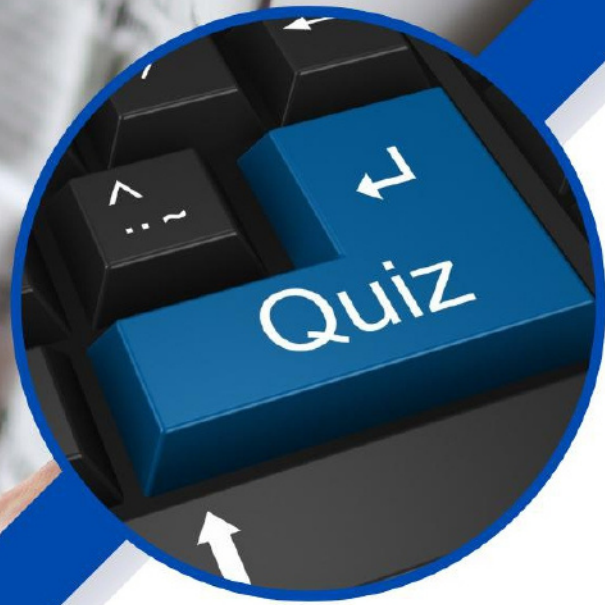




**Educrat IAS**  
ACADEMY



# **CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ**

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

**NOVEMBER 2021**

## November 1

### Q.1) Recently seen in the news, the Resolution 2601 is related to?

- a) Myanmar conflict
- b) Afghanistan crisis
- c) Two-States Solution

#### d) Protection of education in armed conflict

**Solution:** The UN Security recently adopted a 2601 resolution on the protection of education in armed conflict.

Resolution 2601, which won the unanimous support of the 15-member council, strongly condemns all violations of applicable international law involving the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict as well as their re-recruitment, killing, and maiming rape, and other forms of sexual violence, and abductions.

It also condemns attacks against schools and hospitals as well as denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict and all other violations of international law.

The resolution urges UN member states to develop effective measures to prevent and address attacks and threats of attacks against schools and education facilities, and, as appropriate, develop domestic legal frameworks to ensure respect for their relevant international legal obligations.

It condemns the military use of schools in contravention of international law and recognizes that use by armed forces and armed groups may render schools legitimate targets of attack, thus endangering children's and teachers' safety as well as their education.

### Q.2) Which of the following organization has released Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle Report?

- a) IRDAI
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) TISS
- d) Oxfam India

**Solution:** NITI Aayog today released a comprehensive report titled Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle, which brings out the gaps in the health insurance coverage across the Indian population and offers solutions to address the situation.

The highlights the need for health insurance coverage for all and says, "Significant challenges will need to be overcome to increase the penetration of health insurance.

This report is an effort to re-invigorate the dialogue on increasing financial protection for health and the broader goal of Universal Health Coverage. It outlines the current landscape, existing gaps and articulates broad recommendations and pathways to increase health insurance coverage.

The report highlights the need for designing a low-cost comprehensive health insurance product for the missing middle. It primarily recognizes the policy issue of low financial protection for health for the missing middle segment and highlights health insurance as a potential pathway in addressing that.

In doing so, the report offers a starting point for broader discussions on solutions, and specific products, to improve insurance coverage for the missing middle.

The report proposes wider industry and government stakeholder consultations, and discussion with consumer groups to delve deeper into the specifics of the problem, and potential solutions.

### Q.3) Which of the following initiatives is/are launched for addressing Mental health issues?

- 1. KIRAN
- 2. Manodarpan
- 3. Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

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

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Solution:** Mental Healthcare Act, 2017: It aims to provide mental healthcare services for persons with mental illness.

**KIRAN:** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 24/7 toll-free helpline to provide support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns.

**Manodarpan Initiative:** It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. It is aimed to provide psychosocial support to students, family members and teachers for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19.

**Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan** is a scheme which aims to make India a friendlier country for differently-abled persons. Under this scheme the government takes necessary actions to make all the public places accessible for physically-challenged individuals.

Hence, option A is correct.

**Q.4) The Emissions Gap Report has been in the news. It is being released by which of the following institutions?**

- a) International Atomic Energy Agency
- b) International Energy Agency
- c) United Nations Environment Programme**
- d) United Nations Development Programme

**Solution:** The Emissions Gap Report is published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Recently the twelfth edition of the Emissions Gap Report 2021 has been released.

It informs that the new national climate pledges combined with other mitigation measures put the world on track for a global temperature rise of 2.7°C by the end of the century.

Hence, option C is correct.

**Q.5) Which of the following reports are published by International Monetary Fund (IMF)?**

- 1. Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR)
- 2. Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report
- 3. World Economic Outlook

**Options:**

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

**Solution:** Important publications of International Monetary Fund (IMF):

World Economic Outlook

Global Financial Stability Report

Fiscal Monitor

Global Policy Agenda

Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report is brought out by the World Economic Forum

**Q.6) With reference to the Indus River dolphin, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is classified as vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- 2. It was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019.

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

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

**Solution:** The census of one of the world's most threatened cetaceans, the Indus river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*) — a freshwater dolphin that is found in river Beas, is all set to commence in the winter as part of a project by the Centre.

However, Punjab's wildlife preservation wing has gone a step ahead to not only protect the dolphins but also their natural habitat.

The Indus river dolphin is classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and, until recently, it was believed that these dolphins were endemic to Pakistan.

But in 2007, a remnant but viable population of Indus dolphins was discovered in Punjab's Harike wildlife sanctuary and in the lower Beas river.

Since its discovery, research is being done by Punjab's Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation in partnership with WWF-India on the current distribution, habitat use and population abundance of the mammal.

The Indus river dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019.

Extension programmes will be held in Punjab to develop a group of dedicated individuals, called 'Beas-Dolphin Mitras' [friends and protectors] of the river Beas.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**Q.7) With reference to the Climate Equity Monitor, consider the following statements:**

1. It is aimed at monitoring the performance of Annex-I Parties under the UNFCCC (developed countries) based on the "foundational principles" of the Climate Convention.
2. It was conceptualised and developed by Greenpeace International.

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

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

**Solution:** A day ahead of the commencement of the 26th United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) in Glasgow, Scotland, India has officially endorsed a website by the name of Climate Equity

Monitor, (<https://climateequitymonitor.in>), made by Indian climate experts, that lists the historical carbon dioxide emissions of developed countries.

The Climate Equity Monitor is aimed at monitoring the performance of Annex-I Parties under the UNFCCC (developed countries) based on the "foundational principles" of the Climate Convention. The performance and policies of the Non Annex-I Parties (developing countries) will be provided for comparison.

The website was conceptualised and developed by the Climate Change Group at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Department at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, with other independent researchers.

The database aims to highlight the disparity between the emissions of developed and developing countries with countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia and those in Western Europe shown as having a net carbon debt while developing countries such as India and China having net credit.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.8) With reference to the Y 12704 (Visakhapatnam), consider the following statements:**

1. It is the lead ship of Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers.
2. It is being built at Cochin Shipyard.

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

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

**Solution:** Y 12704 (Visakhapatnam), the lead ship of Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers being built at Mazgaon Docks Limited (MDL), was delivered to the Indian Navy on 28 October 2021.

The contract for four ships of Project 15B, as the Visakhapatnam class ships are known, was signed on 28 January 2011. This project is a follow-on of the Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers commissioned in the last decade.

Designed by Directorate of Naval Design, Indian Navy's in-house design organisation; and built by M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai; the four ships are christened after major cities from all four corners of the country viz. Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat.

The keel of Visakhapatnam was laid in October 2013 and the ship was launched in April 2015.

The 163 metres long warship has a full load displacement of 7400 tonnes and maximum speed of 30 knots. The overall indigenous content of the project is approx. 75%.

The destroyer is installed with major indigenous weapons which include:

Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (BEL, Bangalore).

BrahMos Surface-to-Surface Missiles (BrahMos Aerospace, New Delhi).

Indigenous Torpedo Tube Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai).

Anti-Submarine Indigenous Rocket Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai).

76mm Super Rapid Gun Mount (BHEL, Haridwar).

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.9) Project 1135.6 sometimes seen in news is associated with?**

- a) Stealth-guided missile frigates
- b) Anti-Satellite weapon system
- c) Blockchain based decryption technology
- d) Ballistic Missile Defence Interceptor program

**Solution:** The Talwar-class frigates or Project 11356 are a class of stealth guided missile frigates designed and built by Russia for the Indian Navy

**Q.10) With reference to Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body.
2. For administrative, logistic, planning and budgeting purposes, the NITI Aayog serves as the Nodal Agency for EAC-PM.

