of the following important WIPO-administered International Treaties and Conventions relating to IPRs.
- Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure
- Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property
- Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization
- Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works
- Patent Cooperation Treaty

Q.28) Consider the following statements related to WTO (World Trade Organization)

1. The (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations
2. It has 164 members and 23 observer governments
3. The WTO's global system lowers trade barriers through negotiation and operates under the principle of non-discrimination.

Which of the above is/are incorrect?

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

d) None of the above

Explanation: The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the

bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments.

- The WTO has 164 members (including European Union) and 23 observer governments (like Iran, Iraq, Bhutan, Libya etc).

Goals of WTO

- The WTO's global system lowers trade barriers through negotiation and operates under the principle of non-discrimination.
- The result is reduced costs of production (because imports used in production are cheaper), reduced prices of finished goods and services, more choice and ultimately a lower cost of living.

Thus, all the above statements are correct

Q.29) In which of the following cases the Supreme Court of India has fixed the upper limit of 50% for reservation?

- a) Kesavananda Bharati Case, 1973
- b) IR Coelho Case, 2007
- c) Puttaswamy Case, 2017

d) Indra Swahney case, 1992

Explanation: In the Indira Sawhney judgment 1992, SC had categorically said 50% shall be the rule, only in certain exceptional and extraordinary situations for bringing far-flung and remote areas' population into mainstream said 50% rule can be relaxed.

The Court upheld the government's move and proclaimed that the advanced sections among the OBCs (i.e, the creamy layer) must be excluded from the list of beneficiaries of reservation. It also held that the concept of creamy layer must be excluded for SCs & STs.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

1. It was constituted upon the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee in 1999.
2. It is a statutory body.
3. It is headquartered in Hyderabad.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) was constituted following the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee report, in 1999. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It was constituted as an autonomous body to regulate and develop the insurance industry.

The IRDAI was incorporated as a statutory body in April 2000. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The key objectives of the IRDA include the promotion of competition so as to enhance customer satisfaction through increased consumer choice and lower premiums while ensuring the financial security of the insurance market.

It is headquartered in Hyderabad. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Q.31) Recently seen in news, the Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station is located in:

- a) Singrauli
- b) Pune

- c) Nagpur
- d) Bhopal

Explanation: Considering the huge surge in COVID-19 cases in India, NTPC Vindhyachal, central Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Power is taking several steps to fight against the spread of the virus. NTPC Vindhya hospital is being used for treating COVID-19 infected employees.

The Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station is located in Singrauli district in Madhya Pradesh.

One of the coal-fired power stations of NTPC, it is the largest power station in India, and the 9th largest coal-fired power station in the world, with an installed capacity of 4,760 MW.

The coal for the power plant is sourced from Nigahi mines, and the water is sourced from the discharge canal of Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station.

The beneficiary states of the project are Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Chhattisgarh, Daman & Diu and Dadar Nagar Haveli.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.32) With reference to the foam path, consider the following statements:

1. A foam path is an aviation safety practice of spreading a layer of fire suppression foam on an airport runway prior to an emergency landing.
2. The International Civil Aviation Organization does not recommend foaming the runway in its Airport Services Manual.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: A medical flight made an emergency belly landing at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai after a wheel of the aircraft separated from its body. Mumbai airport officials sprayed foam on the runway to prevent fire as the Beechcraft VT-JIL aircraft made a belly landing.

A foam path is an aviation safety practice of spreading a layer of fire suppression foam on an airport runway prior to an emergency landing.

Following a crash-landing, liquids leaking from the aircraft, which are not yet burning, start evaporating, thereby resulting in forming an air-vapour mixture that is flammable or even highly explosive.

In such cases, extinguishing foam is used preventively and the liquid is covered with a foam carpet as a vapor barrier.

Airport fire brigades create a foam carpet in order to secure an emergency landing if the landing gear of an aircraft is not extended or is unstable. This is done in order to suppress sparking and burning of any aircraft metals due to friction with the runway surface.

The concerns surrounding use of foam paths

Although originally it was thought that foam paths would prevent fires, the practice is now discouraged.

The International Civil Aviation Organization does not recommend foaming the runway in its Airport Services Manual, stating that the effectiveness of runway foaming is not fully substantiated by the real evidence of operational incident studies.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.33) Consider the following statement about e-Sanjeevani

1. It is a national telemedicine service that offers teleconsultation enabling patient to doctor consultations from the confines of their home

2. This eSanjeevani platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services (eSanjeevani) and (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations

Which of the above is/are correct statements?

a) 1 Only

b) 2 Only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 or 2

Explanation: • It is a national telemedicine service that offers tele-consultations enabling patient to doctor consultations from the confines of their home, as well as doctor to doctor consultations.

• This eSanjeevani platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services viz. Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations

- The former is being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme.
- The telemedicine platform is hosting over 40 online OPDs, more than half of these are speciality OPDs which include Gynaecology, Psychiatry, Dermatology, ENT, Ophthalmology, antiretroviral therapy (ART) for the AIDS/HIV patients, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) etc.

Thus, both the above statement are correct.

Q.34) Consider the following statements about the Central Vista project

1. The project envisages Constructing a triangular Parliament building next to the existing one.
2. North and South Block to be repurposed as museums.

Which of the above is/are correct statements?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Explanation: The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs proposed a Central Vista redevelopment project in 2019.

The project envisages

- Constructing a triangular Parliament building next to the existing one.
- Constructing Common Central Secretariat.

- Revamping of the 3-km-long Rajpath — from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.
- North and South Block to be repurposed as museums.

Thus, both the above options are correct

Q.35) With reference to the Government Securities Acquisition Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is part of RBI's Open Market Operations (OMOs).
2. It will help reduce the difference between the repo rate and the 10-year government bond yield.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to step up purchase of Government Securities (G-Sec) under the Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP) led to the yield on the benchmark 10-year bond falling below 6%.

The RBI, for the year 2021-22, has decided to put in place a secondary market G-SAP 1.0.

It is part of RBI's Open Market Operations (OMOs). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Under the programme, the RBI will commit upfront to a specific amount of Open Market Purchases of G-Secs.

The objective is to avoid volatility in the G-sec market in view of its central role in the pricing of other financial market instruments across the term structure and issuers, both in the public and private sectors.

It will provide certainty to the bond market participants with regard to RBI's commitment of support to the bond market in Financial Year (FY) 2021-2022.

It will help reduce the difference between the repo rate and the 10-year government bond yield. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

That, in turn, will help to reduce the aggregate cost of borrowing for the Centre and states in FY 2021-22.

It will enable a stable and orderly evolution of the yield curve amidst comfortable liquidity conditions.

Q.36) Which of the following factors influence the Southwest Monsoon Formation?

1. Differential heating and cooling of land and water.
2. Presence of the high-pressure area, east of Madagascar.
3. Movement of tropical easterly jet streams over the Indian peninsula.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Factors Influencing Southwest Monsoon Formation:

The differential heating and cooling of land and water creates a low pressure on the landmass of India while the seas around experience comparatively high pressure. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The shift of the position of Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in summer, over the Ganga plain (this is the equatorial trough normally positioned about 5°N of the equator. It is also known as the monsoon-trough during the monsoon season).

The presence of the high-pressure area, east of Madagascar, approximately at 20°S over the Indian Ocean. The intensity and position of this high-pressure area affect the Indian Monsoon. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The Tibetan plateau gets intensely heated during summer, which results in strong vertical air currents and the formation of low pressure over the plateau at about 9 km above sea level.

The movement of the westerly jet stream to the north of the Himalayas and the presence of the tropical easterly jet stream over the Indian peninsula during summer. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Tropical Easterly Jet (African Easterly Jet).

El Nino/Southern Oscillation (SO): Normally when the tropical eastern south Pacific Ocean experiences high pressure, the tropical eastern Indian Ocean experiences low pressure. But in certain years, there is a reversal in the pressure conditions and the eastern Pacific has lower pressure in comparison to the eastern Indian Ocean. This periodic

change in pressure conditions is known as the SO.

Q.37) With reference to Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs), Consider the following statements:

1. ESZs are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
2. It is notified under the 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

Explanation: Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

In case of places with sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches, crucial for landscape linkage, even areas beyond 10 km width can be included in the eco-sensitive zone.

ESZs are notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), under Environment Protection Act, 1986. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Q.38) Arribada, often seen in news, is a:

- a) Folk festival of the Shompen tribe
- b) Plant with medicinal properties
- c) **Mass nesting of Olive Ridley Turtles**

- d) None of the above

Explanation: They are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada. Under this, thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.

The coast of Odisha in India is the largest mass nesting site for the Olive-Ridley. This is followed by the coasts of Mexico and Costa Rica.

Q.39) UDID portal was sometimes seen in news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) It is a new portal for registering medical oxygen demand by people
- b) It is an online portal for registering complaints against government officials
- c) It is an online portal to provide training for newly recruited public servants
- d) **It is the portal that aims to create a National Database for Person with Disabilities**

Explanation: About UDID Portal:

Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities(UDID) project is an initiative of the DEPwD. The project has been under implementation since 2016.

Aim: The aim is to build a holistic end-to-end integrated system for Issuance of Universal ID & Disability Certificates for Persons with Disabilities. This ID will contain their identification and disability details.

Vision: The UDID project aims to create a National Database for PwDs. Further, it aims to issue a Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) to each person with disabilities.

Q.40) Global Innovation Partnership is launched between India and which of the following countries?

- a) The USA
- b) The UK**
- c) Australia
- d) Japan

Explanation: Global Innovation Partnership has been launched by the Government of India and the UK.

Purpose: The GIP will support Indian innovators to scale up their innovations in third countries. Thereby helping innovators to explore new markets and become self-sustainable.

Under GIP, Indian entrepreneurs and innovators will receive seed funding, grants, investments and technical assistance. They will test, scale up and take innovative development Explanations to select developing countries.

Q.41) Long March 5B rocket, often mentioned in news, was developed by:

- a) China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation**
- b) Indian Space Research Organisation
- c) National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- d) None of the above

Explanation: Debris from a Chinese rocket made an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated over the Indian Ocean, with remnants

falling at a location to the west of Maldives.

The debris came from the upper stage of a Long March 5B rocket— China's largest—that had been launched into space on April 29 for putting into orbit a core module of the new Tianhe space station, which is expected to become operational in 2022.

For days, there had been speculation on whether the debris would hit a populated area on the Earth's surface, leading NASA to criticise China over lack of transparency and for "failing to meet responsible standards".

When a rocket is launched, its discarded booster stages re-enter the atmosphere soon after liftoff and harmlessly fall into the ocean— a standard practice.

In this case, however, a 10-floor large vehicle of the rocket weighing 18 metric tonnes went into orbit along with the section of the under-construction space station that it was carrying.

While in orbit, this vehicle kept rubbing against the air at the top of the atmosphere, and the resulting friction caused it to start losing altitude. The piece hurtled through a low-Earth orbit at roughly 25,490 km/hr.

An "uncontrolled re-entry" thus became inevitable, but China did not admit this fact to the world until Sunday, when it said the debris had entered the Earth's atmosphere over the Mediterranean, flown over the Arabian peninsula and crashed near the Maldives at 72.47° East and 2.65° North.

Few expected the debris to harm humans, mainly due to most of it burning up in the

atmosphere, as well as the fact that large parts of the Earth are covered by oceans and massive land areas lie uninhabited.

So, what caused the rocket piece to enter into orbit?

When rockets carry their payload into space, their booster stages that reach orbit fire the engine again after completing their job so as to drop back to Earth and not remain in orbit.

Space agencies plan this process to ensure that such rocket parts end up in uninhabited areas, such as the middle of the ocean.

China chose not to do this for its Long March rocket, leading to its vehicle crashing back uncontrollably. China's plan to launch 10 more missions like this until 2022 to complete the Tianhe has thus sparked worry that pieces from its rockets could end up causing injuries.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.42) EXO-CD24, recently seen in news, is a new coronavirus treatment being developed in:

- a) U.S.A
- b) Israel**
- c) U.K
- d) Japan

Explanation: A new coronavirus treatment being developed in Israel's Tel Aviv's Ichilov Medical Center has successfully completed phase one trials and appears to have helped numerous moderate-to-serious cases of COVID-19 quickly recover from the disease.

Hailing the treatment as a huge breakthrough, the hospital has said that the EXO-CD24 substance had been administered to 30 patients whose conditions were moderate or worse.

It added that all 30 recovered with 29 of them getting well within just three to five days.

The medicine is reported to fight the cytokine storm, which is a potentially lethal immune overreaction to the coronavirus infection that is believed to be responsible for much of the deaths associated with the disease.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q.43) With reference to the CBSE Dost for Life, consider the following statements:

1. It has been designed for students of classes 9 to 12.
2. It provides students information on suggestive course guides after ten plus two, tips on mental health and well-being, a corona guide and rap songs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a new mobile application for psycho social wellness of students and parents.

The new app namely CBSE Dost for Life has been designed for students of classes

9 to 12 and it can be used for counselling sessions from 10th of this month.

Making a departure from the existing practice of counselling through toll free number across the country, board has designed this facility for the ease, convenience and utility of students and parents with in the safe home environment.

Through this app, live counselling sessions will be conducted free of cost on Monday, Wednesday and Friday by the trained counsellors.

The app will also provide students information on suggestive course guides after ten plus two, tips on mental health and well-being, a corona guide and rap songs.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.44) Recently seen in news, a technical group under the chairmanship of Harsh Bhanwala is related to:

a) Social stock exchanges (SSEs)

b) Disinvestment policy of the government

c) Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)

d) Food Policy of India

Explanation: A technical group on social stock exchanges (SSEs), constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has recommended that political and religious organisations, trade organisations as well as corporate foundations should not be allowed to raise funds through SSEs.

Pursuant to an announcement made by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech for FY 2019-20 regarding Social Stock Exchanges SEBI had constituted a Working group and later a technical group under the chairmanship of Harsh Bhanwala, former chairman of NABARD.

The technical group report said both For Profit Enterprise (FPE) and Not for Profit Organisation (NPO) will be eligible to tap the SSE if they are able to show their primary goals are social intent and impact.

Corporate foundations, political or religious organizations/ activities, professional or trade associations, infrastructure and housing companies (except affordable housing) will not be permitted on SSE.

SSE are engaged in at least one of the 15 broad eligible activities. They target underserved or less privileged population segments or regions; and should have at least 67 per cent of its activities qualifying as eligible activities to the target population.

The report has also made a list of eligible activities that social enterprises can engage in such as eradicating hunger, poverty malnutrition and inequality; training to promote rural sports; promoting gender equality by empowerment of women and LGBTQIA+ communities; slum area development/ affordable housing; forest and wildlife conservation; promoting livelihoods for rural and urban poor; promotion of financial inclusion among others.

The panel has recommended different modes of fund raising for NPOs and FPEs.

For NPOs it has recommended fundraising through “equity, zero coupon zero principal bond, development impact bonds, social impact fund with 100 per cent grants-in grants out provision, and donations by investors through mutual funds”.

For FPEs it has recommended fundraising through equity, debt, development impact bonds, and social venture funds.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.45) Consider the following statements about FCRA act 2010

1. Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under the FCRA act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Individuals are also not permitted to accept foreign contributions without the permission of MHA.
3. Under the Act, Organisations are required to register themselves every five years.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010

- Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under FCRA act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Thus statement 1 is correct

- individuals are permitted to accept foreign contributions without permission of MHA. However, the monetary limit for acceptance of such foreign contributions shall be less than Rs. 25,000. Thus statement 2 is incorrect

- The Act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.

- Under the Act, organisations are required to register themselves every five years. Thus statement 3 is correct

Q.46) Tiangong space station is related to which of the following country?

- a) Japan
- b) China**
- c) South Korea
- d) Russia

Explanation: Tiangong ('Heaven's Palace') is China's program to create a modular space station, comparable to Mir. This program is independent and unconnected to any other international space-active countries. The program began in 1992 as Project 921-2.

Q.47) Which of the following is/are correct related to NGO?

1. They have a legal status and are registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860
2. Article 43 and Concurrent List in Entry 28 in the Indian constitution mentions NGO

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Explanation: NGOs refers to not-for-profit organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development.

- These organizations are not a part of the government, have a legal status, and are registered under the specific Act (Societies Registration Act, 1860 in India) of the government.

Constitutional Provisions for NGOs in India

- Article 19(1)(c) on the right to form associations;
- Article 43 which highlights the State's having an endeavor to promote cooperatives in rural areas;
- Concurrent List in Entry 28 mentions about – Charities and charitable institutions, charitable and religious endowments and religious institutions”.

Thus, both the above statements are correct

Q.48) Consider the following about National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)

1. It is commonly known as a 'bad bank'

2. It is jointly created in collaboration with both public and private sector banks.

3. Its creation was announced in the Union budget 2021-22.

4. This is the first Asset management company in Independent India.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3 only**
- d) All of the above

Explanation: National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), the name coined for the bad bank announced in the Budget 2021-22, is expected to be operational in June.

Bad bank refers to a financial institution that takes over bad assets of lenders and undertakes reExplanation.

The new entity is being created in collaboration with both public and private sector banks,

Thus statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

However, statement 4 is incorrect. Other similar companies have been functioning under SARFAESI act for over two decades in India.

Q.49) Consider the following statements:

1. The Dahla dam is built on the Arghandab River.

2. The Dahal dam was constructed by India in Afghanistan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Recently, the Taliban has captured Afghanistan's second-biggest dam-Dahla Dam.

The Dahla Dam is also known as Arghandab Dam. It is built on the Arghandab River. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It is located in the Shah Wali Kot District of Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

It was constructed in 1952 by the USA. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Dams built by India in Afghanistan:

Pact for Construction of Shahtoot Dam on Kabul River.

Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam).

Q.50) Consider the following statements:

1. Methane is produced by the breakdown or decay of organic material.

2. Methane can be introduced into the atmosphere only through natural processes.

3. Methane is more potent greenhouse gas than carbon and stays in the atmosphere for a longer time.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) 2 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: Methane is gas that is found in small quantities in Earth's atmosphere. Methane is the simplest hydrocarbon, consisting of one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms (CH₄). Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. It is flammable, and is used as a fuel worldwide.

Methane is produced by the breakdown or decay of organic material and can be introduced into the atmosphere by either natural processes—such as the decay of plant material in wetlands, the seepage of gas from underground deposits or the digestion of food by cattle—or human activities—such as oil and gas production, rice farming or waste management. Hence, statement 1 is correct but statement 2 is not correct.

Methane is 84 times more potent than carbon and doesn't last as long in the atmosphere before it breaks down. This makes it a critical target for reducing global warming more quickly while simultaneously working to reduce other greenhouse gases. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

It is responsible for creating ground-level ozone, a dangerous air pollutant.

Q.51) Which one of the following is the best description of 'Pegida', that was in the news recently?

a) Monoclonal antibody in treating moderate to severe COVID19 patients.

b) Alternative dwarfing genes in rice.

c) Islamophobic protest movement in Europe.

d) None of the above.

Explanation: German intelligence services recently said they would widen their surveillance of Islamophobic protest movement Pegida in its home state of Saxony, as the group had become “extremist” and “anti-constitutional”.

While Pegida had previously attracted “heterogeneous” support and taken “moderate” positions, it had developed “an increasingly right-wing extremist orientation”, Saxony’s domestic intelligence agency LfV said.

Pegida, which campaigns against what it calls the “Islamisation of the West”, was born in October 2014 with xenophobic marches every Monday evening.

Its protests gained momentum during the refugee crisis of 2015, when Germany became deeply polarised over Chancellor Angela Merkel’s decision to keep the country’s doors open to asylum seekers.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Q.52) With reference to the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC), consider the following statements:

1. According to the recent supreme court observation the Central government and State governments are empowered to identify Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) and include them in the Central List for claiming reservation benefits.

2. The Central List is to be the “only list” for the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: The supreme court said that the Centre alone is empowered to identify Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) and include them in the Central List for claiming reservation benefits.

The President (that is the Central government) alone, to the exclusion of all other authorities, is empowered to identify SEBCs and include them in a list to be published under Article 342A (1), which shall be deemed to include SEBCs in relation to each State and Union Territory for the purposes of the Constitution.

States could only make suggestions to the President or the statutory commissions concerned for inclusion, exclusion or modification of castes and communities to be included in the List.

The Central List is to be the “only list” for the SEBC.

Once published, under Article 342A (1), the list can only be amended through a law enacted by Parliament, by virtue of Article 342A (2).

In the task of identification of SEBCs, the President shall be guided by the Commission (National Commission for Backward Classes) set up under Article 338B; its advice shall also be sought by the State in regard to policies that might be framed by it.

If the commission prepares a report concerning matters of identification, such a report has to be shared with the State

government, which is bound to deal with it, in accordance with provisions of Article 338B.

However, the final determination culminates in the exercise undertaken by the President (i.e. the Central Government, under Article 342A (1).

However, the President's prerogative as far as the identification and inclusion of SEBCs in the List would not affect the States' power to make reservations in favour of particular communities or castes within the ambit of Articles 15 and 16.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.53) With reference to the Amphotericin B injection, consider the following statements:

1. It is used to treat serious and potentially life-threatening viral infections.
2. It is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Acute shortage of anti-fungal injection 'amphotericin' and other anti-fungal medicines used to treat mucormycosis, a life-threatening infection that follows Covid-19 in roughly 30% diabetics, is now adding to difficulties of patients.

Amphotericin B injection is used to treat serious and potentially life-threatening fungal infections. Amphotericin B injection is in a class of medications called antifungals. It works by slowing the growth of fungi that cause infection.

It is typically given by injection into a vein.

Amphotericin B was isolated from *Streptomyces nodosus* in 1955 and came into medical use in 1958. It is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.54) S. Janakiraman advisory group, recently seen in news, is related to:

- a) restructuring of Public Sector Bank
- b) assist the second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA)**
- c) find the problems faced by the farmers
- d) None of the above

Explanation: The Reserve Bank said an advisory group had been constituted to assist the second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA) which was set up by the central bank earlier this month to streamline regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities.

Headed by SBI Managing Director S. Janakiraman, the group will assist the RRA by identifying regulations, guidelines, and returns that can be rationalised.

The group will assist the RRA by identifying areas, regulations, guidelines, returns which can be rationalised and submit reports periodically to RRA containing the recommendations/suggestions.

In 1999, the RBI had set up a Regulations Review Authority (RRA) for reviewing the regulations, circulars, reporting systems, based on the feedback from the public, banks, and financial institutions.

The RBI has set up the second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0), initially for a period of one year from May 01, 2021, with a view to streamline regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities.

Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao was appointed as the Regulations Review Authority.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer

Q.55) With reference to a report titled 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat', consider the following statements:

1. It was released by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. According to the report need to strengthen the payment infrastructure to promote a level playing field for NBFCs and banks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: NITI Aayog and Mastercard recently released a report titled 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat'.