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

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

**Solution:** Both the statements are correct. EAC-PM is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically the Prime Minister. Aim: To highlight key economic issues facing the country to the government of India from a neutral viewpoint. For administrative, logistic, planning and budgeting purposes, the NITI Aayog serves as the Nodal Agency for the EAC-PM.

## November 2

**Q.1) Khasis, Jaintias, and Garos tribes are an ethnic group of which of the following state?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Odisha
- c) Himachal Pradesh

**d) Meghalaya**

**Solution:** Last week, a district autonomous council in Meghalaya announced that it would introduce the ‘Khasi Inheritance of Property Bill, 2021, aimed at “equitable distribution” of parental property among siblings in the Khasi community. If implemented, the proposed Bill would modify an age-old customary practice of inheritance of the matrilineal Khasi tribe.

The three tribes of Meghalaya — Khasis, Jaintias, and Garos — practise a matrilineal system of inheritance. In this system, lineage and descent are traced through the mother’s clan.

In other words, children take the mother’s surname, the husband moves into his wife’s house, and the youngest daughter (khatduh) of the family is bequeathed the full share of the ancestral — or the clan’s — property.

The khatduh becomes the “custodian” of the land, and assumes all responsibility associated with the land, including taking care of aged parents, unmarried or destitute siblings.

Custom also dictates that the khatduh cannot sell the property, without permission of her mother’s brother (maternal uncle) — since he technically belongs to the mother’s clan, through which descent is traced.

Women activists have often pointed out that the matrilineal system in Meghalaya rarely empowers women. For one, custodianship is often misconstrued as ownership vested in just one person, that is the youngest daughter,

Moreover, the custodian cannot buy or sell the land, without taking permission from her maternal uncle.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**Q.2) With reference to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), consider the following statements:**

1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently warned that the average global temperatures would breach the two degrees Celsius mark by 2100 compared to pre-industrial times.
2. According to IPCC findings show that it took about 20,000 to 50,000 years for the climate to stabilise after the rise of five to eight degrees Celsius.

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

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

**Solution:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently warned that the average global temperatures would breach the two degrees Celsius mark by 2100 compared to pre-industrial times.

To understand how quickly the climate can recover from this warming, an international team studied a global temperature rise that occurred 56 million years ago.

Their findings show that it took about 20,000 to 50,000 years for the climate to stabilise after the rise of five to eight degrees Celsius. The results were published recently in the journal Science Advances.

About 56 million years ago, our Earth experienced a natural period of global warming triggered by a volcanic eruption. This period was known as the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) and there were huge amounts of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere.

This caused about 8°C surface ocean warming in the high latitudes. Several studies have shown that during this period ocean acidification caused mass extinctions in the deep ocean and there were changes in the biota in the surface ocean.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.3) With reference to the United States and the European Union dispute over steel and aluminium tariffs, consider the following statements:**

1. The United States will not apply Section 232 duties imposed by former president Donald Trump and will allow duty-free importation of steel and aluminium from the EU at a historical-based volume.
2. The EU will suspend tariffs on US products like whiskey, powerboats and Harley-Davidson motorcycles, imposed in retaliation for the steel and aluminium tariffs.

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

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

**Solution:** The United States and the European Union ended a dispute over steel and aluminium tariffs and said they would work on a global arrangement on steel and aluminium to combat “dirty” production and overcapacity in the industry.

The United States will not apply Section 232 duties imposed by former president Donald Trump and will allow duty-free importation of steel and aluminium from the EU at a historical-based volume.

The EU will suspend tariffs on US products like whiskey, powerboats and Harley-Davidson motorcycles, imposed in retaliation for the steel and aluminium tariffs.

The EU and the United States will negotiate what they call the world’s first carbon-based sectoral arrangement on steel and aluminium trade by 2024, with their arrangement aiming to address carbon intensity and global overcapacity.

The two sides said they will work to restrict access to their markets for “dirty steel” and limit access to “countries that dump steel” in their markets, both of which contribute to worldwide oversupply.

The United States also published a consultation that brought on board what it called “like-minded nations” like Japan and Britain on issues related to steel and aluminium, with a focus on the impacts of overcapacity on the global steel and aluminium markets.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.4) With reference to India- U.K relations, consider the following statements:**

1. India and U.K recently signed Free Trade Agreement.
2. India and U.K is working closely on climate finance, technology, innovation and adaptation of green hydrogen, renewables and clean technologies.

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

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

**Solution:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his UK counterpart Boris Johnson in Glasgow on the sidelines of COP26.

During the meeting, the two Prime Ministers reviewed the implementation of the Roadmap 2030 priorities particularly in the trade and economy, people-to-people, health, defence and security areas.

They expressed satisfaction at the progress in delivering the Enhanced Trade Partnership including steps taken towards the launch of Free Trade Agreement negotiations.

Mr. Modi reiterated India's commitment to closely working with the UK on climate finance, technology, innovation and adaptation of green hydrogen, renewables and clean technologies.

Both the leaders also discussed regional and global challenges including Afghanistan, Counter-Terrorism, Indo-Pacific, supply chain resilience and post-Covid global economic recovery.

Prime Minister Modi also reiterated his desire to welcome the British Prime Minister in India soon.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**Q.5) Recently seen in the news, the Beavan's swift is related to?**

- a) Bird
- b) Butterfly
- c) Silk worm
- d) Frog

**Solution:** A recent assessment of butterflies across the seven biodiversity parks in Delhi revealed the presence of the Beavan's swift, a species that has previously not been spotted in the city.

The Beavan's swift is distributed throughout northern India, but it was never encountered earlier in Delhi.

Good rains this year meant that the population of grasses, which are the Beavan's swift's host plant, increased. The availability of host plants might be the reason for its presence here.

**Q.6) Other than poaching, what are the possible reasons for the decline in the population of Ganges River Dolphins?**

- 1) Construction of dams and barrages on rivers
- 2) Increase in the population of crocodiles in rivers
- 3) Getting trapped in fishing nets accidentally
- 4) Use of synthetic fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals in crop fields in the vicinity of rivers.

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

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

**Solution:** The Gangetic dolphins have been declared as the National Aquatic Animal of India.

This mammal is also said to represent the purity of the holy Ganga as it can only survive in pure and freshwater.

Ganges River Dolphin is placed under "Endangered Category" in the IUCN Red List. It lives in one of the world's most densely populated areas and is threatened by the removal of river water and siltation arising from deforestation, pollution, and entanglement in fisheries nets.

They have been poached over for their oil.

The habitat degradation due to declining ow, heavy siltation, and construction of barrages causing a physical barrier for this migratory species is also one of the reasons behind the decline of their numbers.

**Q.7) Which of the following diseases is/are covered under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)?**

- 1. Japanese Encephalitis
- 2. Rubella
- 3. Malaria

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below:**

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

**Solution:** UIP covers the following 12 diseases:

Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis, Rotavirus diarrhea, Hepatitis B and Meningitis & Pneumonia caused by Haemophilus Influenzae type B

Sub-nationally against 2 diseases – Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Japanese Encephalitis.

Among these, Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine is nationally expanded while JE vaccine is provided only in endemic districts.



**Q.8) With reference to Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), consider the following statements:**

1. It is the first ever international collaboration set up by India in the climate change sphere.
2. CDRI aims to create infrastructure and seeks to play the role of a funding agency.

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

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

**Solution:** Both statements are incorrect.

It is not the first international collaboration set up by India in the climate change sphere. It is the second one after the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

CDRI hopes to become a knowledge-network through which member countries can learn from each other and adopt best practices in the development of climate-resilient infrastructure. It doesn't aim to create infrastructure or play the role of a funding agency.

**Q.9) Mullaperiyar dam is located in which of the following state?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala**
- c) Goa
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**Solution:** The Mullaperiyar dam is located on the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers in Kerala's Idukki district. The dam intends to divert the waters of the west-flowing river Periyar eastward to the arid rain shadow regions of the Tamil Nadu. According to a 999-year lease agreement made during the British rule the operational rights were handed over to Tamil Nadu. So, the dam is operated and maintained by

the Tamil Nadu for meeting the drinking water and irrigation requirements of five of its southern districts.

**Q.10) With reference to Long Range Bomb (LRB), consider the following statements:**

1. It is India's first indigenously-developed guided bomb.
2. The bomb has a range of 100 km.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: Long Range Bomb is India's first indigenously-developed guided bomb. It will be used to attack land-based targets at a long-range with greater accuracy. Statement 2 is correct: It is designed to hit targets around 100km away.

### November 3

**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to the Invasive alien species (IAS):**

1. They may lack natural predators in their new environments, allowing them to quickly increase their abundance and spread.
2. They can carry diseases, outcompete or prey on native species, alter food chains, and even change ecosystems

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

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

**Solution:** Invasive alien species are species that are introduced, accidentally or intentionally, outside of their natural geographic range and that become problematic. They are often introduced as a result of the globalisation of economies through the movement of people and goods, for instance via shipping, consignments of wood products carrying insects, or the transport of ornamental plants to new areas.

Invasive alien species (IAS) can have severe ecological effects on the invaded environments. They may lack natural predators in their new environments, allowing them to quickly increase their abundance and spread. They can carry diseases, outcompete or prey on native species, alter food chains, and even change ecosystems by, for example, altering soil composition or creating habitats that encourage wildfires. These impacts can lead to local or global extinctions of native species and eventual ecological devastation.

**Q.2) With reference to Ganges River Dolphin, consider the following statements:**

1. It comes under Schedule 1 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. It is listed as Endangered under IUCN Red list of species.

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

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

**Solution:** About Ganges River Dolphin

Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972: Schedule I.  
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): Appendix I (most endangered).

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Appendix II (migratory species that need conservation and management or would significantly benefit from international co-operation).

**Q.3) With reference to India, the terms ‘Sagar Nidhi, Sagar Manjusha, Sagar Kanya’ pertain to**

- a) Attack Submarines
- b) Research Vessels
- c) Off-shore Patrol Vehicles
- d) New fish species

**Solution:** Research Vessel (Ships) is an important tool for ocean research and the development of ocean technology. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has at present has 6 ships namely Sagar Nidhi, Sagar Manjusha, Sagar Kanya, Sagar Sampada, Sagar Tara and Sagar Anveshika.

**Q.4) Which of the following statements explains the objective of “Har Ghar Dastak” campaign?**

- a) To provide Public Distribution System products to every household.
- b) To provide gas connection to all BPL families.
- c) To provide primary health care kit to all citizens.

**d) To provide Covid vaccine in poor-performing districts.**

**Solution:** The Centre has launched a mega vaccination campaign- 'Har Ghar Dastak' with a view to speed up Covid -19 vaccination drive. The door-to-door vaccination campaign will be carried out for a month and aimed towards full vaccination in poor-performing districts.

**Q.5) With reference to National Commission for Women (NCW), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. Chairperson of the commission is appointed by 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**

**Solution:** Both statements are incorrect.

NCW is a statutory body.

Chairperson of the commission is appointed by the Central Government.

**Q.6) With respect to Relay Cropping, consider the following statements**

1. Relay planting means the planting of different crops in the same plot
2. The second crop is planted even before the first crop is harvested in relay cropping

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

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

**Solution:** In relay cropping the second crop is planted even before the first crop is harvested. Thus, both crops share some part of the season. Thus relay planting means the planting of different crops in the same plot, one right after another, in the same season.

Relay Cropping – Relay planting means the planting of different crops in the same plot, one right after another, in the same season. Examples of such relay cropping would be planting rice (or wheat), cauliflower, onion, and summer gourd (or potato onion, lady's fingers and maize), in the same season. The risk is less since you do not have to depend on one crop alone.

**Q.7) With reference to India, the terms 'chhau and paik' pertain to**

- a) pre-historic paintings
- b) dance forms of Bengal
- c) musical instruments
- d) tribal languages

**Solution:** During Durga Puja, while festivities marked cities, these Bengal villages used art to fight COVID-19

The campaign is being organised by the community radio of Jadavpur University with support from UNICEF and is being executed by the Kolkata-based Chalchitra Academy. 'chhau' dance, 'paik' dance and 'patachitra' [showing artworks to the accompaniment of songs] to caution the people against COVID-19 and encourage them to get vaccinated.

Chhau, is a semi classical Indian dance with martial and folk traditions, with origins in the Kalinga(Odisha) region from Mayurbhanj, and panned out to its variants in the states of West Bengal and Jharkhand.

Paik is a martial folk dance. The dancers are armed with wooden spears and shields and show off their skills and agility in infantry like formations.

Patachitra or Pattachitra is a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting, based in the eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal.

**Q.8) Which of these nations is not a part of the BASIC group of nations?**

- a) South Africa
- b) China
- c) **Bangladesh**
- d) India

**Solution:** The BASIC countries (also Basic countries or BASIC) are a bloc of four large newly industrialized countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China.

**Q.9) Which institution releases the periodic Greenhouse gas (GHG) bulletin?**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) **World Meteorological Organisation**
- c) Food and Agricultural Organisation
- d) NABARD

**Solution:** The latest GHG bulletin has been released by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). As per the report, the increasing trend of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continued in 2021.

The report also highlighted that all three major GHGs, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), recorded an increase in concentration in 2020 compared to previous years. The average global warming would exceed Paris Agreement's target of global temperature if emissions continue at the current pace.

**Q.10) 'Joint Statistical Publication (JSP) 2021 and JSP Snapshot 2021' are the publications of which regional association?**

- a) G-20
- b) ASEAN
- c) **BRICS**

d) BIMSTEC

**Solution:** The Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices of BRICS Countries was held in virtual format, chaired by India. The Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) chaired the meeting.

During the meeting, the Joint Statistical Publication (JSP) 2021 and JSP-Snapshot 2021 for BRICS Countries were released. The theme of meeting was "NSOs efforts in monitoring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".

## November 4

**Q.1) With reference to the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS), consider the following statements:**

1. It is the first major initiative by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) started by U.S.A in 2010.
2. According to CDRI, several small island states have lost 9 per cent of their GDPs in single disasters during the last few 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

**Solution:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) on sidelines of climate summit in Glasgow.

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States or IRIS is the first major initiative by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) started by India in 2019.

IRIS seeks to operationalise the CDRI initiative.

It is aimed at achieving sustainable development through a systematic approach to resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Small island states are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. As sea levels rise, they face a threat of being wiped off the map.

According to CDRI, several small island states have lost 9 per cent of their GDPs in single disasters during the last few years.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**Q.2) With reference to the ‘State of Global Climate-2021’, consider the following statements:**

1. It was released by the World Bank.

2. It has stated that the last seven years have been the warmest on record and global sea-level rise accelerated since 2013, reaching a new high in 2021.

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

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

**Solution:** A provisional report released by the World Meteorological Organisation has stated that the last seven years have been the warmest on record and global sea-level rise accelerated since 2013, reaching a new high in 2021.

The report has attributed the record sea-level rise to warming up and acidification of ocean waters. The provisional report titled ‘State of Global Climate-2021’, was released in Geneva.

The COP-26 conference began in Glasgow, combines inputs from multiple United Nations agencies, national meteorological and hydrological services and scientific experts.

During COP-26, the WMO will launch the Water and Climate Coalition to coordinate water and climate action and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility to improve weather observations and forecasts which are vital to climate change adaptation.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**Q.3) With reference to the solar power calculator application, consider the following statements:**

1. It will measure solar energy potential of any region across the globe.
2. It is an initiative of European Space Agency.

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

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that Indian Space Research Organisation- ISRO will soon provide the world a solar power calculator application that can measure solar energy potential of any region across the globe.

Speaking at the session on Accelerating Clean Technology Innovation and Deployment of the global COP-26 Summit in Glasgow, Mr Modi said, through this calculator, solar power potential of any place in the world can be calculated based on satellite data.

Mr Modi said, this application will be useful in deciding the location of solar projects and will strengthen 'One Sun, One World and One Grid' initiative.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.4) Which of the following correctly describes the term Khatduh?**

a) Naming ceremony of a new born carried out during the Gupta Age.

b) Dancing ritual practiced in the mountainous regions of Garhwal.

**c) The youngest daughter in the tribal matrilineal system of Khasis, Jaintias and Garos.**

d) A medicinal herb recently discovered from the Western Ghats.

**Solution:** The three tribes of Meghalaya — Khasis, Jaintias, and Garos — practise a matrilineal system of inheritance.

In this system, lineage and descent are traced through the mother's clan. In other words, children take the mother's surname, the husband moves into his wife's house, and the youngest daughter (khatduh) of the family is handed over the full share of the ancestral — or the clan's — property.

**Q.5) Mihir Shah committee sometimes seen in news is associated with?**

a) Small scale industries and trade policy reform

b) On working of the capital market infrastructure institutions (MIIs)

c) Civil Services Reform

**d) Drafting a new water policy**

**Solution:** Mihir Shah committee was formulated to draft a new National Water policy (NWP)

**Q.6) With reference to Metaverse, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a network of always-on virtual environments in which people can interact with one another and digital objects through virtual representations of themselves.