The report identifies challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India and provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens.

Key recommendations in the report include:

Strengthening the payment infrastructure to promote a level playing field for NBFCs and banks.

Digitizing registration and compliance processes and diversifying credit sources to enable growth opportunities for MSMEs.

Building information sharing systems, including a 'fraud repository', and ensuring that online digital commerce platforms carry warnings to alert consumers to the risk of frauds.

Enabling agricultural NBFCs to access low-cost capital and deploy a 'phygital' (physical + digital) model for achieving better long-term digital outcomes. Digitizing land records will also provide a major boost to the sector.

To make city transit seamlessly accessible to all with minimal crowding and queues, leveraging existing smartphones and contactless cards, and aim for an inclusive, interoperable, and fully open system such as that of the London 'Tube'.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q.56) Mount Sinabung, often mentioned in news, is located in:

- a) Italy
- b) Canada
- c) France

d) Indonesia

Explanation: Indonesia's Mount Sinabung, located in the North Sumatra province, erupted in May 2021 belching a massive column of volcanic ash and smoke 3,000 metres (3 km) into the sky.

The volcano has been active since 2010 when it erupted after nearly 400 years of inactivity.

Indonesia is home to many active volcanoes owing to its location in the "Ring of Fire" or the Circum-Pacific Belt — an area along the Pacific Ocean characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.

The Ring of Fire is home to about 75 per cent of the world's volcanoes and about 90 per cent of earthquakes also occur here.

Basically, there are three types of volcanoes — active, dormant or extinct.

An eruption takes place when magma (a thick flowing substance), that is formed when the earth's mantle melts, rises to the surface.

As magma is lighter than rock, it is able to rise through vents and fissures on the surface of the earth. Following eruption, the magma is called lava.

When the magma is runny and thin, gases can easily escape it. In such cases, the magma will flow out towards the surface. However, if the magma is thick and dense and gases cannot escape it, it builds up pressure inside resulting in a violent explosion.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.57) Consider the following statements:

1. The B-1617 variant of coronavirus was first identified in India.
2. It has been classified as a "variant of concern" at the global level by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
3. The term variant of concern (VOC) for SARS-CoV-2 is a category used when mutations in Receptor Binding Domain (RBD) substantially increase binding affinity

Which of the above is/are correct statement?

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

d) All of the above

Explanation: The B-1617 variant of coronavirus, first identified in India, has been classified as a "variant of concern" at the global level by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The term variant of concern (VOC) for SARS-CoV-2 is a category used when mutations in Receptor Binding Domain (RBD) substantially increase binding affinity (e.g., N501Y) in RBD-hACE2 complex (genetic data), while also being linked to rapid spread in human populations (epidemiological data).

Before this, an emerging variant may have been labeled a "variant of interest".

Q.58) Consider the following statements related to OPPI:

1. OPPI was established in 1965 and represents the research-based pharmaceutical companies in India.
2. OPPI's stringent Code of Pharmaceuticals Practices do not bind member companies.

Which of the above is/are correct statement?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Explanation: • The Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) was established in 1965 and represents the research-based pharmaceutical companies in India. Thus statement 1 is correct

• OPPI's stringent Code of Pharmaceuticals Practices binds all our member companies. OPPI has constituted an Ethics & Business Integrity Work Group. Thus statement 2 is incorrect

Q.59) Consider the following statements Regarding Mucormycosis:

1. It is a rare infection caused by protozoa called mucormycetes.
2. The transmission of disease is caused by person-to-person contact.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Mucormycosis is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds (not protozoans) called mucormycetes, which is abundant in the environment. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness.

The types of Mucormycosis are: Rhinocerebral (Sinus and Brain), Pulmonary (Lung), Gastrointestinal, Cutaneous (Skin), and disseminated Mucormycosis.

The transmission of disease occurs through inhalation, inoculation, or ingestion of spores from the environment.

Mucormycosis does not spread between people or between people and animals. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Q.60) Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the Arctic Region?

- a) Canada, Denmark, Russia and the USA together form the core of the Arctic Council.
- b) India's engagement with the Arctic region was established with the signing of the Svalbard Treaty in Paris.
- c) India and China have received the observer status in the Arctic Council.

d) IndARC is India's permanent research station in the Arctic located in Denmark.

Explanation: The Arctic region comprises the Arctic Ocean and parts of countries such as Canada, Denmark (Greenland),

Norway, Russia, USA (Alaska), Finland, Sweden and Iceland.

These countries together form the core of the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum. Hence, option A is correct.

Arctic Council is headquartered in Norway.

India's engagement with the Arctic dates back to 1920 with the signing of the Svalbard Treaty in Paris. Hence, option B is correct.

Since July 2008, India has had a permanent research station in the Arctic called Himadri at NyAlesund, Svalbard Area in Norway. Hence, option D is not correct.

It has also deployed a multi-sensor moored observatory called IndARC in the Kongsfjorden fjord since July 2014.

India received the 'Observer' country status in the Arctic Council in 2013 and is one among the 13 countries across the world, including China, to have that position which was again renewed in 2018. Hence, option C is correct.

Q.61) With reference to Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR), consider the following statements:

1. It will replace the existing Business Responsibility Report (BRR).
2. The BRSR will be applicable on the top 1,000 listed entities by market capitalization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Regulator SEBI came out with disclosure requirements under business responsibility and sustainability reporting, covering environmental, social and governance perspectives, which will be applicable on the top 1,000 listed entities by market capitalisation.

The new report -- Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)-- will replace the existing Business Responsibility Report (BRR).

The move is expected to bring in greater transparency and enable market participants to identify and assess sustainability-related risks and opportunities.

Under BRSR, listed entities need to disclose about an overview of the entity's material ESG (environmental, social and governance) risks and opportunities, approach to mitigate or adapt to the risks along with financial implications of the same.

In addition, sustainability related goals and targets and performance against the same need to mentioned in the report, it added.

Environment related disclosures cover aspects such as resource usage (energy and water), air pollutant emissions, greenhouse (GHG) emissions, transitioning to circular economy, waste generated and waste management practices, bio-diversity.

Social related disclosures would cover the workforce, value chain, communities and consumers.

At communities level, listed entities will have to make disclosures on Social Impact Assessments (SIA), Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Corporate Social Responsibility, among others.

The BRSR will be applicable on the top 1,000 listed entities by market capitalization.

SEBI said the reporting would be on voluntary basis for financial year 2021-22 and on a mandatory basis from 2022-23.

The filing of the BRR containing ESG disclosures was first introduced for listed entities in 2012 and since then, a number of developments have taken place.

With the adoption of the Paris Agreement on climate change and UN sustainable development goals, adapting to and mitigating climate change impact and transitioning to sustainable economies have emerged as major issues globally.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.62) With reference to the Jal Jeevan Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Puducherry has recently become the 'Har Ghar Jal' Union Territory by ensuring that every rural home gets a household tap connection.
2. Puducherry is the first state or UT to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Central Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Puducherry has become the 'Har Ghar Jal' Union Territory by ensuring that every rural home gets a household tap connection.

Puducherry has now become the fourth state or UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Central Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission, JJM.

JJM is a flagship programme of the Union Government, which aims to provide tap water connection to every rural household of the country by 2024.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, in 2021-22, in addition to Rs 50,011 Crore budgetary allocation for JJM, there is also Rs 26,940 Crore assured fund available under the 15th Finance Commission tied-grant to RLB/ PRIs for water & sanitation, matching State share and externally aided as well as State funded projects.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.63) With reference to the Innovators Growth Platform (IGP), consider the following statements:

1. In 2015, Sebi introduced the Institutional Trading Platform (ITP) with a view to facilitate listing of new age start-ups.

2. Innovators Growth Platform (IGP) is aimed at making the platform more accessible to companies in view of the evolving start-up ecosystem.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: With an aim to boost listing of start-ups, markets regulator SEBI has notified a slew of relaxations to norms, including reducing holding period for pre-issue capital and allowing discretionary allotment to eligible investors.

The changes have been made to the framework for listing on the Innovators Growth Platform (IGP).

This comes after the board of SEBI approved a proposal in March in this regard.

Other relaxations include easing delisting requirements and relaxation in guidelines for migrating to the main board.

This is aimed at making the platform more accessible to companies in view of the evolving start-up ecosystem.

The regulator has reduced the period of holding of 25 per cent of pre-issue capital of the issuer company by eligible investors to one year from the current requirement of two years.

The term 'Accredited Investor' for the purpose of IGP is renamed as 'Innovators Growth Platform Investors'. Such investor's pre-issue shareholding would be considered for entire 25 per cent of the

pre-issue capital of the issuer company against the present limit of only 10 per cent.

In 2015, Sebi introduced the Institutional Trading Platform (ITP) with a view to facilitate listing of new age start-ups. However, the ITP framework failed to evince interest. Last year, Sebi renamed it as the Innovators Growth Platform.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.64) With reference to the Sheikh Zayed Book Award, consider the following statements:

1. It is a literary award begun in the Qatar.

2. The "Cultural Person of the Year" is the premier category, it includes an award of one million Dirhams.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Prominent German philosopher Juergen Habermas had turned down the Sheikh Zayed Book Award over its ties "with the existing political system" in the UAE, a hereditarily ruled country long criticised for its suppression of dissent.

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award is a literary award begun in the UAE.

The award is named after Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first president of the UAE when the federation of seven sheikhdoms became a country in 1971.

While describing itself as an “independent” initiative, the prize is administered by Abu Dhabi culture and tourism authorities.

The "Cultural Person of the Year" is the premier category, it includes an award of one million Dirhams (around \$300,000) while the other categories receive around \$200,000 each.

Mr. Habermas was named the Cultural Personality of the Year, a distinction that carries a cash prize of 1 million dirhams.

Mr. Habermas’ influential writings on human rights, morality and democracy, among other topics, have stirred debate in Germany and beyond.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.65) With reference to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 1993.
2. It is in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the protection of human rights held in Paris in 1991.
3. It is a constitutional body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant, a former Supreme Court judge, has

been appointed the Acting Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) with effect from April 25, the commission said on Monday.

NHRC was established in 1993. It is in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the protection of human rights held in Paris in 1991.

Status: It is a statutory organization established under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.

It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Functions:

The purpose of the NHRC is, suo moto or through the petition of a person, to investigate the violation of human rights or the failures of the state or other to prevent a human rights violation.

The commissions may also take on research about human rights, create awareness campaigns through various mediums, and encourage the work of NGOs.

Composition:

The Commission consists of a Chairperson, four full-time Members and four deemed Members.

The statute lays down qualifications for the appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission. A Chairperson, should be retired Chief Justice of India.

Justice Pant was appointed a member of the NHRC on April 22, 2019.

The post of Chairperson has been vacant since the former Chief Justice of India H.L.

Dattu completed his tenure on December 2.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q.66) With reference to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), consider the following statements:

1. It recently proposed to rationalise the definition of 'promoter group' and move to the concept of 'person in control' as well as lower the minimum lock-in periods for promoters and other shareholders after an IPO.

2. The current definition of 'promoter group' focusses on encompassing holdings by a common group of individuals or persons and often results in including unrelated companies with common financial investors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed to rationalise the definition of 'promoter group' and move to the concept of 'person in control' as well as lower the minimum lock-in periods for promoters and other shareholders after an IPO.

SEBI has suggested rationalising the definition of 'promoter group' as the current definition focusses on encompassing holdings by a common group of individuals or persons and often

results in including unrelated companies with common financial investors.

The regulator has proposed to do away with the current definition of promoter group as the deletion would rationalise the disclosure burden and bring it in line with the post listing disclosure requirement.

Citing the changing investor landscape, SEBI said there was a need to revisit the concept of 'promoter' to a concept of 'person in control' and a period of three years has been proposed for such a shift over in a smooth and progressive manner without causing disruption.

With regard to lock-in periods, SEBI has proposed that if the objective of the issue involves offer for sale or financing other than for capital expenditure for a project, then the minimum promoters' contribution of 20% should be locked-in for one year from the date of allotment in the Initial Public Offer (IPO). Currently, the lock-in period is three years.

SEBI has sought comments from the public on the proposals, the window being open till June 10.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.67) Which one of the following is the best description of 'Bennu', that was in the news recently?

a) Asteroid

b) Exoplanet

c) Cryptocurrency

d) None of the above

Explanation: On May 11, NASA's Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource

Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft will depart asteroid Bennu, and start its two-year long journey back to Earth.

Bennu is an asteroid located about 200 million miles away from the Earth.

Bennu is named after an Egyptian deity. The asteroid was discovered by a team from the NASA-funded Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research team in 1999.

Bennu is a B-type asteroid, implying that it contains significant amounts of carbon and various other minerals.

Significance of bennu

Bennu is considered to be an ancient asteroid that has not gone through a lot of composition-altering change through billions of years, which means that below its surface lie chemicals and rocks from the birth of the solar system.

Therefore, scientists and researchers are interested in studying this asteroid as it might give them clues about the origins of the solar system, the sun, the Earth and the other planets.

OSIRIS-Rex

OSIRIS-REx is NASA's first mission to visit a near-Earth asteroid, survey its surface and collect a sample from it.

The mission is essentially a seven-year-long voyage and will conclude when at least 60 grams of samples are delivered back to the Earth. The mission promises to bring the largest amount of extraterrestrial material back to our planet since the Apollo era.

The mission was launched in 2016, it reached its target in 2018 and since then, the spacecraft has been trying to match

the velocity of the asteroid using small rocket thrusters. It also utilised this time to survey the surface and identify potential sites to take samples.

The spacecraft contains five instruments meant to explore Bennu including cameras, a spectrometer and a laser altimeter.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.68) Consider the following statements related to Moody's rating agency

1. It is an organization that rates the creditworthiness of borrowers.
2. Moody's rates debt securities in several bond market segments such as government bonds, fixed-income funds but not in banking sectors.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Explanation: • Moody's Investors Service, is an organization that rates the creditworthiness of borrowers. The ratings are based on a standardized rating scale and measure the expected investor loss in the event of default. Thus statement 1 is correct

• Moody's rates debt securities in several bond market segments such as government bonds, fixed-income funds, banking sectors, etc. Thus statement 2 is incorrect

Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

1. The PLI scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on imports by providing cash incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in India.
2. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is the single nodal ministry for the implementation of the PLI scheme.
3. Adding any new sector for PLI scheme will require approval of the Union Cabinet.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Production-linked incentive scheme (PLI), instituted in April 2020 for large-scale electronics manufacturing in India, has gained significant traction over the past year. It offers a simple and direct incentive based on incremental sales, designed to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phone and specified electronic component manufacturing units. In November 2020, the PLI scheme was extended to ten more sectors, including food processing, battery storage, automobile components and specialty steel.

The new sectors included under the PLI scheme will be implemented by the respective ministries.

Q.70) Consider the following statements.

1. Central government can add or remove a commodity as essential commodity in consultation with state governments, if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in public interest, can notify an item as essential.
2. Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020 has added cereals, pulses and oilseeds under the purview of the Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The Centre, if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in public interest, can notify an item as essential, in consultation with state governments.

Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 removes foodstuff such as cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, from the list of essential commodities, removing stockholding limits on agricultural items produced by Horticulture techniques except under “extraordinary circumstances.

Q.71) Which of the following statements regarding voluntary organizations is incorrect?

1. An NGO can receive a foreign contribution under five purposes — social, educational, religious, economic and cultural.

2. It is mandatory for all NGOs from April 1, 2021, to link an SBI account in Delhi with Aadhaar to receive donations.

3. It is mandatory for an NGO to file income tax returns.

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 Only

c) 3 Only

d) All of the above 3 are correct

Explanation: Following are the regulation for NGOs in India

Voluntary Organisations (Regulation) Act, 2016: For mandatory registration of all NGOs and a regulatory board.

Registered NGOs can receive foreign contribution under five purposes — social, educational, religious, economic and cultural.

Foreign Exchange

Contribution(Regulation) Act(FERA), 1976:

An FCRA registration is mandatory for NGOs to receive foreign funds. There are 22,591 FCRA-registered NGOs.

It regulates all grants, gifts & donations from NRIs. It mandates that All eligible NGOs should receive donations from abroad in a single designated bank account.

FCRA amendment enacted in September 2020: the NGOs registered under the Act were asked to open a designated bank account at the SBI, Delhi and compulsorily register the Aadhaar details of the chief functionaries, trustees and office-bearers.

All the existing FCRA accounts of the NGOs will be linked to the SBI account in Delhi, and while they may not be able to

receive fresh foreign funds from April 1 in the existing accounts, they could utilise the money that already exists in the old account.

Filing Income tax returns: CBI records filed in SC show that 2.90 Lakh NGOs of the about 30Lakh registered NGOs(10%) under Societies registration act file annual financial statements.

Q.72) Consider the following statements related to NGO

1. Only 16% of registered NGOs have active bank accounts with the State Bank of India's main branch in Delhi

2. FCRA enacted in 2020, that the NGOs registered under the Act were asked to open a designated bank account at the SBI

Which of the above is/are correct statements?

a) 1 Only

b) 2 Only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 or 2

Explanation: Only 16% registered NGOs have active bank accounts with the State Bank of India's main branch in Delhi, a compulsory requirement to receive foreign funds from April 1, according to submission made by a non-governmental organisation in the Delhi High Court

- According to the amended provisions of the FCRA enacted in September 2020, the NGOs registered under the Act were asked to open a designated bank account at the SBI, Delhi and compulsorily register the Aadhaar details of the chief functionaries, trustees and office-bearers.

Thus, both the above statements are correct

Q.73) Consider the following statements:

1. The OSIRIS-REx is NASA's first mission to visit a near-Earth asteroid.
2. The OSIRIS-REx spacecraft was launched in 2016 for the journey to Bennu asteroid.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Recently, NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft departed from asteroid Bennu, and started its two-year long journey back to Earth.

The OSIRIS-REx is NASA's first mission to visit a near-Earth asteroid. It is the United States' first asteroid sample return mission, aiming to collect and carry a pristine, unaltered sample from an asteroid back to earth for scientific study. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) spacecraft was launched in 2016 for the journey to Bennu. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The mission is essentially a seven-year-long voyage and will conclude when at least 60 grams of samples are delivered back to the Earth (in 2023).

As per the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the mission promises to bring the largest amount of

extraterrestrial material back to the Earth since the Apollo era.

The spacecraft contains five instruments meant to explore Bennu including cameras, a spectrometer and a laser altimeter.

Recently, the spacecraft's robotic arm called the Touch-And-Go Sample Acquisition Mechanism (TAGSAM), made an attempt to "TAG" the asteroid at a sample site and collected a sample.

Q.74) Consider the following statements:

1. Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. The MPLAD scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
3. The nominated members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha do not get benefits of the MPLAD scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) is a Central Sector Scheme. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It was announced in December 1993 and initially came under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development. Later, in October 1994, it was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme

Implementation. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Each year, MPs receive Rs. 5 crore in two instalments of Rs. 2.5 crore each. Funds under MPLAD Scheme are non-lapsable.

Objective:

To enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs to be taken up in their Constituencies.

Lok Sabha Members can recommend works within their constituencies and elected Members of Rajya Sabha can recommend works within the State they are elected from.

Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

To create durable assets of national priorities viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc.

Since June 2016, the MPLAD funds can also be used for implementation of the schemes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Accessible India Campaign (Sugama Bharat Abhiyan), conservation of water through rain water harvesting and Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana, etc.

The Union Cabinet has given its nod to the temporary suspension of MPLAD Funds during 2020-21 and 2021-22 in view of the adverse impact of the outbreak of Covid-19 in India.

Q.75) Galathea Bay, often mentioned in news, is located in:

a) Kerala

b) Gujarat

c) Lakshadweep

***d) Great Nicobar Island**

Explanation: The Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) - Infrastructure I of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has flagged serious concerns about NITI Aayog's ambitious project for Great Nicobar Island.

The committee has, however, removed the first hurdle faced by the project. It has "recommended" it "for grant of terms of reference (TOR)" for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies, which in the first instance will include baseline studies over three months.

Documents uploaded recently on the MoEFCC's Parivesh portal show that the 15-member committee headed by marine biologist and former director, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Deepak Apte, made the decision.

The proposal includes an international container transshipment terminal, a greenfield international airport, a power plant and a township complex spread over 166 sq. km. (mainly pristine coastal systems and tropical forests), and is estimated to cost ₹75,000 crore.

This includes Galathea Bay, the site of the port and the centrepiece of the NITI Aayog proposal.

Galathea Bay is an iconic nesting site in India of the enigmatic Giant Leatherback, the world's largest marine turtle.

A number of species are restricted to just the Galathea region. These include the

critically endangered Nicobar shrew, the Great Nicobar crane, the Nicobar frog, the Nicobar cat snake, a new skink (*Lipinia* sp), a new lizard (*Dibamus* sp,) and a snake of the *Lycodon* sp that is yet to be described.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.76) Which of the following are the identified animal corridors in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve?

1. Amguri
2. Bagori
3. Kanchanjuri

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

Explanation: The authorities in Assam's Golaghat and Nagaon districts have begun probing cases of clearance of forest land, digging and construction activities on at least three animal corridors within the eco-sensitive zone of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

These two districts share large swathes of the 1,300-sq. km. tiger reserve that has nine identified animal corridors.

Seven of these — Amguri, Bagori, Chirang, Deosur, Harmati, Hatidandi and Kanchanjuri — are in Nagaon district while Haldibari and Panbari corridors are in Golaghat district.

These corridors are crucial for the rhinos, elephants, tigers, deer and other animals

that escape a flooded Kaziranga during the monsoon months for the safety of the hills of Karbi Anglong district beyond the highway skirting the southern boundary of the tiger reserve.

But the most blatant violation has been on the Kanchanjuri animal corridor in Nagaon district. A patch of forest land has been cleared and a section of a tea plantation dug up apparently for a water reservoir.

Kaziranga National Park is located in the Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Nagaon districts of the state of Assam. The sanctuary, which hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses, is a World Heritage Site.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.77) Variants of Concern (VoC) & Variant of High Consequence were recently in news. In this respect, consider the statements below:

1. VoC is classified when there is clear evidence that prevention measures or medical countermeasures do not work on curbing the virus compared to other variants.

2. A variant of high consequence would require notification to WHO under the International Health Regulations

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2**
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: This is how Variant of high Consequence is classified, not VoC

Statement 2 is correct: This is true. A variant of high consequence would require notification to WHO under the International Health Regulations, reporting to CDC, an announcement of strategies to prevent or contain transmission, and recommendations to update treatments and vaccines.

Q.78) Consider the following statement regarding Bamboo

1. Bamboo often termed as green gold
2. The National Bamboo mission was launched by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Explanation: Bamboo is called green gold because it is becoming increasingly more valuable in the global economy

The National Bamboo mission was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Objectives of the mission:

To increase the area under bamboo plantation in non-forest Government and private lands. This is to supplement farm income and contribute towards resilience to climate change.