2. Open Metaverse Interoperability Group define the standards to enable interoperability of platforms and services across the metaverse.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

**c) Both 1 and 2**

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Both statements are correct.

The “metaverse” is a network of always-on virtual environments in which many people can interact with one another and digital objects through virtual representations of themselves.

There are 3 key aspects of the metaverse: presence, interoperability and standardization.

Presence is the feeling of actually being in a virtual space, with virtual others. This sense of presence is achieved through virtual reality (VR) technologies such as head-mounted displays. It improves the quality of online interactions.

Interoperability means being able to seamlessly travel between virtual spaces with the same virtual assets. That is, one virtual representation created, can be used in different virtual worlds.

Standardization-These are common technological standards are essential for widespread adoption. This enables interoperability of platforms and services across the metaverse.

International organizations such as the “Open Metaverse Interoperability Group” define these standards.

**Q.7) With reference to G77 Group, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the United Nations.
2. The group at present has 77 developing countries as members.
3. India is one of the members of the G77.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: It is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the United Nations. Statement 2 is incorrect: It was established in 1964 by 77 developing countries. The members of G-77 have increased to 134 countries. However, the original name was retained due to its historic significance. Statement 3 is correct: India is one of the members of the G77.

**Q.8) Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), a United States federal law, does not impose sanctions on which of the following nations?**

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Iran
- c) North Korea
- d) Russia

**Solution:** The Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) is a United States Federal Law that has imposed sanctions against Iran, Russia and North Korea.

**Q.9) With reference to the matrilineal system of inheritance in Meghalaya, consider the following statements:**

1. It is practised by Khasi, Jaintia and Garo tribes of Meghalaya.
2. In this system, Khatduh is the youngest daughter of the family who is entrusted the full share of the ancestral property.
3. In this traditional set-up, if a couple does not have any daughters, the property is inherited by the son(s).

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

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

**Solution:** Matrilineal System of Inheritance:

The three tribes of Meghalaya — Khasis, Jaintias, and Garos — practise a matrilineal system of inheritance. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

In this system, lineage and descent are traced through the mother’s clan.

In other words, children take the mother’s surname, the husband moves into his wife’s house, and the youngest daughter (khatduh) of the family is entrusted the full share of the ancestral - or the clan’s - property. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The khatduh becomes the “custodian” of the land, and assumes all responsibility associated with the land, including taking care of aged parents, unmarried or destitute siblings.

This inheritance tradition applies only to ancestral or clan/community property, which has been with the family for years. The self-acquired property can be distributed equally among siblings.

In this traditional set-up, if a couple does not have any daughters, then the property goes to the wife’s

elder sister, and her daughters. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

If the wife does not have sisters, then the clan usually takes over the property.

**Q.10) Consider the following statements:**

1. A whistleblower can be anyone who chooses to expose wrong practices and has evidence to support the allegations.

2. India has no specific act related to the protection of whistleblowers.

3. The Ministry of Law and Justice has launched a 'whistle-blower Portal', as a part of 'Vigilance Awareness Week 2021'.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 2 only

d) 3 only

**Solution:** According to the Companies Act 2013, whistleblowing is an action aimed at drawing the attention of stakeholders to instances of unethical practices in an organization.

A whistleblower can be anyone who chooses to expose wrong practices and has evidence to support the allegations. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

They can be either from within or outside the organization, such as current and former employees, shareholders, external auditors, and lawyers.

In India, whistleblowers are protected by the Whistleblowers Protection Act, 2014. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

In January 2020, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) came out with a new mechanism to reward whistle-blowers and other informants for sharing information about insider trading cases.

Insider trading is an unfair and illegal practice in the stock market, wherein other investors are at a great disadvantage due to the lack of important insider non-public information about a company.

Recently, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has launched a 'whistle-blower Portal', as a part of 'Vigilance Awareness Week 2021'.

It is a part of IREDA's "zero tolerance" of corruption. Through this portal, IREDA employees can raise concerns related to fraud, corruption, abuse of power etc.

IREDA is a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Hence, statement 3 is not correct.



## November 6

**Q.1) With reference to Adi Shankara, consider the following statements:**

1. He is believed to have established the ritual practices at the Badri and Kedar dhams, and to have debated with tantrics in Srinagar.
2. He is said to have been born in Kaladi village on the bank of the Periyar river in Kerala.

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

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

**Solution:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 12-foot statue of Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath, where the acharya is believed to have attained samadhi at the age of 32 in the ninth century.

Adi Shankara is said to have been born in Kaladi village on the bank of the Periyar, the largest river in Kerala. He left home very early in search of learning and to become a sanyasin.

In a lifespan of just 32 years, he is said to have visited all the important spiritual centres of the time — from Kanchi (Kancheepuram) to Kamrup (Assam), and Kashmir and the Kedar and Badri dhams, as well as Sringeri, Ujjain, Kashi, Puri, and Joshimath.

He is believed to have established the ritual practices at the Badri and Kedar dhams, and to have debated with tantrics in Srinagar.

He is believed to have attained samadhi at Kedarnath; however, Kanchi and Thrissur are also talked about as places where Adi Shankara spent his last days.

Adi Shankara is generally identified as the author of 116 works — among them the celebrated commentaries (bhashyas) on 10 Upanishads, the Brahmasutra and the Gita, and poetic works including Vivekachudamani, Maneesha Panchakam, and Saundaryalahiri.

But scholars such as Vidyavachaspathi V Panoli have argued that Saundaryalahiri and Maneesha Panchakam are not his works, but attributions.

Shankara's great standing is derived from his commentaries of the prasthanatrayi (Upanishads, Brahmasutra and Gita), where he explains his understanding of Advaita Vedanta.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.2) Molnupiravir, an investigational oral antiviral being developed for the treatment of:**

- a) Covid-19
- b) Chickenpox
- c) Dengue
- d) Malaria

**Solution:** Researchers have engineered enzymes to enable faster manufacture of molnupiravir, an investigational oral antiviral being developed for the treatment of Covid-19. The study appears in ACS Central Science.

Molnupiravir works by causing viruses to make errors when copying their own RNA, introducing mutations that inhibit replication.

Manufactured by Merck, the drug was originally developed to treat influenza. It has been submitted to the US FDA for review as a Covid-19 treatment.

In India, the Optimus Group recently announced the results of phase 3 clinical trials, which found 91.5% of patients given the drug tested RT-PCR negative compared to 43% in the placebo group.

In the new study, researchers developed a three-step synthesis route, which was 70% shorter and had a seven-fold higher overall yield than the original route, the American Chemical Society said in a press release.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.3) With reference to the facial recognition technology, consider the following statements:**

1. Facial recognition technology can identify a person by capturing his face from a photo or video.

2. The technology can work in real-time as well and relies on advanced machine learning algorithms powered by deep neural networks to identify faces and map them to an existing data base.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

**c) Both 1 and 2**

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Facebook is phasing out its ‘facial recognition tool’, the company announced.

Facial recognition technology can identify a person by capturing his face from a photo or video.

The technology can work in real-time as well and relies on advanced machine learning algorithms powered by deep neural networks to identify faces and map them to an existing data base.

While Facebook’s facial recognition tool was only being used on the platform, the company is stopping the use of the tech given its controversial nature.

There are several privacy concerns around the deployment of such tools, especially since Facebook is such a big social network with billions of users and many photos and videos being uploaded.

Facebook’s step back comes at a time when there is growing scrutiny of the use of facial recognition technology, especially by the police in many countries.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.4) With reference to the Draft Mediation Bill, consider the following statements:**

1. The draft Bill proposes for pre-litigation mediation and at the same time safeguards the interest of the litigants to approach the competent adjudicatory forums and courts in case an urgent relief is sought.

2. As per the draft Bill, the successful outcome of mediation in the form of the Mediation Settlement Agreement has been made enforceable by law.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

**\*c) Both 1 and 2**

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** The government has issued a Draft Mediation Bill for Public Consultation.

The draft Bill proposes for pre-litigation mediation and at the same time safeguards the interest of the litigants to approach the competent adjudicatory forums and courts in case an urgent relief is sought.

As per the draft Bill, the successful outcome of mediation in the form of the Mediation Settlement Agreement has been made enforceable by law.

Since the Mediation Settlement Agreement is out of the consensual agreement between the parties, the challenge to the same has been permitted on limited grounds.

As per the draft bill, the mediation process protects the confidentiality of the mediation undertaken and provides for immunity in certain cases against its disclosure.

The draft bill also says that registration of Mediation Settlement Agreement has been provided for with State, District and Taluk Legal Authorities within 90 days to ensure maintenance of authenticated records of the settlement so arrived.

It also provides for the establishment of the Mediation Council of India.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.5) ‘Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India’s Financial System - NGFS, is published by:**

**a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

b) World Bank

c) IMF

d) None of the above

**Solution:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently published its 'Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India's Financial System - NGFS.

In the Statement RBI said that, to benefit from the membership of NGFS by learning from and contributing to global efforts on Green Finance, RBI joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a Member on April 23, 2021.

In this regard, on the occasion of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), NGFS has reiterated its willingness to contribute to the global response required to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and, to that end, NGFS will expand and strengthen the collective efforts towards greening the financial system.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to the P-15 Bravo-class or Project-15B:**

1. It is also known as Visakhapatnam-class destroyers
2. It is the modified versions of the earlier Kolkata-class destroyers (P-15A)
3. The class consists of four vessels named as Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Porbandar

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

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

**d) 1, 2 and 3**

**Solution:** The first ship of the four Project-15B state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyers, Visakhapatnam, being built at the Mazgaon Docks Limited (MDL), was delivered to the Navy.

The four ships are named after major cities from all four corners of the country — Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat

The Visakhapatnam-class destroyers, or P-15 Bravo-class, or simply P-15B is a class of guided-missile destroyers currently being built for the Indian Navy. The P-15B destroyers are modified versions of the earlier Kolkata-class destroyers (P-15A). The class consists of four vessels – Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Porbandar, all four are being built by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL). Noted for being the largest-ever destroyers built by India, the P-15B class features substantial improvements in design, technology and stealth, over the P-15A class.

**Q.7) Recently Supreme Court banned using toxic chemicals like Barium salts in firecrackers. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. In industry, Barium Chloride is mainly used in the manufacture of heat treatment salts and case hardening of steel
2. The applicability of Barium Chloride is limited due to its toxicity

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

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

**Solution:** Although inexpensive, barium chloride finds limited applications in the laboratory and industry. In industry, barium chloride is mainly used in the purification of brine solution in caustic chlorine plants and also in the manufacture of heat treatment salts, case hardening of steel. Its toxicity limits its applicability.

Firecrackers most commonly use the composition known as flash powder, which can be a mixture of potassium perchlorate and aluminum powder in a ratio (by weight ONLY) of 70% potassium perchlorate to 30% of high pyro quality aluminum powder. No matter what the name of today's commercially produced firecracker (for example: M-100s, M-1000s...etc) ever since 1966, the maximum amount of explosive composition has been set at a 50mg limit. Before legislation passed

in 1966, certain firecrackers used to contain several grams (there are 1,000mg per gram) of flash powder. There are many different ways of constructing various sizes of firecrackers and also many variants in the explosive compositions used.

**Q.8) With respect to Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE), consider the following statements:**

1. The project aims at creating awareness through industry clusters/ geographical chambers that would address the challenge of involvement of MSMEs
2. It is funded by the World Bank

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

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

**Solution:** Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) is a new World Bank funded project that has been approved by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in November 2016 for a total cost of Rs. 2200 crore (US \$ 318 million). The project falls under the Programme for Results (P4R) based category of World Bank that ensures outcome based funding. The project aims at creating awareness through industry clusters/ geographical chambers that would address the challenge of involvement of micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). The Project would also aim at integrating and enhancing delivery quality of ITIs. In order to ensure achievement of outcome these ITI would be competitively selected for upgradation under the scheme.

Committee for Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved STRIVE and the loan agreement between Government of India & World Bank has been signed. The project management consultancy has been on-boarded. The operations manual has been prepared in consultation with World Bank and has been approved by National Steering Committee meeting chaired by Secretary, MSDE.

Implementation of project has been started and workshops with states and industries clusters are planned.

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Indus River dolphin.**

1. The Indus River dolphin is a freshwater dolphin that is found in river Beas.
2. A viable population of Indus dolphins is present in Punjab's Harike wildlife sanctuary.
3. Indus River dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Himachal Pradesh.

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

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

**Solution:** The census of one of the world's most threatened cetaceans, the Indus river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*) — a freshwater dolphin that is found in river Beas, is all set to commence in the winter as part of a project by the Centre.

The Indus River dolphin is classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and, until recently, it was believed that these dolphins were endemic to Pakistan. But in 2007, a remnant but viable population of Indus dolphins was discovered in Punjab's Harike wildlife sanctuary and in the lower Beas river. The Indus river dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019.

**Q.10) Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is a standard criterion for**

- a) Measuring oxygen levels in blood
- b) Computing oxygen levels in forest ecosystems

### c) Pollution assay in aquatic ecosystems

d) Assessing oxygen levels in high altitude regions

**Solution:** The amount of oxygen required by bacteria to break down the organic matter present in a certain volume of a sample of water, is called Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). The amount of BOD in the water is a measure of the amount of organic material in the water, in terms of how much oxygen will be required to break it down biologically. Clean water would have BOD value of less than 5 ppm whereas highly polluted water could have a BOD value of 17 ppm or more.

November 8

**Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG)?**

1. It is being developed by India, UK jointly in collaboration with the World Bank and India's International Solar Alliance (ISA).

2. It will aid in developing a worldwide grid through which clean energy can be transmitted anywhere, anytime.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** What is Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) Initiative?

With sustainable development and climate change mitigation at the heart of the Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) initiative, the (GGI-OSOWOG) initiative can aid in developing a common and strong global grid. The GGI-OSOWOG initiative is being developed by India, UK jointly in collaboration with the World Bank and India's International Solar Alliance (ISA).

The launch was followed by the One Sun declaration which has been endorsed by 83 ISA member countries. India is a member of the CGI-OSOWOG Steering Committee along with four countries namely the UK, the US, France, and Australia.

'One Sun One World One Grid' will aid in developing a worldwide grid through which clean energy can be transmitted anywhere, anytime.

'One Sun One World One Grid' will help in reducing storage needs and also enhancing the viability of solar projects. The OSOWOG initiative will aid in reducing carbon footprints and energy costs. It will launch new avenues for cooperation between different countries and regions.

**Q.2) India launches Infrastructure for the Resilient Island States (IRIS). In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. The IRIS initiative focuses on building capacity, having pilot projects, especially in small island developing states.

2. IRIS will be a part of the India-USA Coalition for Disaster Resilient infrastructure (CDRI).

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** India launches Infrastructure for the Resilient Island States (IRIS)

The new initiative is the result of cooperation between India, the U.K. and Australia and included the participation of leaders of small island nations such as Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius.

India launched an ambitious initiative for developing the infrastructure of small island nations, which will give a new hope, a new confidence and satisfaction of doing something for the most vulnerable countries facing the biggest threat from climate change.

The Small Island Developing States or SIDS faces the biggest threat from climate change.

To mitigate this, India's space agency ISRO will build a special data window for them to provide them timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring, coast-line monitoring etc. through satellite.

IRIS will be a part of the India-UK Coalition for Disaster Resilient infrastructure (CDRI).

The IRIS initiative is a part of the CDRI that would focus on building capacity, having pilot projects, especially in small island developing states.

**Q.3) Consider the following statement with respect to Methane:**

1. Methane is more short-lived in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide
2. Methane is 80 times more potent in warming the earth than carbon dioxide

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

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

**Solution:** Methane is more short-lived in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide but 80 times more potent in warming the earth. Cutting emissions of the gas, which is estimated to have accounted for 30% of global warming since pre-industrial times, is one of the most effective ways of slowing climate change.

World leaders pledge to save forests, cut methane emissions

90 countries join U.S.-EU plan at COP26; India, China, Russia yet to sign up

Among the signatories is Brazil — one of the five biggest emitters of methane, which is generated in cows' digestive systems, in landfill waste and in oil and gas production. Three others — China, Russia and India — have not signed up, while Australia has said it will not back the pledge.

COP26 aims to keep alive a receding target of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to avert still greater damage from heat waves, droughts, floods and coastal damage that climate change is already causing.

**Q.4) Through Letters of Exchange (LOE), which of the following seven additional entry/exit points for trade between India and Bhutan were formalized recently?**

1. Nagarkata Land Customs Station without commodity restriction

2. Agartala Land Customs Station as an entry /exit point

3. Pandu port (Guwahati Steamerghat) as an entry /exit point, subject to cross border control at Dhubri.

**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

**Solution:** The Commerce Secretary Level meeting was held between India and Bhutan on trade and transit issues.

The two sides held extensive discussions on the current trade and transit issues including measures to further strengthen bilateral trade relations and issues of mutual interest, on ways to increase trade connectivity between the two countries.