To improve post-harvest management through the establishment of innovative primary processing units. These units were particularly located near the source of production, primary treatment, and seasoning plants, and market infrastructure.

Further, to promote product development at micro, small and medium levels and feed bigger industry.

To rejuvenate the underdeveloped bamboo industry in India.

Q.79) HakkiPikki Tribe is related to which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Karnataka**
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Explanation: The HakkiPikki tribes are semi nomadic tribal people. They have four clans namely the Gujrathioa, Kaliwala, Mewara and Panwara.

They speak many south Indian languages such as Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam along with Vagribooli which is similar to Gujarati.

The HakkiPikki, meaning “bird catchers” in Kannada.

It is a Scheduled Tribe in Karnataka.

Origin and History:

The origin of HakkiPikki tribal communities has a rich history and is said to be an ancestral relation with the legendary Ranapratap Singh.

The HakkiPikki tribal community are a Kshatriya or warrior tribal community who had to migrate to southern India after their defeat with Mughal kings.

Recently, some people of the HakkiPikki Tribe survived Covid-19 pandemic.

Q.80) Consider the following statement regarding Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency(IREDA)

1. It is a Non-Banking Financial Company(NFBC) with Reserve Bank of India(RBI).
2. It is the only dedicated institution for financing Renewable Energy (RE) & Energy Efficiency (EE) projects in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2**
- d) None of the above

Explanation: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency(IREDA) is a Mini Ratna Enterprise of the Government of India. It was founded in 1987.

Purpose: IREDA promotes, develops, and extends financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy.

Nodal Ministry: It comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Registered under: IREDA has been notified as a Public Financial Institution under Companies Act,1956. It is registered as

Non-Banking Financial Company(NFBC) with Reserve Bank of India(RBI).

Motto: IREDA's Motto is "Energy for Ever."

Significance: It is the only dedicated institution for financing Renewable Energy (RE) & Energy Efficiency (EE) projects in India.

Q.81) Who among the following created history by becoming the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games?

- a) Bhavani Devi**
- b) Mary Kom
- c) P.V. Sindhu
- d) Mithali Raj

Explanation: Sabre Fencer Bhavani Devi, who created history by becoming the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympic Games, said she was looking forward to giving off her best performance in Tokyo2020.

Chadalavada Anandha Sundhararaman Bhavani Devi, who is widely known as Bhavani Devi (born 1993), is an Indian sabre(fencer).

She is the first Indian fencer to ever qualify for the Olympics after qualifying for the 2021 Tokyo Games.

She is supported by GoSports Foundation through the Rahul Dravid Athlete Mentorship Programme.

Bhavani was born into a middle-class family in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.82) With reference to the 'Indicative Notes', consider the following statements:

1. It is aimed at providing concise summaries of landmark judgments in an easy-to-understand format.
2. This will serve as a useful resource for media persons and the general public who wish to be better informed about the rulings of the court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana launched a new feature in the Supreme Court's official website called 'Indicative Notes'.

This feature is aimed at providing concise summaries of landmark judgments in an easy-to-understand format.

This will serve as a useful resource for media persons and the general public who wish to be better informed about the rulings of the court.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.83) With reference to the house arrests in India, consider the following statements:

1. Currently India is placing convicts under house arrest to avoid overcrowding of prisons.

2. The number of undertrial prisoners in 2019 constituted 69.05% of the total number of prisoners.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The Supreme Court has thrown open the door to the legislature to "ponder" over the idea of placing convicts under house arrest to avoid overcrowding of prisons.

A Bench of Justices U.U. Lalit and K.M. Joseph, in a judgment, highlighted the "alarming" statistics of prisons. The suggestion is relevant considering the spread of COVID-19.

A few days ago, a Bench, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, issued a series of directions, including the grant of interim bail and parole to prisoners to decongest prisons.

Justice Joseph said the occupancy rate in prisons had climbed to 118.5% in 2019. The court referred to the National Crime Records Bureau's figures of 2019 to show that 18,86,092 inmates were admitted in jails.

The number of undertrial prisoners in 2019 was 3,30,487, which, in fact, constituted 69.05% of the total number of prisoners. Secondly, a very large sum (₹6818.1 crore) was the budget for prisons.

The "tremendous" overcrowding of prisons and the huge budget were both

“relevant in the context of the possibilities that house arrest offers”, the court noted.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.84) With reference to the Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), consider the following statements:

1. Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) is not under the direct supervision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. HFCs base their lending rates on prime lending rate (PLR) and offer a discount on it to customers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Even as Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) have come under the direct supervision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) since August 2019, existing home loan customers are getting differential treatment from banks and HFCs.

Over the last 18 months to 5 years, if bank customers have seen better transmission of rate cuts in their home loan rates on account of cut in marginal cost of lending rate (MCLR), HFC customers have had limited benefit because of relatively smaller cuts in the prime lending rate (PLR).

While HFCs and banks compete hard on rates to attract new customers, the cut in rates for existing customers depends on

the reduction in MCLR by banks and in PLR by HFCs in response to a repo cut by RBI.

HFCs base their lending rates on PLR and offer a discount on it to customers. While the discount is fixed for the term of the loan, an upward or downward revision in PLR (in line with repo rate movement) impacts the lending rate of the existing customer. As for new customers, the HFC can increase the discount on the PLR to offer a more attractive rate. A cut in PLR is reflected in the effective rate for the customer within three months.

In the case of banks, lending rates are based on either MCLR or on the repo rate (since October 2019).

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.85) With reference to the Sovereign Gold Bonds scheme 2021-22, consider the following statements:

1. The minimum permissible investment will be one gram of gold.
2. The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option after 5th year to be exercised on the next interest payment dates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The Central Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds.

The Sovereign Gold Bonds will be issued in six tranches from 17th May to September 2021.

The Bonds will be sold through Scheduled Commercial banks (except Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices, and recognised stock exchanges viz., National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited.

The minimum permissible investment will be one gram of gold.

Investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50 percent per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value.

The Bonds will be restricted for sale to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions.

The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option after 5th year to be exercised on the next interest payment dates.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.86) Consider the following statements:

1. S-400 TRIUMF is India's Surface to Air Missile system (SAM) designed by Russia.
2. Ashwin Advanced Air Defence Interceptor Missile is a supersonic ballistic interceptor missile developed by DRDO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: India has S-400 TRIUMF is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It has an air defence bubble to knock off threats.

The system can engage all types of aerial targets within the range of 400km, at an altitude of up to 30km.

The system can track 100 airborne targets and engage six of them simultaneously.

Ashwin Advanced Air Defence Interceptor Missile is an indigenously produced Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor missile developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

It is the advanced version of the low altitude supersonic ballistic interceptor missile. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The missile also has its own mobile launcher, secure data link for interception, independent tracking and homing capabilities and sophisticated radars.

It uses an endo-spheric (within the Earth's atmosphere) interceptor that knocks out ballistic missiles at a maximum altitude of 60,000 to 100,000 feet, and across a range between 90 and 125 miles.

Q.87) The 'Al-Aqsa Mosque' recently seen in the news is located in?

- a) Kabul
- b) Jerusalem
- c) Damascus
- d) Amman

Explanation: Recently, Israeli armed forces attacked Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Haram esh-Sharif in Jerusalem, ahead of a march by Zionist nationalists commemorating Israel's capture of the eastern half of the city in 1967. Hence, option B is correct.

Al-Aqsa Mosque is one of the holiest structures in the Islamic faith. It sits inside a 35-acre site known by Muslims as Haram al-Sharif, or the Noble Sanctuary, and by Jews as the Temple Mount.

The site is part of the Old City of Jerusalem, sacred to Christians, Jews and Muslims.

It is believed to have been completed early in the eighth century and faces the Dome of the Rock, the golden-domed Islamic shrine that is a widely recognized symbol of Jerusalem.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, has classified the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls as a World Heritage Site.

Q.88) Consider the following statements:

1. Article 311 of the Indian Constitution provides protection to Civil servants of Union and State along with defence personnel.

2. The Civil servants of the Union and State work at the pleasure of the President of 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

Explanation: Article 311 (1) says that no government employee either of an all India service or a state government shall be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to the one that appointed him/her.

Article 311 (2) says that no civil servant shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which s/he has been informed of the charges and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.

People Protected under Article 311: The members of

Civil service of the Union,

All India Service, and

Civil service of any State,

People who hold a civil post under the Union or any State.

The protective safeguards given under Article 311 are applicable only to civil servants, i.e. public officers. They are not available to defence personnel. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Article 309 empowers the Parliament and the State legislature to regulate the recruitment, and conditions of service of persons appointed, to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of any State respectively.

According to Article 310, except for the provisions provided by the Constitution, a civil servant of the Union works at the pleasure of the President and a civil servant under a State works at the pleasure of the Governor of that State (English doctrine of Pleasure). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

But this power of the Government is not absolute.

Article 311 puts certain restrictions on the absolute power of the President or Governor for dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of an officer.

Q.89) Which of the following is/are correct about NRI and OCI?

1. NRI is given to provide a residential status to a citizen of India with an Indian Passport who resides in a foreign country for the purpose of work/business, or education.

2. OCI is an immigration status which is provided to a foreign citizen of Indian origin

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) None of the above

Explanation: • NRI is given to provide a residential status to a citizen of India with an Indian Passport who resides in a foreign country for the purpose of work/business, or education.

• OCI is an immigration status which is provided to a foreign citizen of Indian origin as an alternative for dual citizenship which is not allowed by the Indian Constitution.

Thus, both the statement are correct

Q.90) Which of the following is a correct description of the Russian term 'Sputnik - V'?

a) It is a Russian Rocket developed by Roscosmos.

b) It is fusion nuclear energy module developed by Rusatom

c) It is a vaccine developed by Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology

d) Both options 'a' and 'c'

Explanation: Sputnik V is a viral vector vaccine for COVID-19 developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology. Registered on 11 August 2020 by the Russian Ministry of Health as Gam-COVID-Vac. Thus statement a is correct.

Sputnik 1, 2 and 3 are Russian heavy lift launch vehicles. However, there is no Sputnik V rocket developed till now. Thus, statement c is correct.

Q.91) Which of the following is/are not a native species in India?

1. Red-eared sliders

2. Blackbuck

3. Pygmy hog

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

Explanation: A 'cute' American turtle popular as pet is threatening to invade the natural water bodies across the Northeast, which is home to 21 of the 29 vulnerable native Indian species of freshwater turtles and tortoises.

Between August 2018 and June 2019, a team of herpetologists from the NGO 'Help Earth' found red-eared sliders in the Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary and the Ugratara temple pond — both in Guwahati.

The red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) derives its name from red stripes around the part where its ears would be and from its ability to slide quickly off any surface into the water.

Native to the U.S. and northern Mexico, this turtle is an extremely popular pet ... But on the flip side they grow fast and virtually leave nothing for the native species to eat.

Much like the Burmese python that went to the U.S. as a pet to damage the South Florida Everglades ecosystem, the red-eared slider has already affected States such as Karnataka and Gujarat, where it has been found in 33 natural water bodies.

But more than elsewhere in India, preventing this invasive species from overtaking the Brahmaputra and other river ecosystems in the Northeast is crucial because the Northeast is home to more than 72% of the turtle and tortoise species in the country, all of them very rare.

The blackbuck is the sole extant member of the genus *Antelope* found in India. The antelope is native to and found mainly in India (with small population in Nepal and

Pakistan), while it is extinct in Bangladesh. IUCN status is Least Concern.

The pygmy hog is the only member of its genus, *Porcula*, and one of the most endangered mammals in the world. It is endemic to India. The species was originally found in the narrow belt of tall alluvial grasslands that runs across the southern edge of the Himalayas in the Indian subcontinent.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.92) With reference to the Iron Dome system, consider the following statements:

1. It is a multi-mission system capable of intercepting rockets, artillery, mortars and Precision Guided Munitions over short ranges of up to 200 km.
2. It is an all-weather system and can engage multiple targets simultaneously and be deployed over land and sea.
3. It is manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems and has been in service with Israeli Air Force since 2011.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The Iron Dome aerial defence system intercepted a Hamas Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) that crossed from Gaza into Israel, Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said on social media.

Iron Dome is a multi-mission system capable of intercepting rockets, artillery, mortars and Precision Guided Munitions like very short range air defence (V-SHORAD) systems as well as aircraft, helicopters and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) over short ranges of up to 70 km.

It is an all-weather system and can engage multiple targets simultaneously and be deployed over land and sea.

Iron Dome is manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems and has been in service with Israeli Air Force since 2011. The radar system was developed by Elta.

Its development was prompted after a series of rocket attacks on Israel by Hezbollah and Hamas in the 2000s.

An Iron Dome battery consists of a battle management control unit, a detection and tracking radar and a firing unit of three vertical launchers, with 20 interceptor missiles each.

The interceptor missile uses a proximity fuse to detonate the target warhead in the air.

The Iron Dome is deployed in a layered defence along with David's Sling and Arrow missile defence system which are designed for medium- and long-range threats.

The I-DOME is the mobile variant with all components on a single truck and C-DOME is the naval version for deployment on ships.

Benefits

One of the system's important advantages is its ability to identify the anticipated point of impact of the threatening rocket, to calculate whether it will fall in a built-

up area or not, and to decide on this basis whether or not to engage it.

This prevents unnecessary interception of rockets that will fall in open areas and thus not cause damage, the paper states.

The system has intercepted thousands of rockets so far and, according to Rafael, its success rate is over 90%.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Q.93) The Gaza Strip is located on the eastern coast of:

- a) Red Sea
- b) Dead Sea
- c) Arabian Sea

d) Mediterranean Sea

Explanation: Israel bombarded Gaza with artillery and air strikes following a new barrage of rocket fire from the Hamas-run enclave, intensifying a conflict that has claimed more than 120 lives.

The Gaza Strip or simply Gaza, is a self-governing Palestinian territory.

It is located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, that borders Egypt on the southwest and Israel on the east and north border.

Gaza and the West Bank are claimed by the de jure sovereign State of Palestine. The territories of Gaza and the West Bank are separated from each other by Israeli territory.

Both fell under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, but the strip has since the Battle of Gaza in June 2007 been governed by Hamas, a Palestinian fundamentalist militant Islamic

organization which came to power in the last-held elections in 2006.

It has been placed under an Israeli and US-led international economic and political boycott from that time onwards.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.94) With reference to the elephant casualties on railway lines, consider the following statements:

1. A total of 186 elephants were killed after being hit by trains across India between 2009-10 and 2020-21, according to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

2. According to the Ministry of Environment Kerala accounted for the highest number of elephant casualties on railway tracks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: A total of 186 elephants were killed after being hit by trains across India between 2009-10 and 2020-21, according to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Assam accounted for the highest number of elephant casualties on railway tracks (62), followed by West Bengal (57), and Odisha (27). Uttar Pradesh saw just one death.

Measures taken to avoid elephant casualties on railway lines

A Permanent Coordination Committee was constituted between the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) and the MoEFCC for preventing elephant deaths in train accidents.

Clearing of vegetation along railway tracks to enable clear view for loco pilots, setting up underpass/overpass for safe passage of elephants, regulation of train speed from sunset to sunrise in vulnerable stretches, and regular patrolling of vulnerable stretches of railway tracks are among other initiatives the Ministry has undertaken.

The MoEFCC released ₹212.49 crore to elephant range States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) of Project Elephant to protect elephants, their habitat and corridors, to address man-elephant conflicts, and for the welfare of captive elephants, between 2011-12 and 2020-21.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.95) Malerkotla, the newly formed district is in:

- a) Punjab
- b) Gujarat
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Bihar

Explanation: Punjab Chief Minister announced the creation of a new district of Malerkotla, carving the state's only Muslim-majority town from Sangrur district.

Malerkotla will be the 23rd district of the State.

Adjoining Amargarh and Ahmedgarh will also form part of Malerkotla district.

Initially the sub-divisions of Malerkotla and Ahmedgarh, as well as the sub-tehsil of Amargarh, would be included in the newly created district. The process of bringing villages under the jurisdiction of Malerkotla district would begin later, after the conclusion of census operations.

Tracing the town's history, the chief minister said it was established in 1454 by Sheikh Sadruddin-i-Jahan from Afghanistan and subsequently the State of Malerkotla was established in 1657 by Bayazid Khan.

Malerkotla was later merged with other nearby princely states to create the Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU).

During the reorganisation of states in 1956, the territory of the erstwhile State of Malerkotla became part of Punjab.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.96) Particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG) like Bonda, Birhor and Chuktia Bhunjia are located in which of the following state?

- a) Odisha
- b) Kerala
- c) Sikkim
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Explanation: With the second wave of COVID-19 sweeping across the rural heartland of Odisha, infections are being reported among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

As many as 21 tribals across eight different PVTGs in the State have so far tested positive, including two from the Bonda tribe, known for its secluded lifestyle. Bonda people live in highlands, 3,500-feet above sea level, in Malkangiri, the southern-most district of Odisha.

Four members of Dongria Kondh, another PVTG, have tested positive in Parasali panchayat of Kalyansinghpur block in Rayagada district.

Odisha has among the largest and most diverse tribal populations in the country.

Of the 62 tribal groups residing in Odisha, 13 are recognised as PVTGs.

According to the 2011 Census, Odisha's share of the country's total tribal population was 9%. Tribals constitute 22.85% of State's population.

The PVTGs in the states are Bonda, Birhor, Chuktia Bhunjia, Didayi, Dongaria Kandha, Hill Kharia, Juang, Kutia Kondh, Lanjia Saora, Lodha, Mankirdia, Paudi Bhuyan and Saora.

These PVTGs have been identified on the basis of stagnant or diminishing populations, subsistence level of economy associated with pre-agricultural stages of hunting, food gathering and shifting cultivation, and relative physical isolation.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.97) What is bromadiolone, recently seen in news?

- a) A rodenticide meant to kill rats and mice.
- b) An inflammatory disease of the liver.
- c) A blood-borne virus.

d) None of the above.

Explanation: The government of New South Wales (NSW) in Australia has recently extended a support package of \$50 million to farmers to deal with a devastating mouse plague that has affected farmers, community members and residents.

To control the plague, the government has now authorised the use of an otherwise outlawed poison called bromadiolone.

The current plague is being called one of the worst plagues in decades and started being reported around mid-March in Australia's eastern states.

In some places, residents of affected areas reported mice falling out from roof tops causing "mice rain".

Researchers attributes the plague to an unusually abundant grain harvest, which caused a surplus of mice earlier in the season.

Add to this the fact that mice have a short breeding cycle (a pair of breeding mice can give birth to a new litter every 21 days or so) and are not very choosy about food. Rodents (which includes rats and mice) are the second most successful mammals on the planet after humans.

Rodents are capable of destroying food grains and can cause widespread damage to domestic households, commercial businesses, farms, manufacturers and livestock. Further, rodents can not only gnaw through materials but can also ruin supplies by excreting on them.

Rodents can also cause diseases such as leptospirosis and typhus fever. They can

also carry fleas or ticks that can harm pets and humans.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.98) What cannot be the impact of Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) decision of not allowing 10-year bond yields to rise above Six percent?

a) It would limit the Market-to-Market(MTM) losses of the banks on existing government securities held by them.

b) This would attract private investors in the Indian bond market for the long term

c) It would help in reduction of inflation.

d) None of the above options are correct.

Explanation: News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided not to sell 10-year bonds in Friday's auction, signalling it will not accept yields above 6 per cent.

News Details: The rejection of the bids brought down yields by 2 basis points and the 10-year bond closed below 6 per cent again — at 5.99 percent.

Its impact:

It would not allow the Prices of bonds to fall below a certain level.

This would limit the losses on the existing bonds held by the banks. Thus statement 'a' is correct.

It would stabilize the rates of the bonds and thus would be a good instrument for investment in the longer run. Thus statement 'b' is correct.

Selling of bonds in open market reduces inflation as it sucks away liquidity. Not

allowing them to sell would not reduce inflation. Thus statement 'c' is incorrect.

Thus 'c' cannot be the said impact.

Q.99) Which of the following statements is/ are correct related to Sovereign gold bond?

1. These gold bonds are issued by the RBI on behalf of the government.
2. They are government securities denominated in grams of gold.
3. But they are not substitutes for holding physical gold.
4. Its objective is to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1,2 and 4 only
- b) 1,3 and 4 only
- c) 2,3 and 4 only
- d) None of the above

Explanation: • Sovereign gold bonds are issued by the RBI on behalf of the government.

- They are government securities denominated in grams of gold.
- They are substitutes for holding physical gold.
- The sovereign gold bond scheme was launched in November 2015. Its objective is to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings (used for the purchase of gold) into financial savings.

THUS OPTION 1 IS CORRECT ONLY

Q.100) Consider the following statements about PMJAK

1. PMJAK have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices
2. Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals
3. It Create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity so that quality is not synonymous with only high price.

Which of the above is /are correct statement?

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

d) All of the above

Explanation: • 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. Of India, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendra's known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.

- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.

- Create awareness about generic medicines through education and

publicity so that quality is not synonymous with only high price.

THUS ALL THE ABOVE STATEMENTS ARE CORRECT

Q.101) What is 'Urvi', recently seen in news?

a) Asteroid

b) Tunnel Boring Machine

c) Ransomware

d) None of the above

Explanation: The tunneling work gets completed by Tunnel Boring Machine [TBM] in East West Metro Corridor with the breakthrough of "Urvi" at Bowbazar, Kolkata on 15.05.2021.

With this breakthrough the entire TBM tunneling for the Kolkata East-West Metro Project is completed.

The Tunnel Boring Machine 'Urvi' which had earlier completed East Bound tunnel from Esplanade to Sealdah on 09.10.2020 was relaunched from Sealdah after necessary refurbishment and inspection on 09.01.2021 to complete the balance 800 m tunneling work in West Bound tunnel from Sealdah to Bowbazar.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q.102) Bamuni hills, often mentioned in news, is located in:

a) Kerala

b) Tamil Nadu

c) Assam

d) Gujarat

Explanation: Recently, 18 elephants died on a hilltop in Assam. The preliminary post-mortem report indicates they had been struck by lightning.

Lightning may injure or kill animals in a number of ways such as:

Direct Flash: An animal in an open field may be struck directly by lightning if part of its body protrudes over other objects in the vicinity. Taller animals are more vulnerable.

Side Flash: When lightning strikes a tall object such as a tree, it may generate a side flash that can strike an animal standing underneath the tree.

Touch Potential: If one part of a tall animal's body is in contact with the ground while another part, at a higher elevation, comes in contact with a lightning-struck object, a partial current may pass through its body.

Step Potential: The most common lightning hazard among four-legged animals. When an animal's front and hind feet are far enough apart, a partial current may pass through the body in certain circumstances.