Through Letters of Exchange (LOE), the following seven additional entry/exit points for trade between India and Bhutan were formalized:-

Nagarkata Land Customs Station without commodity restriction.

Agartala Land Customs Station as an entry /exit point.

Pandu port (Guwahati Steamerghat) as an entry /exit point, subject to cross border control at Dhubri.

Jogighopa port as an entry/exit point, subject to cross border control at Dhubri.

Asian Highway 48 connecting Torsha Tea Garden in India and Ahllay in Bhutan as an additional route corresponding to the Land Custom Station at Jaigaon.

Kamardwisa as an entry/exit point.

Birpara as an entry/exit point.

This will form an addendum to the Protocol of 2016 India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit. This will facilitate India-Bhutan bilateral trade to our mutual advantage.

Since 2014, trade between India and Bhutan has more than doubled from USD 484 million in 2014-15 to USD 1083 million in 2020-21.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**Q.5) What is LZTFL1, recently seen in news?**

**a) Gene responsible for doubling the risk of respiratory failures from COVID-19**

b) Newly found exoplanet

c) A type of transparent ceramics

d) A group of stars born at the same time from the same cloud

**Solution:** Researchers at the Medical Research Council Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford, have identified the gene responsible for doubling the risk of respiratory failures from COVID-19.

This gene — called LZTFL1 — can be found in 60 percent of people with South Asian ancestry and the researchers say that it may be able to explain the excess deaths seen in some of the UK communities and the impact of pandemic during the second wave in India.

The researchers found that the higher risk version of the gene possibly prevents the cells lining the airways and the lungs from responding to the virus properly.

This means that the presence of this gene changes how an individual's lungs respond to the virus, thereby increasing risk of developing respiratory failure from COVID-19.

But while the gene impacts the response of the lungs, it does not impact the immune system, therefore, researchers believe that people carrying this version of the gene should respond normally to the vaccines.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.6) Recently seen in the news the indigenously developed "SAAW"?**

a) Submarine

b) UAV

**c) Precision-guided Weapon**

d) Helicopter

**Solution:** The indigenously-developed smart anti-airfield weapon (SAAW), which is a precision-guided bomb designed to destroy enemy runways, bunkers, aircraft hangers, radars, and other reinforced structures at a maximum range of 100-km, has been tested twice by DRDO) and IAF in recent days.

The first test of SAAW was carried out from an IAF aircraft at the Chandan ranges at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan on October 28, with the second one being conducted in November.

Two different configurations based on satellite navigation and electro-optical sensors were successfully tested. The electro-optical seeker-based flight test of this class of bomb has been conducted for the first time in the country.

The electro-optical configuration of the system is equipped with imaging infra-red (IIR) seeker technology to enhance the precision strike capability of the weapon. In both the tests, the intended target was hit with high accuracy.

**Q.7) With reference to Adi Shankaracharya, consider the following statements:**

1. He propounded the Doctrine of Advaita (Monism).
2. He established four Mathas at Shingeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath.
3. He was opposed to Buddhist philosophers.
4. His major works include Brahmasutrabhasya and Bhajagovinda Stotra.

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

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

**Solution:** Recently, the Prime Minister has unveiled a 12-foot statue of Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath (Uttarakhand).



Adi Shankaracharya, also known as Adi Shankara, was born in 788 AD, at Kaladi near Kochi, Kerala. He took Samadhi at the age of 33, at Kedar tirth.

He was a devotee of Shiva.

Propounded the Doctrine of Advaita (Monism) and wrote many commentaries on the Vedic canon (Upanishads, Brahma Sutras and Bhagavad Gita) in Sanskrit. Hence, statement 1 is correct

He was opposed to Buddhist philosophers. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Major Work:

Brahmasutrabhasya (Bhashya or commentary on the Brahma Sutra).

Bhajagovinda Stotra. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

Nirvana Shatakam.

Prakaran Granths.

Other Contributions:

Was responsible for reviving Hinduism in India to a great extent when Buddhism was gaining popularity.

Established four Mathas in the four corners of India at Shingeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath—for propagation of Sanathana Dharma. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

**Q.8) What is Messier 87, recently seen in news?**

- a) A supergiant elliptical galaxy
- b) Cryptocurrency
- c) Mini satellite launched by NASA
- d) None of the above

**Solution:** Scientists studying the galaxy Messier 87 (M87) – which surrounds the only black hole to have been imaged so far – have come up with a theoretical model of the jets of material emanating from M87.

The calculated images published in Nature Astronomy resemble closely what is observed, and help confirm Einstein's theory of relativity.

Messier 87 (also known as Virgo A or NGC 4486, generally abbreviated to M87) is a supergiant

elliptical galaxy with several trillion stars in the constellation Virgo.

One of the most massive galaxies in the local universe, it has a large population of globular clusters—about 15,000 compared with the 150–200 orbiting the Milky Way—and a jet of energetic plasma that originates at the core and extends at least 1,500 parsecs (4,900 light-years), traveling at a relativistic speed.

It is one of the brightest radio sources in the sky and a popular target for both amateur and professional astronomers.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.9) With reference to the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework, consider the following statements:**

1. The objective of the PCA framework is to enable supervisory intervention at appropriate time and require the supervised entity to initiate and implement remedial measures in a timely manner so as to restore its financial health.
2. Currently UCO Bank, IDBI Bank, Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank are under the framework.

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

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

**Solution:** The RBI issued a notification on November 2 revising norms for commercial banks to be placed under the regulator's Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework should any of their key metrics fall out of line. The revision takes effect from January 1, 2022.

The objective of the PCA framework is to enable supervisory intervention at appropriate time and require the supervised entity to initiate and implement remedial measures in a timely manner so as to restore its financial health.

In the last almost two decades — the PCA was first notified in December 2002 — several banks have been placed under the framework, with their operations restricted.

In 2021, UCO Bank, IDBI Bank and Indian Overseas Bank exited the framework on improved performance. Only Central Bank of India remains under it now.

As per the revised PCA norms issued in 2017, banks were to be evaluated on capital, asset quality, profitability and leverage.

What curbs do bank face under the PCA?

Banks move from risk thresholds 1 through 3 with increasing restrictions if they are unable to arrest deterioration.

First, banks face curbs on dividend distribution/remittance of profits. For foreign banks, promoters are to bring in capital.

In the second category, banks additionally face curbs on branch expansion.

In the final category, the bank additionally faces restrictions on capital expenditure with some exemptions.

The RBI also has the option of discretionary actions across strategy, governance, credit risk, market risk and human resources.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.10) With reference to the Paxlovid, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an investigational SARS-CoV-2 “protease inhibitor antiviral therapy”.
2. It inhibits viral replication at proteolysis, a stage that occurs before viral replication.

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

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

**Solution:** Pfizer announced trial results for its investigational Covid-19 oral antiviral candidate, Paxlovid, saying it significantly reduced hospitalisation and death.

It is an investigational SARS-CoV-2 “protease inhibitor antiviral therapy”.

It inhibits viral replication at proteolysis, a stage that occurs before viral replication.

It is “designed to be administered orally so that it can be prescribed at the first sign of infection or at first awareness of an exposure, potentially helping patients avoid severe illness.”

Pfizer said it has entered into advance purchase agreements with “multiple countries and is in negotiations with several others”.

Hence both statements are correct.

**November 9**

**Q.1) Chicago Convention in 1944, recently seen in news, is related to:**

- a) International commercial aviation
- b) Prisoner of war (POW)
- c) Nuclear disarmament
- d) None of the above

**Solution:** A 3 hours 45 minutes flight from Srinagar to Sharjah that was launched last month flew a longer route, adding around 40 minutes to its flight time for the first time on November 2.

This was because it had to avoid flying over Pakistan after the country denied permission to use its airspace for the said flight. With this refusal, experts have said Pakistan has violated the first freedom of air.

Following the Chicago Convention in 1944, the signatories to the convention decided to set rules that would act as fundamental building blocks to international commercial aviation.

As a part of these rules, initially, six ‘freedoms of air’ were decided.

These freedoms or rights — which still operate within the ambit of multilateral and bilateral treaties that allow them — grant airlines of a particular country the privilege to use and/or land in another country’s airspace.

The first freedom of air grants the right to an airline of one country to fly over a second country and land in a third country. In case of the GoFirst flight, the airline — an Indian carrier — was using the airspace of Pakistan — the second country — and was landing in the UAE — the third country.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.2) With reference to the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities (UCCN), consider the following statements:**

1. UNESCO announced that the city of Srinagar has joined the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities (UCCN).
2. Srinagar has been designated as a Creative City of Craft and Folk Arts.

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

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

**Solution:** UNESCO announced that the city of Srinagar has joined the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities (UCCN). It has been designated as a Creative City of Craft and Folk Arts.

Srinagar joins Chennai and Varanasi - UNESCO Cities of music, Jaipur - UNESCO City of crafts and folk arts; Mumbai – UNESCO city of film and Hyderabad – UNESCO City of gastronomy.

Worldwide, 49 new cities have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) following their designation by UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, in recognition of their commitment to placing culture and creativity at the heart of their development and to sharing knowledge and good practices.

The Network now numbers 295 cities reaching 90 countries that invest in culture and creativity – crafts and folk art, design, film, gastronomy, literature, media arts, and music – to advance sustainable urban development.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)?**

1. FPOs are agricultural cooperatives that are emerging as a practical approach towards empowering a great number of smallholder farmers and ensuring their prosperity.
2. FPOs are voluntary organizations which is open to all persons

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

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are agricultural cooperatives that are emerging as a practical approach towards empowering a great number of smallholder farmers and ensuring their prosperity.

FPO principles are the guidelines by which FPOs will put their values into practice.

**Voluntary and Open Membership**

FPOs are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

**Democratic Farmer Member Control**

FPOs are democratic organizations controlled by their farmer-members who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the collective body of members. In primary FPOs farmer-members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and FPOs at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

**Q.4) Kaho villagers who assisted Indian soldiers during Chinese attack in 1962, belongs to which of the following Indian state?**

a) West Bengal

**b) Arunachal Pradesh**

c) Uttarakhand

d) Himachal Pradesh

**Solution:** Arunachal to showcase 'heroic village' near the China border

One of seven villages in the Kibithoo block bisected by the Lohit river, Kaho had weathered the Chinese attack in 1962. Its people had assisted the Indian soldiers who had been outnumbered.

Kaho and its people who belong to the Meyor community

According to the 2011 census, Kaho has only 65 residents and a literacy rate of 64.15%.

**Q.5) India announced which of the following climate targets at the COP26 summit in Glasgow?**

1. Meet 50% of energy requirements from renewables by 2030.

2. Enhancement of installed renewable capacity to 500 GW by 2030.

3. Reduce India's carbon emissions intensity by 33 to 35 per cent by the year 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

**Select the correct answer code:**

a) 1 only

**b) 1, 2**

c) 1, 3

d) 1, 2, 3

**Solution:** The most substantive new commitment, however, relates to the 1-billion-tonne reduction in its total projected emissions from now until 2030. This is the first time that India has taken any climate target in terms of its absolute emissions.

India's Net Zero target of 2070.

In its climate action plan submitted under the Paris Agreement, India had promised to reduce its emissions intensity, or emissions per unit of GDP, by 33 to 35 per cent by the year 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

The installed renewable capacity has been growing rapidly in the last few years, and the enhancement from 450 GW to 500 GW is not likely to be very challenging.

The increase in proportion of renewable energy sources in India's electricity generation to 50 per cent is a natural corollary of this.

**Q.6) Consider the following statements.**

1. India does not permit the commercial cultivation of GM rice.

2. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee is the apex regulator of GM crops in India.

3. GM seed companies must mandatorily obtain permission from Genetic Engineering Appraisal

Committee for conducting field trials of GM crops in India.

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

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

**Solution:** India does not permit the commercial cultivation of GM rice, but research groups are testing varieties of such rice in trial plots.

Though the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee is the apex regulator of GM crops, it is mandated that trials of GM crops obtain permission from States.

**Q.7) Consider the following statements with regards to the UAPA law:**

1. The law was originally enacted in 1967.
2. As per the Act, an investigating officer is required to obtain the prior approval of the Director-General of Police to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism.
3. UAPA has life imprisonment as the highest punishment.

**Choose the correct ones from the given codes:**

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

**Solution:** Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act is an Indian law aimed at the prevention of unlawful activities associations in India. Its main objective was to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India.

The law was originally enacted in 1967.

Subsequent to the 2019 amendment to the Act, an investigating officer is required to obtain the prior approval of the Director-General of Police to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism.

The death sentence is the highest punishment under the Act.

**Q.8) Consider the following statements with regards to Molnupiravir:**

1. It is the world's first antiviral medicine which can be taken as a pill for the treatment of Covid-19.
2. It was originally developed to treat influenza.
3. The drug has been codenamed 'EIDD-2081'.

**Which of these statements is/are incorrect?**

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) None of these**

**Solution:** Molnupiravir tablet has been approved by the United Kingdom for use as an antiviral medicine against COVID-19.

Molnupiravir:

Molnupiravir is the first antiviral medicine that can be taken as a pill rather than being injected or administered intravenously for the treatment of the COVID-19 disease.

The drug has been codenamed 'EIDD-2081'.

Molnupiravir was originally developed to treat influenza and works by inhibiting the replication of certain RNA viruses. Molnupiravir gets incorporated into the growing RNA strands. Such RNA strands become faulty blueprints for the next round of viral genomes and when enough mutations occur, the viral population collapses. Thus the drug prevents the SARS-CoV-2 virus RNA replication process through "error catastrophe".

**Q.9) Which of the following was not amongst the climate change targets announced by India at the recently held climate conference at Glasgow?**

- a) India will achieve net-zero target by 2070

**b) India will ensure 50% of its energy will be sourced from renewable energy sources latest by 2040**

c) India will also reduce its emissions intensity per unit of GDP by less than 45% latest by 2030

d) India would also install 500 Gigawatt of renewable energy by 2030

**Solution:** India's new climate actions announced at the ongoing 26th CoP of UNFCCC:

India will achieve net zero emissions latest by 2070. This is notable given that so far India was the only major emitter that had not committed to a timeline to achieve net zero carbon dioxide emissions and has also argued against the concept of net zero carbon targets.

Renewable energy would be tapped in a big way in India. By 2030, India will ensure 50% of its energy will be sourced from renewable sources. India plans to generate 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030. This marks a 50 GW increase from its current target of 450 GW.

India also committed to reducing its carbon emissions until 2030 by a billion tonnes. By 2030, India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy to less than 45 per cent. India is largely on track to meet, and even exceed, its Paris Agreement targets: reduce emissions' intensity of its gross domestic product (GDP) by 33 to 35 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030.

**Q.10) Consider the following statements with regards to the Indian Government's plan to list India's G-secs in the international bond indices:**

1. The RBI had earlier notified a fully accessible route for investment by non-residents for investment in government securities without any ceiling.

2. The move is expected to increase foreign inflow into India's debt market.

3. It will help the government in managing its market borrowing programme.

**Choose the correct code from the following:**

a) 1 & 2 only

b) 2 & 3 only

c) 2 & 3 only

**d) All of the above**

**Solution:** The Budget 2020-21 had proposed to remove limit on foreign investment in some government securities, as a first step towards their inclusion in global bond indices.

Following the announcement made in the Union Budget 2020-21 that certain specified categories of Central Government securities would be opened fully for non-resident investors without any restrictions, apart from being available to domestic investors as well, the Reserve Bank of India had notified the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) for investment by non-residents in securities issued by the Government of India.

In order to further mainstream government securities, the Indian Government plans to list India's G-secs in the international bond indices.

The move is expected to attract foreign inflows in the debt market, help the government in its market borrowing programme by increasing liquidity in domestic bond markets and also keep a check on yields.

**November 10**

**Q.1) With reference to the Project – 75, consider the following statements:**

1. Project – 75 includes construction of six submarines of Scorpene design.
2. These submarines are being constructed at Cochin Shipyard Limited.

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

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

**Solution:** The fourth submarine of the Project – 75, Yard 11878 was delivered to the Indian Navy today, 09 November 2021.

Christened ‘Vela’, the submarine was launched on 06 May 19, and has completed all major harbour and sea trials including weapon and sensor trials.

The submarine would soon be commissioned into the Indian Navy and enhance the Indian Navies capability.

Project – 75

Project – 75 includes construction of six submarines of Scorpene design.

These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.

Three of these submarines are already in commission with the Indian Navy.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.2) Maneesha Panchakam, Saundaryalahiri and Vivekachudamani, have been authored by which of the following personalities?**

- a) Adi Shankaracharya
- b) Ramanuja
- c) Thirumula Nayanar

d) Thirumula Nayanar

**Solution:** Adi Shankaracharya authored 116 works. Among them, the celebrated commentaries (bhashyas) are on Upanishads, the Brahma Sutra, and the Gita. His famous poetic works include Maneesha Panchakam and Saundaryalahiri.