Since an elephant's front and hind feet are wide apart, it would appear to make it more vulnerable than a smaller animal, such as a rat.

The Bamuni Hill in Assam, where the elephants died, has no tall trees that could have taken the brunt of the lightning strike.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Q.103) With reference to Bogs, consider the following statements:

1. A bog is a freshwater wetland of soft, spongy ground consisting mainly of partially decayed plant matter called peat.
2. They are formed in northern climates, and take thousands of years to develop.
3. They can act as carbon sinks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: More than three centuries after it disappeared from Ireland, the common crane, a bird that is part of its folklore and was a popular pet during medieval times, has returned to the island nation.

A pair of cranes was spotted last year on a restored peat bog—a type of wetland that is mostly found in northern latitude countries. The birds are in Ireland’s Midlands region, but their exact location has been kept secret to protect them.

Cranes stand at 4 feet tall with a wingspan of over 7 feet, and used to be the largest birds in Ireland. Although they were once common, the destruction of their habitat saw them disappear around the 16th and 17th century.

Bogs (also called quagmires) are soft, spongy wetlands that accumulate peat—a fossil fuel that is used for heating homes and businesses in northern Europe. They are formed in northern climates, and take thousands of years to develop.

Bogs also act as carbon sinks, sequestering around 200 million tons of carbon from

the environment in Siberia and Scandinavia.

For centuries, however, they have been drained for extracting peat or for development, leading to the destruction of their delicate ecosystems, including damage to species such as cranes that breed here.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.104) With reference to the meteorite, consider the following statements:

1. Meteoroids are objects in space that range in size from dust grains to small asteroids.
2. When meteoroids enter the Earth’s atmosphere they are called meteors.
3. A meteoroid enters the Earth’s atmosphere and hits the ground, it is called a meteorite.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: A piece of the Winchcombe meteorite that touched down in the town of Winchcombe in Gloucestershire in the UK in February 2021 will be displayed at the National History Museum.

Meteoroids are objects in space that range in size from dust grains to small asteroids.

But when meteoroids enter the Earth’s atmosphere they are called meteors.

But if a meteoroid enters the Earth's atmosphere and hits the ground, it is called a meteorite.

The piece of meteorite, which is a 103 gram fragment of black rock resembling coal, was found in a field by one Mira Ihasz and a team from the University of Glasgow.

The meteorite landed in the driveway of a house located in Gloucestershire in February and considered "astonishingly rare".

It dates back to the birth of the solar system nearly 4.5 billion years ago and therefore examining it may offer scientists clues about the beginning of the solar system and maybe even the Earth.

Winchcombe is also significant because it is the meteorite to have fallen and recovered from the UK in about 30 years.

Further, this type of meteorite is known as a carbonaceous meteorite and out of about 65,000 known meteorite types, only about 1,000 are of this particular type.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.105) Who was M. S. Narasimhan?

a) An Indian mathematician

b) An Indian actor

c) A former Indian badminton player

d) An Indian Astronaut

Explanation: The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has expressed grief over the demise of Professor M. S. Narasimhan.

Mudumbai Seshachalu Narasimhan (1932 – 2021) was an Indian mathematician.

He is known, along with C. S. Seshadri, for their proof of the Narasimhan–Seshadri theorem, which says that a holomorphic vector bundle over a Riemann surface is stable if and only if it comes from an irreducible projective unitary representation of the fundamental group.

He headed the research group in Mathematics at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste. He was a honorary fellow at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

Awards and felicitations

He has been the only Indian to receive the King Faisal International Prize in the field of science.

Spirit of Salam award (2020)

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (1975)

Padma Bhushan (1990)

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.106) What is Tianwen-1, recently seen in news?

a) China's Mars mission

b) Ransomware

c) Cryptocurrency

d) None of the above

Explanation: China landed a spacecraft on Mars carrying its first Mars rover in a big boost to its space ambitions.

China had in July last year launched its first Mars mission, called Tianwen-1, meaning Questions to Heaven, carrying a lander and rover.

Tianwen-1 had been in orbit since February, and recently, a lander

descended successfully on to the surface of the red planet carrying a rover named Zhurong, named after a god of fire for a planet known in Chinese as the planet of fire.

Only the Soviet Union and the U.S. had previously carried out a successful landing on Mars.

The rover will provide “first-hand materials for research on the planet’s space environment, surface topography, and soil structure”.

China had previously tried to launch a Mars orbiter along with Russia in 2011, but that failed to enter orbit. This attempt, on its own, hit the target.

China’s Mars mission, along with lunar mission and space station, is key to its space programme.

In 2019, the fourth lunar probe, Chang’e-4, carried out the world’s first landing on the far side of the moon. The Mars mission was launched the following year.

Last month, a Long March-5B Y2 rocket carried out the first of three components for the space station, called the Tianhe or Heavenly Harmony module.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.107) With reference to the Elephant seals, consider the following statements:

1. There are two species, the northern elephant seal and the slightly larger southern elephant seal.
2. The range of the northern elephant seal spans the Pacific coast of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: For elephant seals - one of the most distinctive of the 33 species that comprise the world's seal family - it is hard work to stay fat.

Scientists have conducted the most thorough study to date of the unique feeding behavior of northern elephant seals, focusing on the females of the species during arduous two-month post-breeding migrations in the northeastern Pacific Ocean.

The seals were found to spend upwards of 20 hours every day - and sometimes a full 24 hours - in continuous deep-diving to feed on multitudes of small fish, rather than the larger prey favored by other deep-diving marine mammals, to gain the body fat essential for successful reproduction and insulation in the frigid depths.

Elephant seals get their name from the prominent noses of the males that resemble an elephant's trunk.

There are two species - the northern elephant seal and the slightly larger southern elephant seal.

The two are the world's biggest seals and the largest marine mammals other than whales.

The range of the northern elephant seal spans the Pacific coast of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.108) Researchers have recently discovered an Asian gracile skink species named *Subdoluseps nilgiriensis* from:

- a) Aravalli Range
- b) Himalayas
- c) Eastern Ghats

d) Western Ghats

Explanation: Researchers have discovered an Asian gracile skink species from Western Ghats.

Named *Subdoluseps nilgiriensis*, the reptile has a slender body of just about 7 cm and is sandy brown in colour.

The new species is closely related to *Subdoluseps pruthi* found in parts of the Eastern Ghats.

The new species was found in a dry deciduous area, showing that even the dry zones of our country are home to unrealised skink diversity.

This species is only the third skink species discovered from mainland India in the last millennium.

Skinks are non-venomous. They resemble snakes because of the often-inconspicuous limbs and the way they move on land. Such resemblance has led to confusion often resulting in humans killing this harmless creature.

Subdoluseps nilgiriensis is currently considered a vulnerable species as there are potential threats from seasonal forest fires, housing constructions and brick kiln industries in the area.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.109) With reference to the Mission COVID Suraksha, consider the following statements:

1. Under Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 Mission COVID Suraksha was announced by the Government of India, to accelerate the development and production of Indigenous COVID Vaccines.
2. This is being implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), New Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Under Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 Mission COVID Suraksha was announced by the Government of India, to accelerate the development and production of Indigenous COVID Vaccines.

This is being implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), New Delhi.

To augment the capacity of Indigenous production of Covaxin under the Mission, the Department of Biotechnology in April, 2021 provided financial support as Grant to vaccine manufacturing facilities for enhanced production capacities, which is expected to reach more than 10 crore doses per month by September, 2021.

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector

Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.110) With reference to the Nutrient based subsidy (NBS) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The per Kg subsidy rates on the nutrient N, P, K, S is converted into per Tonne subsidy on the various P&K fertilizers covered under NBS Policy.
2. Any variant of the fertilizers covered under the subsidy scheme with micronutrients namely Boron and Zinc, is eligible for a separate per tonne subsidy to encourage their application along with primary nutrients.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Government of India is making available fertilizers, namely Urea and 22 grades of Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) fertilizers including Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) & Single Superphosphate (SSP) to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers/ importers.

The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is being governed by Nutrient based subsidy (NBS) Scheme w.e.f 01.04.2010.

The NBS Scheme for fertilizer is being implemented by the Department of Fertilizers.

Under the NBS Policy, a fixed rate of subsidy (in Rs. per Kg basis) is announced on nutrients namely Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S) by the Government on annual basis. The per Kg subsidy rates on the nutrient N, P, K, S is converted into per Tonne subsidy on the various P&K fertilizers covered under NBS Policy.

Any variant of the fertilizers covered under the subsidy scheme with micronutrients namely Boron and Zinc, is eligible for a separate per tonne subsidy to encourage their application along with primary nutrients.

MRP of P&K fertilizers has been left open and fertilizer manufacturers/marketers are allowed to fix the MRP at reasonable rates. In effect, the domestic prices are determined by demand supply mechanism.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.111) With reference to the Blood plasma, consider the following statements:

1. Blood plasma is a yellowish liquid component of blood that holds the blood cells of whole blood in suspension.
2. It makes up about 55% of the body's total blood volume.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The use of convalescent plasma has been dropped from the recommended treatment guidelines for COVID-19, according to an advisory from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Though a trial by the ICMR on 400 patients last year — called the PLACID trial — had found no significant benefit from the use of plasma, it continued to find a place in the recommended guidelines.

Some experts have said the use of such plasma may have even played a role in facilitating new worrisome mutations to the virus.

Blood plasma is a yellowish liquid component of blood that holds the blood cells of whole blood in suspension. It is the liquid part of the blood that carries cells and proteins throughout the body. It makes up about 55% of the body's total blood volume.

This plasma contains viral antibodies that have treatment potential for severe cases of the disease.

Plasma therapy is a medical procedure that uses the blood of a recovered patient to create antibodies on those infected individuals.

Medically known as convalescent plasma therapy, this treatment uses antibodies found in the blood taken from a recovered Covid-19 patient. It is then used to treat those with severe SARS-CoV-2 infection to aid recovery.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.112) With reference to the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), consider the following statements:

1. It started in the year 2010 to impart quality education to ST children in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.

2. Every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an EMRS by the year 2022.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft sign MoU on Joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and Ashram Schools.

Under affirmative action initiative, Microsoft will make AI curriculum available to tribal students in both English and Hindi at all EMRS schools under the Ministry to skill educators and students in next-generation technologies including Artificial Intelligence.

Under this program in the first phase, 250 EMRS schools have been adopted by Microsoft out of which 50 EMRS schools will be given intensive training and 500 master trainers would be trained in the first phase.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) started in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education to ST children in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.

In order to give further impetus to EMRS, it has been decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an EMRS.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.113) With reference to the diplomatic immunity, consider the following statements:

1. Diplomatic immunity is granted on the basis of two conventions, popularly called the Vienna Conventions.
2. All United Nations members ratified the Vienna Conventions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: After she allegedly hit two staff members at a boutique in Seoul last month, the wife of Belgium's ambassador to South Korea will now be exercising her diplomatic immunity to avoid criminal charges.

Diplomatic immunity is a privilege of exemption from certain laws and taxes

granted to diplomats by the country in which they are posted.

The custom was formed so that diplomats can function without fear, threat or intimidation from the host country.

Diplomatic immunity is granted on the basis of two conventions, popularly called the Vienna Conventions — the Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, and the Convention on Consular Relations, 1963.

They have been ratified by 187 countries, including South Korea, which means, it is a law under that country's legal framework and cannot be violated.

According to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, the immunity enjoyed by a diplomat posted in the embassy is "inviolable". The diplomat cannot be arrested or detained and his house will have the same inviolability and protection as the embassy.

It is possible for the diplomat's home country to waive immunity but this can happen only when the individual has committed a 'serious crime', unconnected with their diplomatic role or has witnessed such a crime. Alternatively, the home country may prosecute the individual.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.114) Consider the following statements related to new district formation

1. The Centre has no role to play in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones.
2. According to the 2021 Census, there were 593 districts in the country.

3. Currently there are 718 districts in the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2

b) 2 and 3

c) 1 and 3

d) 1,2 and 3

Explanation: The Centre has no role to play in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones.

- According to the 2011 Census, there were 593 districts in the country. The Census results showed that between 2001-2011, as many as 46 districts were created by States.

Though the 2021 Census is yet to happen, Know India, a website run by the Government of India, says currently there are 718 districts in the country.

- On May 14, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh declared Malerkotla the 23rd district of the State.

Thus, all the above statements are correct.

Q.115) Consider the following about convalescent plasma transfusion

1. In this process Blood Plasma of an infected is transferred to a critically ill patient.

2. According to Indian council of Medical Research COVID-19 National Task Force this process offers no therapeutic benefits in patients.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 or 2

Explanation: Facts about convalescent plasma transfusion

Plasma Therapy: Plasma from the blood of previously infected healthy individuals is transferred to five critically ill patients. This can transfer the antibodies in the to another individual, but not the virus. Thus statement 1 is false

India recently dropped plasma therapy from Covid treatment protocol. The decision by the AIIMS-ICMR Covid-19 National Task Force and the Health Ministry indicates that convalescent plasma offers no therapeutic benefits in patients admitted to hospital with the disease. Thus statement 2 is true

Q.116) Consider the following statements about the election of legislative council members

1. 1/3rd by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and other local authorities in the state.

2. 1/12th by an electorate consisting of teachers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 or 2

Explanation: Members of the Council elected

1/3rd of members are elected by members of the Assembly.

1/3rd by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and other local authorities in the state.

1/12th by an electorate consisting of teachers.

1/12th by registered graduates.

The remaining members are nominated by the Governor from among those who have distinguished themselves in literature, science, art, the cooperative movement, and social service.

Q.117) Consider the following statements on Cyclone Tauktae:

1. It is developed in the Bay of Bengal
2. It is classified as a very severe cyclonic storm (VSCS)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2**
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Explanation: Cyclone 'Tauktae' name was suggested by Myanmar. Tauktae means a highly vocal lizard gecko.

This cyclone has been classified as a very severe cyclonic storm (VSCS).

The Cyclone has been developed in the Arabian Sea.

This will also be the fourth cyclone in consecutive years to have developed in the Arabian Sea, that too in the pre-monsoon period (April to June)

Q.118) Asian gracile skink was seen in news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

1. These are lizard species that has smaller legs in comparison to typical lizards
2. These are highly venomous

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1**
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Explanation: A new species of an Asian gracile skink has been discovered recently at Western Ghats.

Skinks are lizards belonging to the family Scincidae, a family in the infraorder Scincomorpha.

Features: Skinks are characterized by their smaller legs in comparison to typical lizards. They are mostly found in a variety of habitats except for arctic and subarctic regions.

Behaviour: Many species of skink does digging and burrowing.

The skinks are also non-venomous. They resemble snakes because of the inconspicuous limbs and the way they move on land.

Q.119) Protein–Antibody Conjugates(PAC) was seen in news sometimes. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) This is a new protein present in the Corona Virus
- b) This is a nanoparticle used in human genome sequencing
- c) This is a new drug for reducing the impact of Covid-19

d) This is a new concept of therapy used for targeted drug delivery

Explanation: This is a new concept of combining two different approaches to drug delivery. Namely, Biological drugs and Antibody-Drug Conjugates(ADC). Both these methods combined to produce Protein–Antibody Conjugate or PACs. This PAC can be used for targeted drug delivery.

Protein-antibody conjugates(PACs) are used for antibody-directed delivery of protein to specific cells.

This method ensures the precise and effective delivery of drugs to specific cells. Hence, this method could have an impact on treating diseases like pancreatic cancer.

Q.120) Mongolian Kanjur was seen in news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) These are sacred words of Lord Buddha in Mangolia**
- b) These are Mangolian temple belongs to Buddhism
- c) These are Magolian form of Jainism practised today in the region

d) These are religious sanctions practised in Mangolia

Explanation: Mongolian Kanjur is a Buddhist canonical text that has 108 volumes. It is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia.

Meaning: In the Mongolian language ‘Kanjur’ means ‘Concise Orders’- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.

The Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of reprinting 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM). Recently the Ministry announced that the reprinting of about 100 sets of Mongolian Kanjur will be completed by next year.

Q.121) With reference to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), consider the following statements:

1. Between 2000 and 2016, the number of deaths from heart disease due to working long hours increased by 42%, and from stroke by 19%.
2. Most of the deaths recorded were among people dying aged 60-79 years, who had worked for 55 hours or more per week between the ages of 45 and 74 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Long working hours led to 7.45 lakh deaths from stroke and ischemic heart disease in 2016, a 29% increase since 2000, according to the latest estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) published in Environment International.

In a first global analysis of the loss of life and health associated with working long hours, WHO and ILO estimate that in 2016, 3.98 lakh people died from stroke and 3.47 lakh from heart disease as a result of having worked at least 55 hours a week.

Between 2000 and 2016, the number of deaths from heart disease due to working long hours increased by 42%, and from stroke by 19%.

This work-related disease burden is particularly significant in men (72% of deaths occurred among males), people living in the Western Pacific and South-East Asia regions, and middle-aged or older workers.

Most of the deaths recorded were among people dying aged 60-79 years, who had worked for 55 hours or more per week between the ages of 45 and 74 years.

With working long hours now known to be responsible for about one-third of the total estimated work-related burden of disease, it is established as the risk factor with the largest occupational disease burden.

The study concludes that working 55 or more hours per week is associated with an estimated 35% higher risk of a stroke and a 17% higher risk of dying from ischemic heart disease, compared to working 35-40 hours a week.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.122) Which of the following are the components of National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP)?

1. Early warning dissemination systems
2. Capacity building of local communities to respond to disasters
3. Improving access to emergency shelter and evacuation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Explanation: The Indian Navy and the Coast Guard launched a rescue mission after four vessels went adrift off the Mumbai coast due to inclement weather and heavy rains arising from Cyclone Tautkae.

In the early hours of May 17, Cyclone Tauktae hit Arabian Sea off the coast of Mumbai where Oil Natural Gas Corporation Ltds major production installations and drilling rigs are located.

Due to a combination of weather factors, four vessels that the ONGC put into service went adrift in the high seas.

National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP)

The Government of India has initiated the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) with a view to address cyclone risks in the country.

Components of NCRMP- The project aims to reduce vulnerability of coastal communities to cyclone and other hydro meteorological hazards through:

o Early warning dissemination systems

Capacity building of local communities to respond to disasters

Improving access to emergency shelter, evacuation, and protection against wind storms, flooding and storm surge in high areas

Strengthening DRM (Disaster Risk Management) capacity at central, state and local levels in order to enable mainstreaming of risk mitigation measures

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.123) With reference to the waqf, consider the following statements:

1. A waqf is an inalienable charitable endowment under Islamic law.
2. The state waqf boards were established by the Union 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

Explanation: The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board on Tuesday condemned the demolition of a mosque in a tehsil compound in Barabanki district by the administration, terming it a “patently

illegal and high-handed action” and demanded its restoration.

The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board (or U.P. Sunni Waqf Board) is a body constituted under The Wakf Act, 1954.

It manages the affairs of Sunni Muslim waqf (charity) properties, waqf institutions and the marriage records of the Sunni Muslim community of the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The Sunni Waqf Board has been the main Muslim litigant in the Babri Masjid–Ram Janmabhoomi title dispute.

A waqf (also known as wakf or hubous) is an inalienable charitable endowment under Islamic law. It typically involves donating a building, plot of land or other assets for Muslim religious or charitable purposes with no intention of reclaiming the assets.

The state waqf boards were established by the state governments in view of the provisions of Section 9(1) of the Wakf Act, 1954.

India also has a Central Waqf Council to advise the government "on matters concerning the working of boards and the due administration of wakfs."

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.124) With reference to the coronavirus variants, consider the following statements:

1. B.1.1.7 is known as the ‘U.K. variant’.
2. B.1.351 is known as the ‘South African’ variant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The World Health Organization (WHO) would unveil a system of naming of coronavirus variants drawn from the way tropical storms are named, WHO Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan says.

The initiative, similar to how hurricanes are labelled, seeks to remove stigma. It will also be easier for the lay public to remember rather than these complicated lineage numbers.

The WHO and health and science agencies across the world refer to viruses and their variants by formal lineage names, which are a combination of letters and names that point to the relationships between different variants.

Variants such as B.1.1.7 and B.1.617 suggest that they have certain mutations in common and as well clues to their evolutionary history.

However, because virus names and their associated diseases have frequently been named after geographical places where outbreaks were first reported or samples first isolated — such as the West Nile virus or Ebola.

B.1.1.7 started to be known as the 'U.K. variant' and B.1.351 as the 'South African' variant.

The dilemma of having names that don't stigmatise places but also are amenable to

popular use has to an extent been solved by the system of naming hurricanes, or tropical cyclones. The World Meteorological Organisation leaves it to countries that surround a particular ocean basin to come up with names.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.125) With reference to the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Amendment Rules, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. The imported goods are not permitted to be sent out for job work.
2. It allows those who import capital goods at a concessional Customs duty to clear them in the domestic market on payment of duty and interest, at a depreciated value.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The Government has brought changes in the existing Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, IGCR 2017 to boost trade facilitation.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has introduced changes through the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Amendment Rules, 2021.

The IGCR, 2017 lay down the procedures and manner in which an importer can

avail the benefit of a concessional Customs duty on import of goods required for domestic production of goods or providing services.

One major change that accommodates the needs of trade and industry is that the imported goods have been permitted to be sent out for job work. The absence of this facility had earlier constrained the industry especially those in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector which did not have the complete manufacturing capability in-house.

Importers who do not have any manufacturing facility can now avail the IGCR, 2017 to import goods at concessional Customs duty and get the final goods manufactured entirely on job work basis. However, some sectors such as gold, jewellery, precious stones and metals have been excluded.

Another major incentive now provided is to allow those who import capital goods at a concessional Customs duty to clear them in the domestic market on payment of duty and interest, at a depreciated value. This was not allowed earlier and manufacturers were stuck with the imported capital goods after having used them as they could not be easily re-exported.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.126) Consider the following statements related to United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

1. The council has 15 members, the five permanent members and 10 non-permanent
2. They are elected for two-year terms.

3. Each member of the Security Council has one vote.

4. The council is headquartered at New York.

Which of the above is/are correct statement?

a) 1,2 and 3 only

b) 2,3 and 4 only

c) 1,3 and 4 only

d) All of the above

Explanation: All the statements are correct.

- The council has 15 members: the five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.

- The five permanent members are the United States, the Russian Federation, France, China and the United Kingdom.

Q.127) Consider the following arguments related to Iran and India relationship

1. The Farzad B gas field in Iran is being developed by ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL).

2. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) had discovered the gas field in 2000.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) None of the above

Explanation: Farzad-B gas field:

1. Iran will develop it domestically. Iran gave the Farzad B gas field to Petropars, a domestic gas producer. This project was stymied by US sanctions in 1999-2016. Thus statement 1 is incorrect.

2. OVL loses operating rights for Iran's Farzad-B gas field recently too. This is a setback for India's energy ties with Iran as ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) had discovered the gas field in 2000 and has been part of the ongoing cooperation on that front. Thus statement 2 is correct.

Q.128) Consider the following statements regarding use of technology in surveillance in India

1. Kawatch App secures devices from cyber-attack threats.
2. 'Project Insight' helps in monitoring high value transactions through data mining.
3. Operation Clean Money(Swachh Dhan Abhiyan) was an e-platform to analyse large cash deposits made during the demonetisation window.

Which of the above is/are correct statement?

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

Explanation: Kawatch App: To secure such digital evidence, officials have also been asked to use the Kawatch App to secure devices from cyber-attack threats.

Project Insight: The Income Tax department is planning to implement the

first phase of 'Project Insight' from May 2017 to monitor high value transactions, with a view to curbing the circulation of black money.

This project has been initiated for collection, collation and processing of such information for effective risk management with a view to widening and deepening tax base.

It will use data mining, big data and analytics to scoop out tax evaders from social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

PAN will be the unique identifier is used by the Income Tax department to link and analyse various transactions relating to the tax payers.

Operation Clean Money(Swachh Dhan Abhiyan): an e-platform to analyse large cash deposits made during the demonetisation window.

Under it, e-verification of large cash has been done using data analytics for comparing the demonetisation data with information in ITD databases.

Q.129) Consider the following statements:

1. The Legislative Council of a State shall not have more than one-third of the total strength of the State Assembly.
2. The members of the Legislative Council cannot vote in elections for the President and Vice President.
3. In the election of members of the Legislative Council there is a provision for a special electorate comprising sitting members of local governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: Under Article 171 of the Constitution, the Legislative Council of a state shall not have more than one-third of the total strength of the State Assembly, and not less than 40 members. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Like the Rajya Sabha, the legislative council is a continuing chamber, that is, it is a permanent body and is not subject to disExplanation. The tenure of a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) is six years, with one-third of the members retiring every two years.

Manner of Election:

One-third of the MLCs are elected by the state's MLAs.

Another 1/3rd by a special electorate comprising sitting members of local governments such as municipalities and district boards. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

1/12th by an electorate of teachers and another 1/12th by registered graduates.

The remaining members are appointed by the Governor for distinguished services in various fields namely, literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service.

The legislative power of the Councils are limited. Unlike Rajya Sabha which has substantial powers to shape non-financial

legislation, Legislative Councils lack a constitutional mandate to do so.

Assemblies can override suggestions/amendments made to legislation by the Council.

Unlike Rajya Sabha MPs, MLCs cannot vote in elections for the President and Vice President. The Vice President is the Rajya Sabha Chairperson while a member from the Council itself is chosen as the Council Chairperson. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Q.130) Consider the following statements regarding Cyclones:

1. The eye of a tropical cyclone is a region of clear skies, warm temperatures, and low atmospheric pressure.
2. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has laid down guidelines for the countries in every region to provide names for cyclones.
3. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is mandated to name tropical cyclones in the north Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: A tropical cyclone is an intense circular storm that originates over warm tropical oceans and is characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds, and heavy rain.

A characteristic feature of tropical cyclones is the eye, a central region of clear skies, warm temperatures, and low atmospheric pressure. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

According to World Meteorological Organization (WMO) guidelines, countries in every region are supposed to give names for cyclones. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), one of the six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMC) in the world, is mandated to issue advisories and name tropical cyclones in the north Indian Ocean Region. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

It is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The North Indian Ocean Region covers tropical cyclones formed over Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.

The 13 members, which come under the region, are Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Yemen.

Q.131) Which of the following have been added to India's tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites?

1. Maratha military architecture in Maharashtra
2. Hire Bengal megalithic site in Karnataka
3. Ganga ghats in Varanasi
4. Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Explanation: Six sites have been added to India's tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites.

Six of the nine sites submitted by the Archaeological Survey of India had been accepted by UNESCO for inclusion in the tentative list, which is a requirement before the final nomination of any site.

The recently-included proposals are the

1. Maratha military architecture in Maharashtra,
2. Hire Bengal megalithic site in Karnataka,
3. Bhedaghat-Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh.
4. Ganga ghats in Varanasi,
5. temples of Kancheepuram and
6. Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

These proposals will remain in tentative list for a year after which the government will decide which one of them to push for in their final dossier to UNESCO, officials said.

With the addition of these six sites, the UNESCO has 48 proposals in tentative list of India.

As per Operational Guidelines, 2019, it is mandatory to put any monument/site on the Tentative List (TL) before it is

considered for the final nomination dossier.

India has 48 sites in the TL as of now.

As per rules, any country can submit the nomination dossier after one year of it being on the TL.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.132) Which one of the following is the best description of 'FakeBuster', that was in the news recently?

a) A DeepFakes Detection Tool for Video Conferencing Scenarios.

b) A decentralized cryptocurrency created in August 2020.

c) A low-cost, paper-based test strip for detecting COVID-19

d) None of the above.

Explanation: Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar in Punjab and Monash University, Australia have developed a unique detector named 'FakeBuster' to identify imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge.

FakeBuster is a DeepFakes Detection Tool for Video Conferencing Scenarios

In the present pandemic scenario when most of the official meetings and work is being done online, this standalone Explanation enables a user (organizer) to detect if another person's video is manipulated or spoofed during a video conferencing.

That means the technique will find out if some imposter is attending a Webinar or virtual meeting on behalf of one of your

colleagues by morphing his image with his own.

It can also find out faces manipulated on social media to defame or make a joke of someone.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.133) With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.

2. It aims to address imbalances in availability of tertiary care hospitals and improve medical education in 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

Explanation: New AIIMS started under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana are providing advanced COVID Care in States.

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), a Central Sector Scheme, was announced in 2003 to address imbalances in availability of tertiary care hospitals and improve medical education in the country.

The scheme received a fresh impetus to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of quality medical education in the underserved States, and many new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences are being set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

So far setting up of 22 new AIIMS has been approved under the scheme, out of which six AIIMS at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh are already fully functional.

In another seven AIIMS, OPD facility and MBBS classes have started while in five more institutes only MBBS classes has started.

These regional AIIMS, set up or being set up under PMSSY, have played a very significant role in management of COVID since the beginning of the pandemic early last year.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.134) Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program on rehabilitation of Divyangjan is an initiative of:

- a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- c) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Explanation: Union Minister of Social Justice launched a 6- month Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program on rehabilitation of Divyangjan.

The program aims to create a pool of grass-root rehabilitation workers at community level who can work alongside ASHA and Anganwadi workers to handle cross disability issues and facilitate inclusion of persons with disabilities in the society.

The program has been designed to provide competency based knowledge and skills among these workers to enhance their ability for successfully discharging their duties. These workers will be called 'Divyang Mitra' i.e. friends of persons with disabilities.

The Rehabilitation Council of India intends to roll out the course initially on a pilot basis for two batches in 7 National Institutes of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and 7-9 voluntary organisations having experience in Community Based Rehabilitation programme.

This CBID course has been co-designed by Rehabilitation Council of India and University of Melbourne as a joint initiative under the MoU signed between the Government of Australia and the Government of India on 22nd November, 2018 for cooperation in disability sector.

The National Board of Examination in Rehabilitation under the Rehabilitation Council of India will conduct examinations and award certificates to pass-out candidates.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.135) The terms 'Ethereum and Dogecoin' sometimes mentioned in the news recently are related to:

- a) Exoplanets
- b) Cyber attacks
- c) Mini satellites
- d) Cryptocurrency

Explanation: The cryptocurrency market saw a big correction with prices of major

currencies, including Bitcoin, Ethereum, BNB and others crashing as much as 30% within 24 hours.

This came in the backdrop of Chinese regulators announcing a crackdown on cryptocurrencies.

China has barred financial institutions and payment companies from providing any services related to cryptocurrency transactions.

This means that banks and online payments channels must not offer clients any service involving cryptocurrency, such as registration, trading, clearing and settlement.

China had issued such a ban in 2017 as well, but compared with the previous ban, the new rules have expanded the scope of prohibited services, and surmise that “virtual currencies are not supported by any real value”.

While the Chinese announcement was the straw that broke the camel’s back, Bitcoin and Ethereum were on a decline since last week when Tesla CEO Elon Musk announced that the electric carmaker won’t be accepting Bitcoin as payment — a reversal of an earlier decision.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.136) With reference to the Legislative Council, consider the following statements:

1. Currently, all states in India have a Legislative Council.
2. The setting up of a state Legislative Council is exclusively in the hands of the state 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

Explanation: The Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal approved the setting up of a Legislative Council in the state.

The West Bengal Legislative Council remained in existence till 1969. It was abolished 50 years ago by a coalition government of Left parties.

Currently, six states — Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka — have a Legislative Council.

The setting up of a second chamber is not exclusively in the hands of the state government. The central government also has to pilot a Bill in Parliament.

Article 168 of the Constitution empowers the Legislative Assembly to create or abolish a Legislative Council by passing a reExplanation. The reExplanation has to be passed by two-thirds of the Assembly members. Then a Bill to this effect has to be passed by Parliament.

Hence both statements are incorrect.

Q.137) With reference to the fertiliser subsidy, consider the following statements:

1. The Union government has recently increased the subsidy for DAP fertiliser

from Rs. 500 per bag to Rs. 1200 per bag, which is an increase of 140%.

2. DAP is manufactured by reacting Ammonia with Phosphoric acid under controlled conditions in fertilizer plants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Government takes historic pro-farmer decision of hiking fertiliser subsidy.

PM Narendra Modi chaired a high level meeting on the issue of fertiliser prices. It was discussed that the price of fertilisers is undergoing an increase due to the rising prices of phosphoric acid, ammonia etc internationally.

A historic decision was taken to increase the subsidy for DAP fertiliser from Rs. 500 per bag to Rs. 1200 per bag, which is an increase of 140%.

Thus, despite the rise in international market prices of DAP, it has been decided to continue selling it at the older price of Rs.1200 and the central government has decided to bear all the burden of price hike. The amount of subsidy per bag has never been increased so much at once.

Recently, the international prices of phosphoric acid, ammonia etc. used in DAP have gone up by 60% to 70%. So the actual price of a DAP bag is now Rs 2400, which could be sold by Fertilizer companies at Rs 1900 after considering a subsidy of Rs 500. With recent decision,

farmers will continue to get a DAP bag for Rs 1200.

DAP is manufactured by reacting Ammonia with Phosphoric acid under controlled conditions in fertilizer plants. Hence both statements are correct.

Q.138) Which of the following state is known to be the highest grower of Sapota?

a) Karnataka

b) Kerala

c) Odisha

d) Bihar

Explanation: In a major boost to exports of Geographical Indication (GI) certified products, a consignment of Dahanu Gholvad Sapota (chikoo) from Palghar district of Maharashtra was today shipped to the United Kingdom.

GI certification of Ghovad Sapota is held by Maharashtra Rajya Chikoo Utpadak Sangh and the fruit is known for its sweet and unique taste. It is believed that the unique taste is derived from calcium rich soil of Gholvad village.

Currently in the Palgahr district, around 5000 hectares of land is under sapota or plantation. Out of 5000 farmers who grow Sapota, 147 farmers are authorized GI users.

Sapota is grown in many states- Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Karnataka is known to be the highest grower of the fruit, followed by Maharashtra.

Earlier this month, a consignment of 2.5 Metric Tonne of GI certified Banganapalli & Survarnakha mangoes sourced from farmers in Krishna & Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh was exported to South Korea.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.139) Consider the following statements regarding Electoral Bonds:

1. Political parties securing at least 1% votes in the last general election to the Parliament are eligible to open current accounts for redemption of electoral bonds.
2. The State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash the electoral bonds.

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

Explanation: Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties.

The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.

The State Bank of India (SBI) is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

These bonds are redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party.

Political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which have secured not less than 1% of the votes in the last general election to an Assembly or Parliament, are eligible to open current accounts for redemption of electoral bonds. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Q.140) With reference to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), consider the following statements:

1. The MGNREGA scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in association with state governments.
2. The scheme aims to provide guaranteed employment of not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work in a financial year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005 was introduced as a social measure that guarantees “the right to work”. The Ministry of Rural Development monitors the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Major Objective:

Providing not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment in a financial year to every

household in rural areas as per demand, resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

MGNREGA assets include farm, ponds, percolation tanks, check dams, road layer, irrigation channels etc.

It is the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat which approves the shelf of works under MGNREGA and fixes their priority.

Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory, which leads to accountability and transparency.

Q.141) With reference to the plasma, consider the following statements:

1. It is the fourth state of matter after solid, liquid, and gas.
2. It is the most natural and widely observed state of matter in the entire universe.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Scientists from Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG), an autonomous institute under the DST have recently developed a theory that helps understand the complicated nature of Sun-Earth interaction's happening in the magnetosphere-- an area of space around Earth that is controlled by the Earth's magnetic field.

This new theory has opened up a plethora of opportunities to unlock the mysteries of the ion-hole structures (a localized plasma region where the ion density is lower than the surrounding plasma).

They have completely ruled out the necessity of the upper limit in the temperature ratio between ions and electrons for the generation of a special kind of wave called Bernstein Green Kruskal (BGK) waves, named after the scientists who predicted this wave. They revealed that the electrons that are not part of ion hole dynamics also play a vital role.

The new theory developed by the IIG team sheds light on the nature's greatest mystery that causes phenomena ---plasma transport and heating of plasma -- the fourth state of matter after solid, liquid, and gas, which is the most natural and widely observed state of matter in the entire universe.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.142) Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Rajput', that was in the news recently?

- a) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier
- b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- c) The first destroyer of the Indian Navy.**
- d) Nuclear powered icebreaker

Explanation: INS Rajput will be Decommissioned on 21 May 2021 at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.

INS Rajput is the first destroyer of the Indian Navy.

INS Rajput, the lead ship of the Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile USSR was commissioned on 04 May 1980

INS Rajput was constructed in the 61 Communards Shipyard in Nikolaev (present-day Ukraine) under her original Russian name 'Nadezhny' meaning 'Hope'. The keel of the ship was laid on 11 Sep 1976 and she was launched on 17 Sep 1977. The ship was commissioned as INS Rajput on 04 May 1980 at Poti, Georgia by IK Gujral.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Q.143) The Paracel Islands archipelago is a collection of 130 islands and coral reefs and is located in the:

- a) Red Sea
- b) Arabian Sea
- c) Dead Sea
- d) South China Sea**

Explanation: China alleged that the USS Curtis Wilbur, a US warship had illegally entered its territorial waters near the Paracel islands in the South China Sea, an assertion the United States denied.

The Paracel Islands archipelago is a collection of 130 islands and coral reefs and is located in the South China Sea, almost equidistant from China and Vietnam.

Since 2012, China, Taiwan and Vietnam have attempted to reinforce their claims on the territory by engaging in construction of government administrative buildings, tourism, land reclamation initiatives and by establishing

and expanding military presence on the archipelago.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.144) With reference to the 'corpse flower', consider the following statements:

1. It is native only to the rainforests of India.
2. The main odorant which gave the flower its distinct smell was dimethyl trisulfide, the same compound that is emitted from cancerous wounds, microorganisms and some vegetables.
3. The corpse flower is known to be one of the world's largest 'unbranched inflorescence'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Over a thousand people queued up outside an abandoned gas station in San Francisco's Bay Area this week to catch a glimpse of the extremely rare and aptly named 'corpse flower'.

The 'corpse flower' is a flowering plant, which is native to the rainforests of Sumatra in Indonesia. The scientific name of the rare plant, *Amorphophallus titanum*, quite literally translates to giant, misshapen phallus — presumably due to its appearance.

In about a decade, the 'corpse flower' can grow to be up to 10 feet tall and unveil

two of its key components — a deep red skirt-like petal known as the spathe and a yellow rod-like 'spadix'.

Another crucial component of the plant is the 'corm', a fleshy underground plant stem which acts as a storage organ where the corpse plant's energy is stored. The unique plant is said to have the biggest corm in existence, sometimes weighing around 100 kgs.

The corpse flower is known to be one of the world's largest 'unbranched inflorescence' or a stalk bearing a cluster of flowers. The average corpse flower has a lifespan of about three-four decades.

Apart from its appearance, the flower is known for its pungent stench, which is said to be similar to rotting meat or a decaying cadaver. The plant emits the distinct smell only when it is in bloom, which happens once every 10 years or so and only for a brief period of time.

The main odorant which gave the flower its distinct smell was dimethyl trisulfide, the same compound that is emitted from cancerous wounds, microorganisms and some vegetables.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Q.145) With reference to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, consider the following statements:

1. The government has warned that the SARS-CoV-2 virus can be transported through air as well in the form of aerosols, and infect people up to 10 metres away.
2. Aerosols are small solid particles suspended in the air.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: In a new advisory, the government has warned that the SARS-CoV-2 virus can be transported through air as well in the form of aerosols, and infect people up to 10 metres away.

The warning, included in an updated general advisory on Covid-19 issued by the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, is in line with the latest evidence that suggests that airborne transmission of the virus, especially in enclosed spaces, cannot be ruled out.

It was initially suggested that the virus spreads predominantly through large droplets that come out when a person is talking, sneezing or coughing. These droplets, because of their large size, were supposed to travel only short distances before falling on the ground. A person 6 feet (2 metres) away was considered safe from infection.

Over the months, however, scientists have been finding increasing evidence of the virus travelling through aerosols as well.

Aerosols are small solid particles suspended in the air. Relatively light, aerosols can carry the virus to much larger distances. Also, they can remain suspended in the air for several minutes, or even hours, thereby greatly increasing the chance of the infecting a nearby person.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.146) With reference to the Mucormycosis, consider the following statements:

1. It is a complication caused by virus infection.
2. The disease is being detected among patients who are recovering or have recovered from covid-19.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The Union government has asked the States to declare mucormycosis, the fungal infection being reported in COVID-19 patients, an epidemic under Epidemic Diseases Act 1897.

Declaring the black fungus infection seen in COVID-19 patients an epidemic would lead to health facilities screening for it and reporting all such cases to the government.

Rajasthan, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have declared it an epidemic.

Mucormycosis or black fungus is a complication caused by fungal infection. People catch mucormycosis by coming in contact with the fungal spores in the environment. The disease is being detected among patients who are recovering or have recovered from covid-19.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.147) Recently seen in news, Majorca is an island of which of the following country?

- a) Spain**
- b) Germany
- c) France
- d) Italy

Explanation: A giant slab of ice bigger than the Spanish island of Majorca has sheared off from the frozen edge of Antarctica into the Weddell Sea, becoming the largest iceberg currently afloat in the world, the European Space Agency said.

The newly calved berg, designated A-76 by scientists, was spotted in recent satellite images captured by the Copernicus Sentinel-1 mission. Its surface area spans 4,320 square km (1,668 square miles) and measures 175 km long by 25 km wide.

By comparison, Spain's popular tourist island of Majorca in the Mediterranean occupies 3,640 square km (1,405 square miles). The U.S. state of Rhode Island is smaller still, with a landmass of just 2,678 square km.

The enormity of A-76, which broke away from Antarctica's Ronne Ice Shelf, ranks as the largest existing iceberg on the planet, surpassing the now second-place A-23A, about 3,380 square km (1,305 square miles) in size and also floating in the Weddell Sea.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.148) Consider the following statements regarding Fungus

1. Fungi reproduce by means of spores.
2. Fungi consist chlorophyll and hence can perform photosynthesis.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Explanation: Characteristics of Fungi

- Fungi are eukaryotic, non-vascular, non-motile and heterotrophic organisms
- They reproduce by means of spores.
- Fungi lack chlorophyll and hence cannot perform photosynthesis.

Thus, only statement 1 is correct.

Q.149) Consider the following statements:

1. The State Government has the power to create new districts or alter or abolish existing districts.
2. The new district can only be created by passing a law in the State Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The power to create new districts or alter or abolish existing

districts rests with the State governments. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

This can either be done through an executive order or by passing a law in the State Assembly. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Many States prefer the executive route by simply issuing a notification in the official gazette.

The Centre has no role to play in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones. States are free to decide.

The Home Ministry comes into the picture when a State wants to change the name of a district or a railway station.

The State government's request is sent to other departments and agencies such as the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Intelligence Bureau, Department of Posts, Geographical Survey of India Sciences and the Railway Ministry seeking clearance.

A no-objection certificate may be issued after examining their replies.

Q.150) Consider the following statements regarding an E-Way Bill:

1. These are mandatory for inter-state transportation of goods valued over Rs. 50,000 with an exception of gold.
2. Under the E-Way Bill rules, the tax officials are empowered to scrutinise the e-way bill at any point during transit to check tax evasion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: An E-Way Bill is a compliance mechanism wherein by way of a digital interface the person causing the movement of goods uploads the relevant information prior to the commencement of movement of goods and generates an e-way bill on the GST portal.

Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, EWBs are mandatory for inter-state transportation of goods valued over Rs. 50,000 from April 2018, with the exemption to precious items such as gold. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It is a mechanism to ensure that goods being transported comply with the GST Law and is a tool to track movement of goods and check tax evasion.

According to notified e-way bill rules, every supplier requires prior online registration on the e-way bill portal for the movement of goods.

Tax officials have the power to scrutinise the e-way bill at any point during transit to check tax evasion. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Q.151) Who was Sunderlal Bahuguna?

a) A noted environmentalist

b) Former Tennis player

c) Renowned economist

d) Hindi film artist

Explanation: Well-known environmentalist and Gandhian Sunderlal Bahuguna passed away at the age of 94 due to COVID-related complications

Sunderlal Bahuguna (1927 – 2021) was an Indian noted Garhwali environmentalist. He was one of the early environmentalists of India.

He was one of the founders of the Chipko, or hug the tree movement, in the 1970s to save Himalayan forests from cutting down by forest contractors.

He later spearheaded the Anti-Tehri Dam movement starting 1980s, to early 2004.

He also fought against untouchability and later started organising hill women in his anti-liquor drive from 1965 to 1970.

He adopted Gandhian principles in his life.

In 2009, he was awarded Padma Vibhushan Award by government of India for environment conservation.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.152) National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app and Area officer monitoring App recently seen in news, is an initiative of:

a) Ministry of Finance

b) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

c) Ministry of Law and Justice

d) Ministry of Rural Development

Explanation: Union Minister of Rural Development launched National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app and Area officer monitoring App.

The NMMS App permits taking real time attendance of workers at Mahatma Gandhi NREGS worksites along with geotagged photograph, which will increase citizen oversight of the

programme besides potentially enabling processing payments faster.

Area Officer Monitoring App facilitates them to record their findings online along with time stamped and go-coordinate tagged photograph for all the schemes of Dept of Rural Development- Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, PMAYG, PMGSY.

This would also enable not only better record keeping of inspections by field and supervisory officials but also facilitate analysis of the findings for better programme implementation.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.153) With reference to the GST on imported oxygen concentrators, consider the following statements:

1. The Delhi High Court recently held the government's imposition of GST on oxygen concentrators imported for personal use as "unconstitutional".
2. All non-profit organisations registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) attract 12% IGST when importing oxygen concentrators.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The Delhi High Court held the government's imposition of GST on oxygen concentrators imported for personal use as "unconstitutional"

It said that oxygen concentrators constitute a life-saving device during the COVID-19 pandemic and during a pandemic, a different approach needs to be adopted.

The petitioner had challenged a May 1 notification that levied 12% GST on such imports from 28% earlier. He invoked Article 21 of the Constitution which enshrines the fundamental right to life.

The court had asked the government to consider temporarily dropping the 12% GST levied on such imports altogether, citing the shortage of oxygen in the second wave of the pandemic.

Prior to the judgement only non-profit organisations registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) are exempt from the IGST when importing oxygen concentrators. Those gifted or imported by individuals for personal use attract 12% IGST, which was recently lowered down from 28% by the government.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.154) Consider the following pairs:

Movements	States
1. Bishnoi Movement	Rajasthan
2. Appiko Movement	Assam
3. Chipko Movement	Uttarakhand
4. Jungle Bachao Andolan	West Bengal

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Explanation: Bishnoi Movement is a religious sect found in the Western Thar Desert and northern states of India. It was founded by Guru Maharaj Jambaji in 1485 AD in the Marwar (Jodhpur) desert region of western Rajasthan. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.

It is a non-violent community of nature worshippers. This movement was started by sage Sombaji around 1700 AD against deforestation. After that Amrita Devi forwarded the movement.

Chipko Movement was launched from Gopeshwar in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand in 1973 (then Uttar Pradesh). The movement was to prevent illegal cutting of trees in the Himalayan region (Uttarakhand). Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

Sunderlal Bahuguna and Chandi Prasad Bhatt were the leaders of this movement. The most notable characteristics of this movement were the involvement of women.

Appiko Movement was launched in 1983, on the lines of Chipko Movement, Pandurang Hegde launched a movement which came to be known as Appiko Movement in Karnataka. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.

Its main objectives were afforestation as well as development, conservation and proper utilization of forests in the best manner. The meaning of "appiko" is to

express one's affection for a tree by embracing it.

Jungle Bachao Andolan was launched by the tribal community of Singhbhum district of Jharkhand (then Bihar) agitating against the forest policy of the Government in 1982. Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.

The Government wanted to replace the natural soil, forests with the high-priced teak.

Q.155) Sunderlal bahugana is associated with which of the following Organisation?

- a) Jungle bachao andolan
- b) Appiko movement
- c) Chipko movement**
- d) Bishnoi movement

Explanation: Chipko movement

- Year: 1973
- Place: In Chamoli district and later at Tehri-Garhwal district of Uttarakhand.
- Leaders: Sundarlal Bahuguna, Gaura Devi, Sudesha Devi, Bachni Devi, Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Govind Singh Rawat, Dhoom Singh Negi, Shamsheer Singh Bisht and Ghanasyam Raturi.
- Aim: The main objective was to protect the trees on the Himalayan slopes from the axes of contractors of the forest.

Q.156) Consider the following statements related to Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP)

1. DAP fertilizer is an excellent source of nitrogen only for plant nutrition.
2. It's highly soluble and thus dissolves quickly in soil
3. DAP also acts as a fire retardant

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: • DAP (DIAMMONIUM PHOSPHATE) fertilizer is an excellent source of P and nitrogen (N) for plant nutrition.

- It's highly soluble and thus dissolves quickly in soil to release plant-available phosphate and ammonium.
- DAP also acts as a fire retardant. For example, a mixture of DAP and other ingredients can be spread in advance of a fire to prevent a forest from burning.

Thus only 2 and 3 statements are correct

Q.157) Consider the following statements about contingency risk buffer

1. It is a buffer to be maintained by the Scheduled Commercial banks to account for the Non-performing assets(NPAs).
2. It is a buffer kept by the Reserve bank of India(RBI) for risk provisioning made from economic capital to cover monetary, fiscal stability, credit and operation risks.
3. The current limit of the buffer is 5.5%.
4. The limit of the buffer is decided by the RBI board

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) 1,2 and 3
- b) 2,3 and 4**
- c) 1,3 and 4
- d) All of the above

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect.

The risk provisioning made from economic capital to cover monetary, fiscal stability, credit and operation risks is cumulatively referred to as the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB). Thus statement 2 is correct.

Recently in News: "The Reserve bank of India (RBI) board approved the transfer of ₹99,122 crore as surplus to the central government for the accounting period of nine months ended 31 March 2021 (July 2020-March 2021), while deciding to maintain the contingency risk buffer at 5.5%," it said. Thus statement 3 and 4 are correct.

Q.158) The term 'A-76' was recently in the news, it is?

- a) Solar powered two-seater airplane
- b) World's largest iceberg**
- c) Newly discovered asteroid in Kuiper belt
- d) Advanced fully automatic pistol made by Indian Ordnance Factory Board

Explanation: An enormous iceberg 'A-76' has calved from the western side of the Ronne Ice Shelf, lying in the Weddell Sea, in Antarctica.

A-76 measures around 4320 sq km in size – currently making it the largest berg in the world. Hence, option C is correct.

It has surpassed the now second-place A-23A, about 3,380 sq km in size and also floating in the Weddell Sea.

The newly calved berg 'A-76' was spotted in recent satellite images captured by the Copernicus Sentinel-1 mission.

Q.159) Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) emerges for which of the following reasons?

1. Misuse of antimicrobials in medicine
2. Inappropriate use of antimicrobials in agriculture
3. Contamination around pharmaceutical manufacturing sites due to the release of large amounts of active antimicrobials into the environment.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Explanation: Drug resistance in microbes emerges for several reasons. These include the misuse of antimicrobials in medicine, inappropriate use in agriculture, and contamination around pharmaceutical manufacturing sites where untreated waste releases large amounts of active antimicrobials into the environment. All of these drive the evolution of resistance in microbes.

Q.160) Consider the following statements.

1. Any tropical cyclone requires energy to stay alive and this energy is obtained from warm water and humid air over the tropical ocean.

2. In the past few years, annually a greater number of cyclones are developing over Arabian Sea than Bay of Bengal due to warm water and humid air over the Arabian Sea.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Any tropical cyclone requires energy to stay alive. This energy is typically obtained from warm water and humid air over the tropical ocean.

The more the heat released through condensation of water vapour, the steeper the drop in pressure. A low-pressure system undergoes multiple stages of intensification to form cyclones.

Typically, tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean region (Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea) develop during the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon (October to December) periods. May-June and October-November are known to produce cyclones of severe intensity that affect the Indian coasts.

Annually, five cyclones on average form in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea combined. Of these, four develop in the Bay of Bengal, which is warmer than the Arabian Sea. In the Arabian Sea, cyclones typically develop over Lakshadweep area

and largely traverse westwards, or away from India's west coast.

However, in recent years, meteorologists have observed that the Arabian Sea, too, has been warming. This is a phenomenon associated with global warming.

Q.161) Mount Nyiragongo is an active stratovolcano located in:

- a) Indonesia
- b) China
- c) France

c) Democratic Republic of the Congo

Explanation: As the active volcano in Congo, Mount Nyiragongo, erupted again, the Indian Army contingent under the United Nations peace keeping mission (MONUSCO) assisted in protecting civilians and U.N. officials as well as assets during the evacuation.

Mount Nyiragongo is an active stratovolcano with an elevation of 3,470 m in the Virunga Mountains associated with the Albertine Rift.

It is located inside Virunga National Park, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, about 12 km north of the town of Goma and Lake Kivu.

The main crater is about two kilometres (1 mi) wide and usually contains a lava lake. Nyiragongo's lava lake has at times been the most voluminous known lava lake in recent history.

Nyiragongo and nearby Nyamuragira are together responsible for 40 per cent of Africa's historical volcanic eruptions.

Lava lakes are large volumes of molten lava, usually basaltic, contained in a volcanic vent, crater, or broad depression.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.162) Consider the following statements related to UNESCO world heritage site

1. A World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by UNESCO for its special cultural or physical significance.
2. The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the international 'World Heritage Programme', administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
3. UNESCO was founded in 1945 to develop the "intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind" as a means of building lasting peace.
4. It is located in Paris

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

d) All of the above

Explanation: • A World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by UNESCO for its special cultural or physical significance.

- The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the international 'World Heritage Programme', administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- It was founded in 1945 to develop the "intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind" as a means of building lasting peace.
- It is located in Paris, France.

Thus, all the statements are correct

Q.163) With reference to the International Atomic Energy Agency, consider the following statements:

1. All UN members are member States of the IAEA.
2. It reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
3. Its headquarters is located in Vienna, Austria.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Iran said that a three-month monitoring deal between Tehran and IAEA has expired and that its access to images from inside some Iranian nuclear sites would cease. The announcement raised further questions about the future of indirect talks under way between the United States and Iran on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

It is widely known as the world's "Atoms for Peace and Development" organization within the United Nations family.

It is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

Though established as an autonomous organisation, independently of the United Nations through its own international

treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.

Members: The IAEA has 173 member states. Most UN members and the Holy See are Member States of the IAEA.

The IAEA and its former Director General, Mohamed ElBaradei, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

The current Director General is Rafael Grossi, an Argentinian diplomat who was appointed in 2019. He is the first Latin American to hold this position.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q.164) Which of the following reasons are responsible for vaccine hesitancy?

1. Religious propaganda
2. Inconvenience in accessing vaccines
3. Vaccine-derived diseases

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 & 2
- b) 2 & 3
- c) 1 & 3
- d) 1, 2 & 3**

Explanation: Religious propaganda that the vaccine may contain microbes, chemicals and animal-derived products which is forbidden by religious laws.

Vaccine-derived diseases: For example, a vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV) is a strain of the weakened poliovirus that was initially included in oral polio vaccine (OPV) and that has changed over time and

behaves more like the wild or naturally occurring virus.

Inconvenience in accessing vaccines is also the leading cause of Vaccine hesitancy.

Q.165) Recently, Cyclone Yaas was seen in news which is likely to form over the Bay of Bengal. The name of the cyclone is given by which of the following countries?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Maldives
- c) Oman**
- d) Sri Lanka

Explanation: Cyclone Yaas is likely to form over the north Andaman Sea and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal. The name of the cyclone is given by Oman.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), squally wind speed reaching 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph can prevail over the Andaman Sea and adjoining the east-central Bay of Bengal. Andaman and Nicobar Island, Odisha and West Bengal governments issued guidelines for the measures that need to be taken before the cyclone hits the coasts.

Q.166) Consider the following statements regarding 'Bao- dhaan':

1. It is a variety of rice which is black in color.
2. It grows in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only**

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Bao-dhan is an iron rich variety of Rice. It is red in color which is due to the presence of Anthocyanin, therefore also called 'Red Rice'.

Bao-Dhan is grown without the use of chemical fertilizers in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. It is an integral part of Assamese food.

Recently, the first consignment of 'red rice' was sent to the USA from Assam. APEDA undertakes market promotion activities for evolving structured marketing strategies for export of food products, market intelligence for taking informed decisions, international exposure, skill development, capacity building and high-quality packaging.

Q.167) What is the quantum of surplus that the RBI transferred to the Central Government for the period ended March 31?

a) Rs 13122 crore

b) Rs 32122 crore

c) Rs 46122 crore

d) Rs 99,122 crore

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to transfer Rs 99,122 crore as surplus to the central government for the nine months ended March 31 (July 2020-March 2021).

This is higher than what the government itself had budgeted for, as the Finance Minister earmarked a transfer of Rs 53,511 crore. Bimal Jalan Committee had that the RBI maintain a minimum

contingency risk buffer of 5.5 per cent of its balance sheet, at all times.

Q.168) Which aerospace company has announced the “DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon”?

- a) SpaceX
- b) Blue Origin
- c) NASA
- d) JAXA

Explanation: Billionaire Elon Musk’s commercial rocket company SpaceX has announced that it will launch “DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon” aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket in the first quarter of 2022,

He also announced that the entire mission will be paid for in Dogecoin. With this mission, Doge is to be made the first cryptocurrency in space.

Q.169) Which of the following is associated with operation Samunder Setu-II?

- a) A Military exercise
- b) A navy exercise
- c) Related to Covid relief
- d) A bridge between India and Sri Lanka

Explanation: Operation Samudra Setu-II:

- Seven Indian Naval ships viz. Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries.

- Two ships, the INS Kolkata and INS Talwar, have entered the Port of Manama, Bahrain, to carry back 40 tonnes of liquid oxygen to Mumbai.

Q.170) Consider the following statements:

1. The Punjab and Haryana high court recently clarified that a couple living in a live-in relationship has the same right of protection that a married couple has.
2. The right to choose a partner of his/her choice is a constitutional right.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Live-in couples deserve same protection as married ones, says Punjab and Haryana high court.

Observing that the right to choose a partner of his/her choice is a constitutional right, the Punjab and Haryana high court has made it clear that an individual has the right to formalise the relationship with the partner through marriage or adopt non-formal approach of a live-in relationship.

The high court also clarified that a couple living in a live-in relationship has the same right of protection that a married couple has.

On the contention that a live-in relationship is not legal and is frowned upon by society, the high court held that

the “life and liberty of every individual is precious and must be protected irrespective of individual views.”

Such a relationship is not prohibited under the law nor does it amount to commission of any offence. The HC also directed the concerned SP to ensure the couple is protected and no harm comes either to the lives or liberty of the petitioners.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.171) Arrange the following states from maximum to minimum FDI recipient:

- a) Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka
- b) Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka**
- d) Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra

Explanation: • FDI equity inflow grew by 19 per cent in 2020-21 to \$59.64 billion compared to the previous fiscal, according to an official release issued by the Commerce & Industry Ministry.

• Reforms: “Measures taken by the government on the fronts of the FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country.

• Top investing country: Singapore, which was the top investing country in 2020-21, accounted for 29 per cent of the total FDI inflow into India, followed by the US with 23 per cent share and Mauritius with 9 per cent share.

• Top recipient state:

1. Gujarat was the top FDI recipient State during the fiscal with 37 per cent share of the total FDI equity inflows.
2. Maharashtra with 27 per cent
3. Karnataka with 13 per cent

Thus, statement c is correct

Q.172) With reference to the Lakshadweep Development Authority (LDA), consider the following statements:

1. The regulation empowers the government to constitute Planning and Development Authorities under it to plan the development of any area identified as having “bad layout or obsolete development”.

2. Only cantonment areas are exempted from this.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Discontent is simmering in the Lakshadweep group of islands over the creation of a Lakshadweep Development Authority (LDA) by the new administrator Praful Khoda Patel.

Mr Patel, a BJP leader and former Home Minister of Gujarat, is the first political appointee as Administrator, a post mostly held by retired civil servants.

Islanders have pointed out that the legislation are out of sync with the social and environmental realities of the archipelago.

The creation of the Lakshadweep Development Authority (LDA), with extensive powers, including eviction of land owners, is widely read as having been pushed by the real estate lobby and against the interest of the islanders.

Hundreds of islanders have written to the administrator demanding the withdrawal of the proposed regulation, which makes provision for the

orderly and progressive development of land in both urban and rural areas and to preserve and improve the amenities thereof;

grant of permission to develop land and for other powers of control over the use of land;

conferring additional powers in respect of the acquisition and development of land for planning.

The regulation empowers the government, identified as the administrator, to constitute Planning and Development Authorities under it to plan the development of any area identified as having “bad layout or obsolete development”. Only cantonment areas are exempted from this. An authority thus created would be a body corporate with a government-appointed chairman, a town planning officer and three ‘expert’ government nominees besides two local authority representatives.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.173) The terms ‘WazirX, CoinDCX and Zebpay’ sometimes mentioned in the news recently are related to:

a) Exoplanets

b) Mini satellites

c) Cryptocurrency exchanges

d) None of the above

Explanation: Users of India’s largest cryptocurrency exchanges, WazirX and

CoinDCX, had a tough time due to outages as Bitcoin plunged over 30%, wiping out over \$500 billion in value from the coin’s peak market value.

Several cryptocurrency exchanges have now come up in the country that enable buying, selling and trading in several cryptocurrencies. Cryptocurrency exchanges offer ease in trading by offering functionality through user-friendly applications or websites.

Some of the most popular cryptocurrency exchanges in India are WazirX, CoinDCX, Zebpay and UnoCoin.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Q.174) MCA21 Version 3.0 (V3.0), often mentioned in news, is an initiative of:

a) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions

b) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

c) Ministry of Law and Justice

d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Explanation: Minister of Corporate Affairs launched the first phase of Ministry of Corporate Affairs’ (MCA) MCA21 Version 3.0 (V3.0) comprising of revamped website, new email services for MCA Officers and two new modules, namely, e-Book and e-Consultation.

The MCA V3.0 is going to be implemented in two phases. The second and final phase shall be launched from October 2021 onwards. The entire project is proposed to be launched within this Financial Year and will be data analytics and machine learning driven.

The MCA21 V3.0 in its entirety will not only improve the existing services and modules, but will also create new functionalities like e-adjudication, compliance management system, advanced helpdesk, feedback services, user dashboards, self-reporting tools and revamped master data services.

MCA21 has been part of Mission Mode projects of the Government of India. Bagging several accolades in past, the project has now reached its 3rd version.

MCA21 V3.0 is part of this year's Budget announcement and will leverage the use of latest technologies to further streamline the Corporate Compliance and stakeholders experience.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.175) With reference to the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), consider the following statements:

1. India has attracted highest ever total FDI inflow of US\$ 81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21.
2. Tamil Nadu is the top recipient state during the F.Y. 2020-21 with 37% share of the total FDI Equity inflows

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Measures taken by the Government on the fronts of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy reforms,

investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country.

The following trends in India's Foreign Direct Investment are:

India has attracted highest ever total FDI inflow of US\$ 81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21 and it is 10% higher as compared to the last financial year 2019-20 (US\$ 74.39 billion).

FDI equity inflow grew by 19% in the F.Y. 2020-21 (US\$ 59.64 billion) compared to the previous year F.Y. 2019-20 (US\$ 49.98 billion).

In terms of top investor countries, 'Singapore' is at the apex with 29%, followed by the U.S.A (23%) and Mauritius (9%) for the F.Y. 2020-21.

'Computer Software & Hardware' has emerged as the top sector during F.Y. 2020-21 with around 44% share of the total FDI Equity inflow followed by Construction (Infrastructure) Activities (13%) and Services Sector (8%) respectively.

Under the sector 'Computer Software & Hardware', the major recipient states are Gujarat (78%), Karnataka (9%) and Delhi (5%) in F.Y. 2020-21.

Gujarat is the top recipient state during the F.Y. 2020-21 with 37% share of the total FDI Equity inflows followed by Maharashtra (27%) and Karnataka (13%).

Out of top 10 countries, Saudi Arabia is the top investor in terms of percentage increase during F.Y. 2020-21. It invested US\$ 2816.08 million in comparison to US\$ 89.93 million reported in the previous financial year.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.176) Which of the following agricultural products received GI certification?

1. Shahi litchi
2. Jardalu mango
3. Katarni rice

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

Explanation: In a major boost to export of GI certified products, season's first consignment of Shahi Litchi from Bihar was exported to United Kingdom by air route.

Shahi litchi was the fourth agricultural products to get GI certification from Bihar in 2018, after Jardalu mango, Katarni rice and Magahi paan.

India is the second largest producer of litchi (Litchi chin) in the world, after China.

The translucent, flavoured aril or edible flesh of the litchi is popular as a table fruit in India, while in China and Japan it is preferred in dried or canned form.

Bihar tops in terms of production of litchi. Muzzafarpur, Vaishali, Samastipur, Champaran, Begusarai districts and adjoining areas of Bihar have favorable climate for growing Shahi Litchi.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.177) With reference to the India and Israel cooperation in Agriculture, consider the following statements:

1. India and Israel are implementing the "INDO-ISRAEL Agricultural Project Centres of Excellence" and "INDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence".
2. India and Israel have had bilateral relations since 1993 in the agricultural sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: India and Israel signed a three-year work program for cooperation in Agriculture, while recognizing the centrality of agriculture and water sectors in the bilateral relationship.

India and Israel are implementing the "INDO-ISRAEL Agricultural Project Centres of Excellence" and "INDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence".

The minister said that India and Israel have had bilateral relations since 1993 in the agricultural sector. This is the 5th Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan (IIAP).

The three-year work program (2021-2023) will aim to grow existing Centres of Excellence, establish new centers, increase CoE's value chain, bring the Centres of Excellence into the self-sufficient mode, and encourage private sector companies and collaboration.

As for the “INDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence”, this is a new concept aimed at creating a model ecosystem in agriculture across eight states, alongside 13 Centers of Excellence within 75 villages. The IVOE program will focus on: (1) Modern Agriculture infrastructure, (2) Capacity Building, (3) Market linkage.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.178) The “India Energy Outlook 2021 Report” is released by which of the following?

- a) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) International Energy Agency**
- d) Ministry of Power

Explanation: Recently, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has released the India Energy Outlook 2021 Report which explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population.

The India Energy Outlook 2021 is a new special report from the IEA’s World Energy Outlook series.

The World Energy Outlook Report is released by the IEA annually.

Hence, option C is correct.

Q.179) Which of the following diseases is /are caused by Fungi?

- 1. Whooping cough
- 2. Meningitis
- 3. Mucormycosis

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only**
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the above

Explanation: Whooping cough or Pertussis is a respiratory illness caused by bacteria called Bordetella pertussis.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. A bacterial or viral infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord usually causes the swelling.

Mucormycosis is a serious but rare infection caused by a group of moulds called mucormycetes. These moulds live throughout the environment. Mucormycosis mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body’s ability to fight germs and sickness. It is also termed as black Fungus.

Q.180) What is/are the objectives of ‘One Health- High Level Expert Panel’ seen in news?

- 1. To study the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases.
- 2. To take speedy decision on the emergency use authorization of vaccines related to zoonotic diseases.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only**
- b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: International organizations have come together to launch a new One Health High-Level Expert Panel to improve understanding of how diseases with the potential to trigger pandemics, emerge and spread. The panel will advise four international organizations – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and the World Health Organization (WHO) – on the development of a long-term global plan of action to avert outbreaks of diseases like H5N1 avian influenza; MERS; Ebola; Zika, and, possibly, COVID-19. Three quarters of all emerging infectious diseases originate in animals.

- It will analyse the factors that lead to transmission of a disease from animal to human and vice versa
- Development of risk assessment and surveillance frameworks
- Identification of capacity gaps as well as agreement on good practices to prevent and prepare for zoonotic outbreaks.
- The panel will consider the impact of human activity on the environment and wildlife habitats. Critical areas will include food production and distribution; urbanization and infrastructure development; international travel and trade; activities that lead to biodiversity loss and climate change; and those that put increased pressure on the natural resource base – all of which can

lead to the emergence of zoonotic diseases.

Q.181) With reference to the coral reefs, consider the following statements:

1. Fringing reef grows seaward directly from the shore.
2. When a fringing reef continues to grow upward from a volcanic island that has sunk entirely below sea level, an atoll is formed.
3. Barrier reefs are not separated from land.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The Union Cabinet has approved the opening of a new Consulate General of India in Addu City, Maldives in 2021.

Cabinet approves Opening of a new Consulate General of India in Addu City, Maldives

Posted On: 25 MAY 2021 1:13PM by PIB Delhi

India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity. Maldives occupies an important place in the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India.

Opening of a Consulate General in Addu City will help augment India's diplomatic presence in Maldives.

The most common type of reef is the fringing reef. This type of reef grows seaward directly from the shore. They form borders along the shoreline and surrounding islands.

When a fringing reef continues to grow upward from a volcanic island that has sunk entirely below sea level, an atoll is formed. Atolls are usually circular or oval in shape, with an open lagoon in the center.

Barrier reefs are similar to fringing reefs in that they also border a shoreline; however, instead of growing directly out from the shore, they are separated from land by an expanse of water. This creates a lagoon of open, often deep water between the reef and the shore.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q.182) Nilesh Shah committee, recently seen in news, is related to:

a) promote investment funds at international financial services centres.

b) regulate medical education in India.

c) working of capital market infrastructure institutions (MIs).

d) None of the above.

Explanation: The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has constituted an Expert Committee on Investment Funds to recommend to IFSCA on the road map for the funds industry in the International Financial Service Centres (IFSCs) in India.

The Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Mr. Nilesh

Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co. Ltd.

The Committee comprises of leaders from the entire Fund Management ecosystem including from areas such as technology, distribution, legal, compliance, and operations.

Terms of reference of the Expert Committee:

To recommend IFSCA on long term vision for operations of Investment Funds in IFSC.

To make recommendations with respect to structure of Investment Funds in IFSC.

To identify issues that may be critical for development of the Investment Funds industry at IFSCs including inter-regulatory issues.

Any other relevant item on building the ecosystem inter-alia on asset managers, hedge funds, PE, VC, sovereign funds, family offices, and the accompanying professional services.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.183) With reference to the National Mission on use of Biomass in coal based thermal power plants, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to increase the level of co-firing from present 5% to higher levels to have a larger share of carbon neutral power generation from the thermal power plants.

2. It aims to take up R&D activity in boiler design to handle the higher amount of silica, alkalis in the biomass pellets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Ministry of Power has decided to set up a National Mission on use of Biomass in coal based thermal power plants.

Mission objectives:

To increase the level of co-firing from present 5% to higher levels to have a larger share of carbon neutral power generation from the thermal power plants.

To take up R&D activity in boiler design to handle the higher amount of silica, alkalis in the biomass pellets.

To facilitate overcoming the constraints in supply chain of bio mass pellets and agro-residue and its transport upto to the power plants.

To consider regulatory issues in biomass co-firing.

Features:

The Mission would have a Steering Committee headed by Secretary (Power) comprising of all stakeholders including representatives from Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) etc.

The Executive Committee would be headed by Member (Thermal), CEA.

The duration of proposed National Mission would be a minimum 5 years.

Significance of the Proposed Mission

It would address the issue of air pollution due to farm stubble burning and to reduce carbon footprints of thermal power generation.

This would further support the energy transition in the country and our targets to move towards cleaner energy sources.

It will also contribute in the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.184) With reference to the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail link Project (USBRL), consider the following statements:

1. It joins the Kashmir valley with rest of the country and has been declared as National Project in 2002.

2. Indian railway's first cable-stayed bridge is being constructed on Anji Khad.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Minister for Railways reviewed the progress of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail link Project (USBRL).

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail link Project (USBRL) having length of 272 Km long Railway Line from Udhampur to Baramulla joining the Kashmir valley with

rest of the country and has been declared as National Project in 2002.

Out of 272 Km of USBRL Project, work has been completed on 161 Km and commissioned.

Completion date of the project is April-2023.

Status of work sub-divided under it is as under:

Udhampur - Katra -25km (commissioned in July 2014)

Quazigund - Baramulla – 118km (commissioned in Oct., 2009)

Banihal - Quazigund – 18km (commissioned in June 2013)

Katra to Banihal- 111km in progress (Target 2022-23)

Katra- Banihal Section of USBRL Project

The work on intervening stretch of Katra-Banihal section (111 km) is in progress and this section predominantly involves tunnelling i.e. 97 Km out of 111 Km (i.e. 87%) of length of Katra-Banihal section is in tunnels and maximum length of tunnel T-49 is 12.75 Km.

There are 27 Main tunnel and 37 Bridges.

These bridges include the iconic Chenab Bridge which will be the highest railway bridge in the world. Arch Launching of Chenab bridge was completed on 05.04.2021.

Indian railway's first cable-stayed bridge is also being constructed on Anji Khad. Ancillary viaduct portion of Anji khad Bridge has been completed.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.185) With reference to the supermoon, consider the following statements:

1. It occurs when the Moon's orbit is closest to the Earth at the same time that the Moon is full.
2. Lunar perigee is when the Moon is closest to Earth on its 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

Explanation: The Moon will have the nearest approach to Earth on May 26, and therefore will appear to be the closest and largest Full Moon or "supermoon" of 2021. This celestial event coincides with this year's only total lunar eclipse, the first since January 2019. Significantly, a supermoon and a total lunar eclipse have not occurred together in nearly six years.

A supermoon occurs when the Moon's orbit is closest to the Earth at the same time that the Moon is full.

As the Moon orbits the Earth, there is a point of time when the distance between the two is the least (called the perigee when the average distance is about 360,000 km from the Earth) and a point of time when the distance is the most (called the apogee when the distance is about 405,000 km from the Earth).

Now, when a full Moon appears at the point when the distance between the Earth and the Moon is the least, not only does it appear to be brighter but it is also larger than a regular full moon.

According to NASA, the term supermoon was coined by astrologer Richard Nolle in 1979.

In a typical year, there may be two to four full supermoons and two to four new supermoons in a row.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.186) Which of the following is incorrect about 'The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021'

- a) Originator traceability has to be ensured in the end-to-end encrypted platforms.
- b) Removal of content within 36 hours upon receipt of information about the platform hosting prohibited content from a court or the appropriate government agency.
- c) There is a need to publish a monthly compliance report mentioning the details of complaints received and action taken on the complaints.

d) The district magistrate is appointed in each district as the Chief compliance officer.

Explanation: Features:

Chief compliance officer: a company (social media platform) official, resident in India, who will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the rules. They will be required also to appoint a nodal contact person for 24x7 coordination with law enforcement agencies. Thus Only statement 'd' is NOT TRUE.

A need to publish a monthly compliance report mentioning the details of complaints received and action taken on the complaints, as well as details of contents removed proactively by the significant social media intermediary.

Concerns:

Potential unavailability of 'safe harbour' protection given to intermediaries under Section 79 of the IT Act, under the new rules.

Originator traceability mandate in end-to-end encrypted platforms could end up weakening the security architecture of the platform. This could render the entire citizenry susceptible to cyberattacks by hostile actors

Removal of Content: The rules stipulate that upon receipt of information about the platform hosting prohibited content from a court or the appropriate government agency, it should remove the said content within 36 hours.

Criminal liability: They have requested a re-think over a clause in the new rules which can lead to imposition of criminal liability upon the employees for non-compliance by intermediaries, asking for it to be dropped in the interest of ease of doing business.

Q.187) Consider the following statements about Mucormycosis

- 1. It is a complication caused by a fungal infection.
- 2. It can happen only when the immunity of the body is weakened by another infection.

3. People catch mucormycosis by coming in contact with the fungal spores in the environment.

4. It can also develop on the skin after the fungus enters the skin through a cut, scrape, burn, or other types of skin trauma.

Which of the above statements 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

Explanation: All of the statements are correct.

About Mucormycosis or black fungus:

Mucormycosis (black fungus infection) is caused by a group of moulds known as mucormycetes, which are present in the air, water and moist surfaces, in damp places. It appears as black spots in the nasal cavity, mouth and throat.

A healthy person's immunity does not allow it cause infection. However, it can cause severe infection in an immunocompromised person. The Central government on Tuesday allocated an additional 19,420 vials of Amphotericin-B to all States/UTs and Central Institutions.

People catch mucormycosis by coming in contact with the fungal spores in the environment.

It can also develop on the skin after the fungus enters the skin through a cut, scrape, burn, or other types of skin trauma.

Avoiding certain situations: Patients, specially those in high risk category for mucormycosis, should avoid visiting damp and dusty places for a few weeks post recovery, Arun Sharma, Director, National Institute for Implementation Research on Non-Communicable Diseases (NIIRNCD) Jodhpur and a Community Medicine expert told .

Q.188) Which of the following Buddhist Sites in India are designated as UNESCO's Heritage Sites?

1. Khajuraho Monuments
2. Ajanta Caves
3. Mahabodhi Temple Complex
4. Nalanda Mahavihara

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

d) 2, 3 and 4

Explanation: UNESCO's Heritage Sites Related to Buddhism:

Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar

Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi, MP

Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya, Bihar

Ajanta Caves Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

Khajuraho monuments, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986, is an exceptional specimen of Chandela architecture and sculpture (Not a Buddhist Site). Hence, option D is correct.

Q.189) What is 17+1 initiative, seen recently in news:

a) It is a China led format with an aim to expand cooperation between Beijing and Central and Eastern Europe member countries.

b) It is an initiative of European Union to create backbone of an ecological network for trans-boundary cooperation in nature conservation and sustainable development.

c) It is a Britain led initiative with an aim to overhaul immigration system in Britain and Western European countries by keeping a counting of people entering and leaving the country.

d) It is an initiative by the World Health organization to ensure vaccination in the worst Covid affected African Countries.

Explanation: 17+1 (China and Central and Eastern Europe Countries) initiative is a China- led format founded in 2012 in Budapest with an aim to expand cooperation between Beijing and the CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) member countries, with investments and trade for the development of the CEE region.

The initiative includes twelve EU member states and five Balkan states- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The framework focuses on infrastructure projects such as bridges, motorways,

railway lines and modernisation of ports in the member states. The platform is largely seen as an extension of China's flagship Belt and Road initiative (BRI).

Q.190) Consider the following statements regarding One Stop Centre scheme, seen recently in news:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

2. The objective of the scheme is to provide integral support and assistance to children affected by violence and in distress.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: One Stop Centre Scheme (OSCs) is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The objective of the scheme is to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence and in distress, both in private and public spaces, under one roof and facilitate immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including police, medical, legal aid and counselling, psychological support to fight against any forms of violence against women.

It has provided assistance to over 3 lakh women so far. Till date, 701 OSCs in 35 States/UTs have been operationalised.

Q.191) With reference to the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code, consider the following statements:

1. The guidelines had asked all social media platforms to set up a grievance redressal and compliance mechanism, which included appointing a resident grievance officer, chief compliance officer and a nodal contact person.
2. Section 79 says any intermediary shall not be held legally or otherwise liable for any third-party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted on its platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The new rules for social media platforms and digital news outlets, called the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code, came into effect.

The guidelines had asked all social media platforms to set up a grievance redressal and compliance mechanism, which included appointing a resident grievance officer, chief compliance officer and a nodal contact person.

The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology had also asked these platforms to submit monthly reports on complaints received from users and action taken.

A third requirement was for instant messaging apps was to make provisions

for tracking the first originator of a message.

Failure to comply with any one of these requirements would take away the indemnity provided to social media intermediaries under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act.

Section 79 says any intermediary shall not be held legally or otherwise liable for any third party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted on its platform.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.192) Mokedatu multi-purpose project involves building a balancing reservoir across which of the following river?

- a) Krishna
- b) Kaveri**
- c) Godavari
- d) Narmada

Explanation: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has appointed a joint committee to look into allegations of unauthorised construction activity taking place in Mokedatu, where the Karnataka government had proposed to construct a dam across the Cauvery River.

Acting suo motu based on a media report, the NGT has directed the panel to submit a report on or before July 5.

The Mokedatu multi-purpose project involves building a balancing reservoir across the Cauvery River near Kanakapura in Ramanagaram district.

It envisages supplying drinking water to Bengaluru and Ramanagaram districts, besides generation of power.

The project was conceived in 2013 and in 2017, the Karnataka state cabinet decided to implement it. The project, however, ran into a controversy after Tamil Nadu opposed it on the grounds that the project violates the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q.193) Vesak- Buddha Purnima, is considered as the Triple Blessed Day. It commemorates which of the following important events of Buddha's life?

1. Buddha's Birth
2. Mahabhinishkramana
3. Nirvana
4. Parinirvana

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation: Vesak- Buddha Purnima, is considered the Triple Blessed Day as it commemorates three important events of Buddha's life:

Buddha's Birth

Enlightenment (Nirvana)

Death (MahaParnirvana)

This year the Buddha Poornima is dedicated to Global Peace and Relief from the Pandemic- Covid 19. Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with the International

Buddhist Confederation (IBC), a global Buddhist umbrella organised the Virtual Prayer Event with the participation of heads of Buddhist Sanghas from around the world.

Ceremonies and prayers were simultaneously held at Bodhgaya-India, Lumbini-Nepal, Kandy- Sri Lanka and the main Buddhist temples in Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Russia, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan for expressing solidarity with India for the difficult phase the world is experiencing.

Mahabhinishkramanana- When Buddha left his home at the age of 29 years to live a life of an ascetic which is known as Mahabhinishkramanana (the great departure).

Q.194) Jardalu mango, Katarni rice and Magahi paan are GI certified agricultural products from which of the following states?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Bihar**
- d) Tripura

Explanation: Jardalu mango, Katarni rice and Magahi paan are GI certified agricultural products from the state of Bihar.

Recently, first consignment of Shahi Litchi from Bihar was exported to United Kingdom. Shahi Litchi is the fourth GI certified agricultural product from Bihar

after Jardalu mango, Katarni rice and Magahi paan.

India is the second largest producer of litchi (Litchi chin) in the world, after China. Bihar tops in terms of production of litchi in India.

Q.195) Consider the following statements regarding Banni Grasslands, seen recently in news:

1. Two ecosystems, wetland and grasslands, are juxtaposed in Banni.
2. The tribal herdsmen community, Gaderia lives in Banni.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Banni Grassland is spread over 2,618 kilometer and account for almost 45% of the pastures in Gujarat. Two ecosystems, wetland and grasslands, are juxtaposed in Banni.

The area is rich in flora and fauna, with 192 species of plants, 262 species of birds, several species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

The tribal herdsmen community, Maldharies live in Banni grassland. Maldharies breed Banni Buffaloes, a species endemic to the region. The buffaloes are adaptive to the Kutch's hot weather conditions and yield 12-18 litres milk a day.

Q.196) With reference to Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. CDRI was launched by the President of the European Commission at the UN Climate Action Summit.
2. CDRI Secretariat is based in Madrid.
3. A large share of the estimated fund requirements to cover the core costs for the first five years was invested by Germany and France.

Options:

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

Explanation: Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was launched by the Prime Minister of India at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019.

Its secretariat is based in New Delhi.

A large share of the estimated fund requirements to cover the core costs for the first five years was invested by India.

Q.197) Consider the following statements-

1. Sankalp se Siddhi-(Village and Digital Connect Drive) has been launched by TRIFED.
2. Tech for Tribal Program aims to transform 5 crore Tribal Entrepreneurs by capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills.

3. Van Dhan Vikas Vikas Yojana is joint initiative of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare.

Select the correct answer using the code below-

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 3 only

Explanation: The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has launched "Sankalp se Siddhi" - Village and Digital Connect Drive.

The main aim of this drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in the villages.

Tech For Tribals:

Tech For Tribals program aims to transform 5 crore Tribal Entrepreneurs by capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY).

The Van Dhan Vikas Yojana is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED. It was launched to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.

The program will ensure higher success rate of the Tribal Entrepreneurs by enabling and empowering them to run their business with marketable products with quality certifications.

Van Dhan Vikas Kendras:

Van Dhan Vikas Kendras have been provided by Van Dhan Vikas Yojana.

Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVKs) are for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training to tribals and setting up of primary processing and value addition facilities.

Tribals are trained here and then provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the jungle.

Q.198) "Shaphari Scheme" has been recently seen in the news is related to-

a) New Grain procurement system introduced by Food Corporation of India

b) New Scheme for incentivising organic famers

c) New Scheme to breed Indian Dogs

d) New certification scheme for Aquaculture products

Explanation: Recently, the Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) has developed a certification scheme for aquaculture products called 'Shaphari'.

Shaphari is based on the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's technical guidelines on aquaculture certification.

Shaphari is a Sanskrit word that means superior quality of fishery products suitable for human consumption.

It is a market-based tool for hatcheries to adopt good aquaculture practices and help produce quality antibiotic-free shrimp products to assure global consumers.

Q.199) NGO-DARPAN is a platform that provides space for interface between Non-Government organizations (NGOs)/ Voluntary Organizations (VOs) in the country and key Government Ministries / Departments / Government Bodies. It is run by

- a) Finance Ministry
- b) Home ministry
- c) NITI Aayog**
- d) FICCI

Explanation: It started out as an initiative of the Prime Minister's Office, to create and promote a healthy partnership between NGOs/Voluntary Organizations and the Government of India. Now it is an e-governance application offered by NITI Aayog to electronically maintain data and transparency regarding NGOs/VOs in the country.

Q.200) Which among the following will be losers when Rupee will depreciate?

1. People Importing from Outside
2. People Travelling Abroad
3. People exporting from India
4. People Investing Abroad
5. People seeking Medical Education Abroad
6. Foreign Tourists in India
7. People receiving remittances from abroad

Select the correct answer using the code below-

- a) 1,2,3 and 7 only

b) 1,2,4 and 5 only

c) 2,3,4,6 and 7 only

d) 1,2,5,6 and 7 only

Explanation: Recently, the Indian Rupee depreciated to a nine-month low of 75.4 against the USD, it is one of the biggest losers among the emerging market currencies.

Impact of Depreciating Rupee:

Losers:

People Importing from outside.

People seeking foreign education.

People travelling abroad.

People investing abroad.

People seeking medical treatment abroad etc.

Gainers:

People exporting from India.

People receiving remittances from Non-Resident Indian (NRI).

Foreign tourists as travel to India gets cheaper.

Q.201) With reference to the 'Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD portal', consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. The portal will help reduce the load on hospitals and patients will be able to get contactless consultations in an easy and effective manner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launched 'Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD portal through video conferencing on May 27, 2021.

The portal provides tele-medicine services to the serving Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families. The services can be availed by registering on the website <https://sehatopd.in/>.

This is the final version of the SeHAT OPD portal with advanced safety features. The trial version was made functional in August 2020.

Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS), Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and Centre for Development of Artificial Computing (C-DAC) Mohali are involved in the development of the portal.

The portal will help reduce the load on hospitals and patients will be able to get contactless consultations in an easy and effective manner.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.202) The Golden Visa system, recently seen in news, is an initiative of which of the following country?

- a) United Arab Emirates**
- b) India
- c) France
- d) China

Explanation: Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt received his golden visa from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government.

In 2019, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) implemented a new system for long-term residence visas, thereby enabling foreigners to live, work and study in the UAE without the need of a national sponsor and with 100 per cent ownership of their business.

The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency (5 and 10 years) to people belonging to the following groups: investors, entrepreneurs, individuals with outstanding talents the likes of researchers, medical professionals and those within the scientific and knowledge fields, and remarkable students.

The main benefit of the visa will be security as through the issuance of the Golden Visa, the UAE government has made it clear that they are committed to providing expatriates, investors and essentially everyone looking to make the UAE their home an extra reason to feel secure about their future.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.203) With reference to the currency swap, consider the following statements:

1. RBI has a framework under which it can offer credit swap facilities to SAARC countries within an overall corpus of \$2 billion.
2. The SAARC currency swap facility came into operation in 2020.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only**

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

Explanation: Bangladesh's central bank has approved a \$200 million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka, which will help Colombo tide over its foreign exchange crisis.

A currency swap is effectively a loan that Bangladesh will give to Sri Lanka in dollars, with an agreement that the debt will be repaid with interest in Sri Lankan rupees. For Sri Lanka, this is cheaper than borrowing from the market, and a lifeline as it struggles to maintain adequate forex reserves even as repayment of its external debts looms. The period of the currency swap will be specified in the agreement.

This may be the first time that Bangladesh is extending a helping hand to another country, so this is a landmark of sorts.

It is also the first time that Sri Lanka is borrowing from a SAARC country other than India.

India-Sri Lanka relations have been tense over Colombo's decision to cancel a valued container terminal project at Colombo Port.

Last July, the Reserve Bank of India did extend a \$400 million credit swap facility to Sri Lanka, which Central Bank of Sri Lanka settled in February. The arrangement was not extended.

RBI has a framework under which it can offer credit swap facilities to SAARC countries within an overall corpus of \$2 billion. The SAARC currency swap facility came into operation in November 2012.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.204) With reference to the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) was founded in the year 1999.
2. The IBF is the parent organisation of the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) which was set up in the year 2011.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), the apex body of broadcasters, is expanding its purview to cover digital streaming platforms and will be renamed the Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF).

The move would bring broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms, which have seen a substantial jump in their viewership base after the pandemic, under one roof.

For this, the IBDF was in the process of forming a new wholly-owned subsidiary to handle all matters of digital media.

The IBDF would also form a self-regulatory body, the Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCRC), for digital OTT platforms.

The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) was founded in the year 1999.

The IBF is the parent organisation of the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) which was set up in the year 2011. The BCCC examines content-related complaints relating to all non-news general entertainment channels in India.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.205) Recently, a rare celestial event took place in which Total lunar eclipse coincided with supermoon, what does that mean?

a) Apogee Moon and Earth is between Sun and Moon.

b) Perigee Moon and Earth is between Sun and Moon.

c) Perigee Moon and Moon is between Sun and Earth.

d) Apogee Moon and Moon is between Sun and Earth.

Explanation: A supermoon occurs when the Moon's orbit is closest to the Earth at the same time that the Moon is full. As the Moon orbits the Earth, there is a point of time when the distance between the two is the least (called the perigee when the average distance is about 360,000 km from the Earth) and a point of time when the distance is the most (called the apogee when the distance is about 405,000 km from the Earth).

Now, when a full Moon appears at the point when the distance between the Earth and the Moon is the least, not only does it appear to be brighter but it is also larger than a regular full moon.

Recently, two celestial events took place at the same time. One is the supermoon and the other is a total lunar eclipse,

which is when the Moon and Sun are on opposite sides of the Earth. Because of the total lunar eclipse, the moon also appeared to be red. This is because the Earth blocked some of the light from the Sun from reaching the moon and as the Earth's atmosphere filters the light, it softened "the edge of our planet's shadow" "giving the Moon a deep, rosy glow."

Q.206) Consider the following statements.

1. India is the world's largest oil importer.

2. The largest share of India's oil import comes from Iraq.

3. Opec+ refers to the alliance of crude producers, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets since 2017.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 3 only

b) 1, 2

c) 2, 3

d) 1, 2, 3

Explanation: Opec+ refers to the alliance of crude producers, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets since 2017.

India is the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer, shipping in about 84% of its crude needs, and relies heavily on the Middle East.

Iraq continued to be the top oil seller to India.

Q.207) Consider the following statements-

1. End-to-end encryption is a system of communication where only the communicating users can read the messages.
2. According to IT Rules, any intermediary shall not be held legally for third party information/data/communication link shared on platform in any case.

Select the correct answer using the code below-

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

Explanation: End-to-End Encryption vs Traceability

End-to-end encryption was designed to help ensure that nobody other than the person you are talking to can know that you sent a particular message. This is the exact opposite of traceability, which would reveal who sent what to whom.

End-to-end encryption is a system of communication where only the communicating users can read the messages.

Traceability would force private companies to collect and store who-said-what and who-shared-what for billions of messages sent each day. This will require platforms to collect more data than they need, solely for the purpose of turning it over to law enforcement agencies.

Section 79 of the IT Act 2000

It says any intermediary shall not be held legally or otherwise liable for any third party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted on its platform.

Third party information means any information dealt with by a network service provider in his capacity as an intermediary.

This protection shall be applicable if the said intermediary does not in any way initiate the transmission of the message in question, select the receiver of the transmitted message and does not modify any information contained in the transmission.

It is not granted if the intermediary, despite being informed or notified by the government or its agencies, does not immediately disable access to the material under question.

The intermediary must not tamper with any evidence of these messages or content present on its platform, failing which it loses its protection under the Act.

Q.208) Consider the following statements:

1. RBI's income comes mainly through interest on the securities it holds.
2. RBI does not earn any income from intervention in the currency markets.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: Statement 2 is incorrect

RBI earns regular income by deploying its reserves in interest-bearing foreign currency, government securities and gold. RBI's income comes mainly through interest on the securities it holds.

RBI notionally gains or loses on its Currency and Gold Revaluation Account every year due to the change in the market value of gold and rupee

RBI's income also comes from intervention in the currency markets to adjust liquidity or prevent large fluctuations in the value of rupee.

Q.209) 'Ayush 64' was recently in the news, it is

- a) A set of Yoga practices to increase oxygen level in patients
- b) Poly-herbal formulation used in the treatment Covid-19 infection**
- c) Unani medicine to fight cancer
- d) Ayurvedic treatment to reduce the depression related problems

Explanation: Ayush 64 is a poly-herbal formulation developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).

It is useful in the treatment of asymptomatic, mild and moderate Covid-19 infection as an adjunct to standard care. Hence, option B is correct.

Initially the drug was developed for Malaria in the year 1980 and now is repurposed for Covid-19.

Q.210) With reference to Currency Swap Facility, consider the following statements:

1. It is an agreement to exchange currencies with predetermined terms.
2. The swap operations can carry exchange rate or other market risks.
3. Recently, Bangladesh - Sri Lanka signed a currency swap agreement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Explanation: A currency swap between the two countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

These swap operations carry no exchange rate or other market risks as transaction terms are set in advance. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Recently, Bangladesh cleared a USD 200 million currency swap facility for Sri Lanka, to help boost its economy. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

In the present context, a currency swap is effectively a loan that Bangladesh will give to Sri Lanka in dollars, with an agreement that the debt will be repaid with interest in Sri Lankan rupee

Q.211) With reference to the near isothermal forging technology, consider the following statements:

1. The technology has been developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
2. This is a crucial technology for establishing self-reliance in aeroengine technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has established the near isothermal forging technology to produce all the five stages of high-pressure compressors (HPC) discs out of difficult-to-deform titanium alloy using its unique 2000 MT isothermal forge press.

The technology has been developed by Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a premier metallurgical laboratory of DRDO at Hyderabad.

This is a crucial technology for establishing self-reliance in aeroengine technology. With this development, India has joined the league of limited global engine developers to have the manufacturing capabilities of such critical aero engine components.

To meet the bulk production requirements, DMRL technology was transferred to M/s MIDHANI through a licensing agreement for technology transfer (LAToT).

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.212) What is MV X-Press Pearl, recently seen in news?

- a) A container ship.**
- b) Newly found galaxy.
- c) An international public-private global health partnership.
- d) None of the above.

Explanation: Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ships 'Vaibhav' and 'Vajra' continue to battle the fire onboard container ship MV X-Press Pearl off Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The distressed vessel MV X-Press Pearl was carrying 1,486 containers with nitric acid and other hazardous IMDG code chemicals.

The extreme fire, damage to containers and prevailing inclement weather has caused the vessel to tilt to one side resulting in falling of containers overboard.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q.213) With reference to the Midday Meal programme, consider the following statements:

1. It covers children of classes I-VIII studying in government, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC) and madarasas/ maqtabas supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
2. The Midday Meal Scheme is covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only**

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: The Union Minister for Education has approved the proposal to provide monetary assistance to 11.8 Crore students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of the cooking cost component of the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, to all eligible children, as a special welfare measure.

This will give a fillip to the Midday Meal programme. This is in addition to the Government of India's announcement of distribution of free-of-cost food grains @ 5 Kg per person per month to nearly 80 Crore beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY).

With a view to enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1995. In 2001 MDMS became a cooked Mid Day Meal Scheme.

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme covers children of classes I-VIII studying in government, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC) and madarasas/ maqtabas supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). It is the largest school feeding programme in the world.

The Midday Meal Scheme is covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.214) With reference to the 43rd GST Council meeting, consider the following statements:

1. A number of specified COVID-19 related goods such as medical oxygen, oxygen concentrators and other oxygen storage and transportation equipment have been recommended for full exemption from IGST.

2. Amphotericin B also have been recommended for full exemption from IGST.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: The 43rd GST Council met under the Chairmanship of Union Finance Minister.

The GST Council has made the following recommendations:

As a COVID-19 relief measure, a number of specified COVID-19 related goods such as medical oxygen, oxygen concentrators and other oxygen storage and transportation equipment, certain diagnostic markers test kits and COVID-19 vaccines, etc., have been recommended for full exemption from IGST.

In view of rising Black Fungus cases, the above exemption from IGST has been extended to Amphotericin B.

To support the LymphaeticFilarisis (an endemic) elimination programme being conducted in collaboration with WHO, the GST rate on Diethylcarbazine (DEC) tablets has been recommended for reduction to 5% (from 12%).

GST on MRO services in respect of ships/vessels shall be reduced to 5% (from 18%).

The Finance Minister also announced an amnesty scheme for small GST taxpayers, allowing filing of returns with reduced late fees.

the GST Council will hold a special session to discuss extending paying compensation to states beyond 2022.

Annual return filing has also been simplified. The Council has recommended amending the CGST Act to allow for self-certification of reconciliation statements, instead of getting it certified by Chartered Accountants.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.215) Consider the following statements regarding Bhitarkanika National Park, seen recently in news:

1. It is India's largest mangrove forest.
2. It is a Ramsar site.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Bhitarkanika National Park, located in Odisha, is famous for its mangroves, migratory birds, turtles, estuarine crocodiles and countless creeks. It is India's second- largest mangrove forest. Bhitarkanika is home to a wide range of fauna, including 3,000 spotted deer, bird species and other species such

as wild boars, jackal, hyenas, jungle cat, fishing cats, water monitor lizards, rhesus macaques, common langur, hyena, otters, jungle cat, mongooses, fox, leopard cat, porcupine, Indian civet cat and hare.

The area was designated a national park in September 1998 and as a Ramsar site by UNESCO in August 2002.

Q.216) Mission COVID Suraksha

1. It aims to accelerate the development and production of Indigenous COVID Vaccines.
2. This is being implemented by the Department of Biotechnology.
3. Recently under this mission Covishield would be produced by Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL), Hyderabad

Which of the above statements is/are NOT correct?

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

Explanation: Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 Mission COVID Suraksha was announced by the Government of India,

a. Aim: to accelerate the development and production of Indigenous COVID Vaccines.

b. This is being implemented by Department of Biotechnology.

Recently, Indian Immunologicals Limited start production of drug substance for Covaxin under Mission COVID Suraksha

a. The Government has decided to support some public sector companies with grants under the Mission COVID Suraksha. One such company is the Hyderabad-based Indian Immunological Limited (IIL), which a facility under the PSU, National Dairy Development Board.

Thus, only statement 3 is false as it is an alliance for COVXIN not COVISHIELD

Q.217) Consider the following statements regarding small savings:

1. Interest rate on small savings is determined by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) is a part of the Public Account of India.
3. Unlike Central and State governments, Union Territories cannot utilise funds from the NSSF.

Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

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

d) 1, and 3

Explanation: Interest rate on small savings schemes are determined by the Central government. The interest rates for SSSs are announced by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on quarterly basis.

National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) was established in 1999. It is a part of the Public Account of India. Public Account of India accounts for flows for those

transactions where the government is acting as a banker.

Central government, State governments as well as Union Territories with a Legislative Assembly can utilize funds from the National Small Savings Fund.

Q.218) With reference to yellow fungus, consider the following statements:

1. It is also called Mucor septic
2. It may cause fatigue and burning sensation on skin.
3. It can invade internal organs of the body and affects the entire functioning.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Yellow fungus, also called mucor septic, initially develops by the presence of moulds (a type of fungi) in the environment. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It may be present with unnecessary fatigue, rashes, burning sensation on skin etc. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Humidity levels below 30-40% can promote the growth of fungus.

It may not start from the lungs but it invades internal organs of the body and affects the entire functioning. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Q.219) Consider the following statements regarding the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):

1. It was formed during the Cold War as an organisation of States that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the USA or the Soviet Union.
2. The founding principles of the NAM were adopted in the Havana Declaration.
3. India was one of the leading countries of NAM under the Prime Ministership of Jawaharlal Nehru.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Explanation: The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was formed during the Cold War (1945-1991) as an organisation of States that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the USA (Capitalism) or the Soviet Union (Socialism) but sought to remain independent or neutral. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It was the Bandung Conference, held in 1955 that resulted in the adoption of the founding principles of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) (and not the Havana Declaration). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

The purpose of the NAM was enumerated in the Havana Declaration of 1979 to ensure "the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries". It was held under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal Abdel

Nasser of Egypt, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, and Sukarno of Indonesia. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Q.220) Remdesivir has been used to treat which of the following diseases?

1. Ebola
2. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome
3. Dengue Hemorrhagic Syndrome
4. Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
5. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

Choose the correct code from the options given below:

- a) 1,2,3 and 5 only
- b) 1,2 and 4 only
- c) 1,2 and 5 only**
- d) 1,3,4 and 5 only

Explanation: Remdesivir is an injectable anti-viral manufactured in 2014 to treat Ebola. It has since been used to treat Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). In 2020, it was repurposed for Covid-19 treatment. Clinical experience has shown it works best in mildly ill patients, and in early stages of hospitalisation; late use has little effect.

Q.221) With reference to the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Under ECLGS 4.0, 100% guarantee cover to loans up to Rs.2 crore to hospitals/nursing homes/clinics/medical colleges for setting up on-site oxygen

generation plants, interest rate capped at 7.5%;
2. Civil Aviation sector is not eligible under ECLGS 3.0

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: On account of the disruptions caused by the second wave of COVID 19 pandemic to businesses across various sectors of the economy, Government has further enlarged the scope of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme as under.

ECLGS 4.0: 100% guarantee cover to loans up to Rs.2 crore to hospitals/nursing homes/clinics/medical colleges for setting up on-site oxygen generation plants, interest rate capped at 7.5%;
Additional ECLGS assistance of upto 10% of the outstanding as on February 29, 2020 to borrowers covered under ECLGS 1.0, in tandem with restructuring as per RBI guidelines of May 05, 2021;
Current ceiling of Rs. 500 Cr. of loan outstanding for eligibility under ECLGS 3.0 to be removed, subject to maximum additional ECLGS assistance to each borrower being limited to 40% or Rs.200 crore, whichever is lower;
Civil Aviation sector to be eligible under ECLGS 3.0
Validity of ECLGS extended to 30.09.2021 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs.3 lakh crore are issued. Disbursement under the scheme permitted up to 31.12.2021.

Detailed operational guidelines in this regard are being separately issued by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC).
Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.222) With reference to the International Space Station (ISS), consider the following statements:

1. It has been in space since 1998.
2. ISRO is one of the participating space agencies that run it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: On June 3, NASA will send 128 glow-in-the-dark baby squids and some 5,000 tardigrades (also called water bears) to the International Space Station for research purposes.

The water animals, which will be launched aboard SpaceX's 22nd cargo resupply mission to the ISS, are part of experiments that could help scientists design improved protective measures for astronauts going on long-duration space travel.

One of these studies involves looking at how the water bears—tiny animals (around 1mm long) that can adapt to extreme conditions on Earth, including high pressure, temperature and radiation—would behave in a spaceflight environment.

Scientists also want to look at how microgravity conditions affect the relationship between the bobtail squid – which are also tiny (3 mm long)– and beneficial microbes, as part of a study called UMAMI, short for Understanding of Microgravity on Animal-Microbe Interactions.

The International Space Station (ISS) has been in space since 1998, and has been known for the exemplary cooperation between the five participating space agencies that run it: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada).

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

Q.223) With reference to the south west monsoon, consider the following statements:

1. Initial rains first occur over south Andaman Sea and the monsoon winds then advance across the Bay of Bengal.
2. Since 2005, the monsoon has arrived within the error margin of the IMD's weather models, except in 2015.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: The arrival of the southwest monsoon over Kerala has been delayed to June 3, the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The agency had last month forecast that the onset would be on May 31.

Skymet, a private weather forecast agency, however, said the monsoon had arrived.

This was because two of the three criteria – as defined by the IMD – had been met.

The criteria are

rain-bearing westerlies being at a minimum depth and speed;

at least 60% of the available 14 stations in Kerala and coastal Karnataka reporting rainfall of 2.5 mm or more for two consecutive days after May 10; and

a certain degree of clouding, indicated by a parameter called 'outgoing longwave radiation' (OLR), being below 200 W/square metre.

IMD's own data indicated that except for the OLR, the other criteria were met.

The IMD and Skymet have forecast normal monsoon from June-September this year.

To herald the onset, initial rains first occur over south Andaman Sea and the monsoon winds then advance across the Bay of Bengal.

Since 2005, the monsoon has arrived within the error margin of the IMD's weather models, except in 2015.

Hence both statements are correct.

Q.224) Tianzhou-2 cargo spacecraft, recently seen in news, is an initiative of:

- a) North Korea
- b) Japan
- c) South Korea
- d) China**

Explanation: China took another step towards completing the construction of its first space station by the end of next year following the launch and docking of a cargo spacecraft.

The Tianzhou-2 cargo spacecraft, described by as “the delivery guy for China’s space station”, was launched on a Long March-7 rocket from the island of Hainan, and docked eight hours later with the space station’s first core module called Tianhe, or “heavenly harmony”.

The Tianzhou-2 spacecraft carried a range of supplies, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said, and will be followed by the launch of another cargo spacecraft, Tianzhou-3, and two manned missions, Shenzhou-12 and Shenzhou-13, this year, each carrying three astronauts who will spend several months in orbit. The Shenzhou-12 launch is slated for mid-June.

The launch was a third landmark for China’s space programme in recent weeks.

China landed a spacecraft in Mars on May 15 carrying its first Mars rover, Zhurong.

The Tianhe module, which the cargo spacecraft docked with on Sunday, was launched on April 29.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.225) With reference to the Central deputation, consider the following statements:

1. According to the Rule 16(1) of DCRB (Death-cum-Retirement Benefit) Rules a member of the Service working as a full-time member of a Committee may be

given extension of service for one year, without any prior approval of the Central Government.

2. According to the Rule 6(1) of the IAS Cadre Rules in case of any disagreement on central deputation, the matter shall be decided by the Central Government and the State Government or State Governments concerned shall give effect to the decision of 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

Explanation: West Bengal Chief Secretary Bandyopadhyay, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, was due to begin an extension of three months after retiring. Instead, the Centre has asked him to join the Government of India.

Rule 16(1) of DCRB (Death-cum-Retirement Benefit) Rules says that “a member of the Service dealing with budget work or working as a full-time member of a Committee may be given extension of service for three months, with the prior approval of the Central Government”.

For an officer posted as Chief Secretary of a state, this extension can be for six months.

Central deputation

In normal practice, the Centre asks every year for an “offer list” of officers of the All India Services (IAS, IPS and Indian Forest

Service) willing to go on central deputation, after which it selects officers from that list.

Rule 6(1) of the IAS Cadre Rules says an officer may, “with the concurrence of the State Governments concerned and the Central Government, be deputed for service under the Central Government or another State Government...”

It says “in case of any disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Central Government and the State Government or State Governments concerned shall give effect to the decision of the Central Government”.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Q.226) Which of the following features corresponding to Crypto-currencies is false.

- a) It is a de-centralized currency with no authoritative control over the money supply.
- b) All transactions are recorded in a public ledger which is known as the block-chain.
- c) The block-chain in crypto-currencies is a distributed ledger which is copied to multiple devices which stores the record of transactions.
- d) Bitcoin is a crypto-currency with no source of new currency generation limiting the money supply.**

Explanation: Crypto-Currency: a decentralized currency transferred from peer to peer and the transactions are confirmed in a public distributed ledger, which is accessible to all users.

Distributed ledger: All transactions are broadcasted and maintained in a public ledger.

Block-Chain: Stream of data in a ledger.

The individual coin ownership records are stored in a ledger existing in a form of a computerized database using strong cryptography to secure transaction records, to control the creation of additional coins, and to verify the transfer of coin ownership

Ex: Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple etc.

Bitcoin mining: In cryptocurrency networks, mining is a validation of transactions. For this effort, successful miners obtain new cryptocurrency as a reward. The reward decreases transaction fees by creating a complementary incentive to contribute to the processing power of the network.

This means the supply is not limited. Statement d is INCORRECT.

Q.227) Consider the following items-

Tribes/Community	Regions Associated
1. Hakki Pikki	Uttarakhand
2. Vann Gujjars	Karnataka
3. Bru/Reang	Tripura
-	

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Bru or Reang is a community indigenous to Northeast India, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram and Assam. In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.

- Van Gujjars are the forest-dwelling nomadic community inhabiting the foothills of Himalayan States such as Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Usually, they migrate to the bugyals (grasslands) located in the upper Himalayas with their buffaloes and return only at the end of monsoons to their makeshift huts, deras, in the foothills.
- They traditionally practice buffalo husbandry; a family owns up to 25 heads of buffaloes. They rely on buffaloes for milk, which gets them a good price in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh markets.
- The HakkiPikki tribes are semi nomadic tribal people, have four clans namely the Gujrathioa, Kaliwala, Mewara and Panwara.
- They speak many south Indian languages such as Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam along with Vagribooli which is similar to Gujarati.
- The HakkiPikki, meaning "bird catchers" in Kannada.
- It is a Scheduled Tribe in Karnataka.

Q.228) Which of the following are the interplanetary missions to Mars:

1. Hayabusa
2. Tianwen-1

3. Al-Amal
4. OSIREX

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Explanation: Al- Amal (meaning Hope in arabic) is a spacecraft of the UAE which created history by entering successfully into the orbit of Mars.

- it is the country's first interplanetary mission and succeeded in its first attempt.
 - With this, UAE became the world's fifth and first arabian country to reach the Martian orbit.
- China is also launching an ambitious mission to Mars, Tianwen-1.

About OSIRIS-REx Mission:

- It is the United States' first asteroid sample return mission, aiming to collect and carry a pristine, unaltered sample from an asteroid back to earth for scientific study.
- The OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) spacecraft was launched in 2016 for the journey to Bennu.
- The mission is essentially a seven-year-long voyage and will conclude when at least 60 grams of samples

are delivered back to the Earth (in 2023).

- Hayabusa 2 was launched from Japan's Tanegashima space centre in 2014 and took four years to reach the asteroid Ryugu.
- The mission builds on the original Hayabusa mission that was launched in 2003 and successfully linked up with asteroid Itokawa in 2005.
- It returned samples to Earth in 2010 marking the first time when sample materials from an asteroid were brought back to Earth.
- Hayabusa is the Japanese term used for the peregrine falcon, which is the fastest bird during its hunting dive (200 mile per hour).

Q.229) 'Outgoing longwave radiation', a term in the news, is related with

a) Arrival of monsoon in India

- b) X-rays
- c) Nuclear rays
- d) Earthquakes

Explanation: Outgoing Long-wave Radiation (OLR) is electromagnetic radiation of wavelengths from 3–100 μm emitted from Earth and its atmosphere out to space in the form of thermal radiation. It is also referred to as up-welling long-wave radiation and terrestrial long-wave flux, among others. Criteria for dates of arrival of monsoon The criteria are

- Rain-bearing westerlies being at a minimum depth and speed at least 60% of the available 14 stations in Kerala

- Coastal Karnataka reporting rainfall of 2.5 mm or more for two consecutive days after May 10

A certain degree of clouding, indicated by a parameter called 'outgoing longwave radiation' (OLR), being below 200 W/square metre.

Q.230) With reference to the Indian Coast Guard, consider the following statements:

1. It is a maritime law enforcement agency under the Ministry of Defence.
2. It has jurisdiction only over the territorial waters of India.
3. It is responsible for marine environment protection in maritime zones of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation: Indian Coast Guard is an Armed Force, Search and Rescue and Maritime Law Enforcement agency under the Ministry of Defence. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It has a wide range of task capabilities for both surface and air operations. It is one of the largest coast guards in the world.

It was established on 18th August 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978. It performs non-military functions.

The concept of forming ICG came into being after the 1971 war the blueprint for

a multidimensional Coast Guard was conceived by the visionary Rustamji Committee.

The organization is headed by the Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG) exercising his overall command and superintendence from the Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ) located at New Delhi.

It has jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India including contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

The territorial water is up to 12 nautical miles from the nearest point of the baseline; beyond territorial waters is the Contiguous Zone extending up to 24 nautical miles; and beyond that up to 200 nautical miles is the Exclusive Economic Zone of India.

Responsible for marine environment protection in maritime zones of India. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Acts as a coordinating authority for responding to oil spills in Indian waters.

Protects India's maritime interests and enforces its maritime law.