He authored the Vivekachudamani. It spells out the qualifications required in a student of Vedanta.

He also composed the Kanakadhara Stotram, following which there was a rain of golden amlas which brought prosperity to the household.

Further, he also composed texts like Shankara Smrithi which seeks to establish the social supremacy of Nambuthiri Brahmins.

**Q.3) Which of the following are the most commonly reported Rare diseases in India?**

1. Gaucher’s disease
2. Pompe Disease
3. Cystic Fibrosis

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below:**

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

**Solution:** All are categorized as rare diseases.

A rare disease is a health condition which has a low prevalence and affects a small number of people. Rare diseases include genetic diseases, rare cancers, infectious tropical diseases and degenerative diseases.

They are chronic, debilitating, life threatening and often result in some form of handicap. Patients have often taken the government to court on this, because treatment of rare diseases is long, specialized and expensive.

The most common rare diseases reported in India include hemophilia, thalassemia, sickle-cell anemia and primary immune deficiency in children, autoimmune diseases, lysosomal storage disorders such as pompe disease, Hirsch sprung

disease, gaucher's disease, cystic fibrosis, hemangiomas and certain forms of muscular dystrophies.

**Q.4) Which of the following city is the latest one to enter in the UNESCO Creative City Network?**

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Bangalore
- c) Srinagar**
- d) Patna

**Solution:** Statement c is correct: UNESCO has recently added Srinagar as part of creative city network under the Crafts and Folk Arts Category.

**Q.5) With reference to Race to Zero campaign, consider the following:**

1. It aims to halve global emissions by 2030.
2. The campaign is led by United Nations

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

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

**Solution:** Both the statements are correct About Race to Zero campaign: Race to Zero is the UN-backed global campaign rallying non-state actors – including companies, cities, regions, financial and educational institutions – to take rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 and deliver a healthier, fairer, zero-carbon world in time. Race To Zero mobilizes actors outside of national governments to join the Climate Ambition Alliance.

**Q.6) LEADS index is released by which of the following?**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

- c) Centre for Economic and Policy Research
- d) Ministry of Finance

**Solution:** LEADS ((Logistics Ease Across Different States) index is released by Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Q.7) Consider the following statements with regards to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network:**

1. The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
2. The network covers six creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy and music.
3. Chennai recently became the sixth Indian city to be made a part of this network.

**Choose the correct ones from the given codes:**

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

**Solution:** The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. It emphasizes placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of the development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.

The network involves folk art, media, film, literature, design, gastronomy and media arts.

Recently, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has picked Srinagar as part of the creative city network under the Crafts and Folk Arts category.

Jaipur (Crafts and Folk Arts) in 2015, Varanasi and Chennai (Creative city of Music) in 2015 and 2017 respectively, Mumbai (Creative city of film) and Hyderabad a (Creative city of gastronomy) in



2019 have so far been recognised as members of the UCCN for creative cities in India.

**Q.8) Recently seen in the news, the Lumding Reserve Forest is in?**

- a) Manipur
- b) Nagaland
- c) Odisha
- d) Assam**

**Solution:** Weeks after an eviction drive in Darrang district's Dholpur turned violent, leaving two dead, the Assam government Recently carried out a similar drive to clear alleged encroachers from Hojai district's Lumding Reserve Forest in the presence of heavy security

Lumding Reserve Forest, part of Dhansiri-Lumding Elephant Reserve, is considered an important wildlife habitat in Assam and stretches through the Lanka and Lumding ranges of the Nagaon South Forest division. It covers an area of 22,403 hectares.

**Q.9) Identify the fields used in choosing the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN):**

- 1. Crafts and Folk Arts
- 2. Gastronomy
- 3. Film
- 4. Design
- 5. Literature and Music

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

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- b) 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**
- d) 2, 4 and 5 only

**Solution:** UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.

Objective: placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.

Recently Srinagar was added to the list.

UCCN sites in India:

- Jaipur – Crafts and Folk Arts (2015)
- Varanasi – Creative city of Music (2015)
- Chennai – Creative city of Music (2017)
- Mumbai – Film (2019)
- Hyderabad – Gastronomy (2019)
- Srinagar – Craft and Folk Arts (2021)

To date, the UCCN has granted membership to 246 cities around the world.

**Q.10) Which of the following is/are Pelagic species?**

- 1. Olive Ridley
- 2. Pond slider
- 3. Diamond back Terrapin
- 4. Herrings

**Choose the correct option.**

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

**Solution:** Olive Ridley

Olive Ridley look very similar to Kemp's Ridley sea turtles. The two species are the smallest of all sea turtles.

Olive ridley turtles are an olive/grayish-green with a heart-shaped carapace (top shell) having 5 to 9 pairs scutes.

Each of the four flippers of an olive ridley has one or two claws.

The size and form of the olive ridley varies from region to region, with the largest animals observed in West Africa.

Solitary nesting occurs extensively throughout this species' range, and nesting has been documented in approximately 40 countries worldwide.

The olive ridley is mainly a pelagic (open ocean) sea turtle, observed by trans-Pacific ships over 2,400 miles from shore, but they are also known to inhabit coastal areas.

Pelagic: being neither close to the bottom nor near the shore.

Olive ridleys are globally distributed in the tropical regions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. In the Atlantic Ocean, they are found along the coasts of West Africa and South America. In the Eastern Pacific, they occur from Southern California to Northern Chile.

Herring is a type of fish also found in the Pelagic zone.

**November 11**

**Q.1) With reference to the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. The Ministry will release MPLADS fund at the rate of Rs. 2 crore per Member of Parliament for the remaining period of FY 2021-22.

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

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

**Solution:** The Union Cabinet has approved the restoration and continuation of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) during the remaining part of Financial Year 2021-22 and up to Financial Year 2025-26 co-terminus with the period of 15th Finance Commission.

The MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by Government of India.

The objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. primarily in their Constituencies.

The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per Member of Parliament (MP) constituency is Rs.5 crore, released in two instalments of Rs.2.5 crore each, subject to the fulfilment of conditions as per the MPLADS Guidelines.

For managing the health and adverse impacts of covid 19 in the society, the Cabinet in its meeting held on 6th April 2020, had decided not to operate MPLADS during the FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 and place the fund at the disposal of Ministry of Finance for managing the impacts of covid 19 pandemic.

As the country is now on the road to economic recovery, the Union Cabinet has now decided to restore MPLADS.

The Ministry will release MPLADS fund at the rate of Rs. 2 crore per Member of Parliament for the remaining period of FY 2021-22 in one instalment and at the rate of Rs. 5.00 crore per annum per Member of Parliament during FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 in two instalments of Rs.2.5 crore each.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**Q.2) With reference to the 'Digital Payment Gateway', consider the following statements:**

1. National Internet Exchange of India recently launched 'Digital Payment Gateway'.
2. National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is a not-for-profit Company under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance.

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

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

**Solution:** National Internet Exchange of India launches 'Digital Payment Gateway'.

National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is a not-for-profit Company under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with the mission to make the internet accessible to everyone.

To facilitate its customers and partners, NIXI has gone digital by enabling digital payments across its three business units by integrating payment gateways on all its customer-facing websites for ease of use.

This integration will lead to increased ease of use for NIXI's customers by offering real-time payments, providing uninterrupted services and ensuring seamless experience to all stakeholders.

NIXI has partnered with PayU and NSDL to offer the Payment gateway services.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.3) E-Amrit portal, recently seen in news, is an initiative of:**

- a) CSIR
- b) DRDO
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) None of the above

**Solution:** India today launched 'E-Amrit', a web portal on electric vehicles (EVs), at the ongoing COP26 Summit in Glasgow, UK.

E-Amrit is a one-stop destination for all information on electric vehicles—busting myths around the adoption of EVs, their purchase, investment opportunities, policies, subsidies, etc.

The portal has been developed and hosted by NITI Aayog under a collaborative knowledge exchange programme with the UK government and as part of the UK–India Joint Roadmap 2030, signed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries.

E-Amrit intends to complement initiatives of the government on raising awareness on EVs and sensitizing consumers on the benefits of switching to electric vehicles.

In the recent past, India has taken many initiatives to accelerate the decarbonisation of transport and adoption of electric mobility in the country. Schemes such as FAME and PLI are especially important in creating an ecosystem for the early adoption of EVs.

NITI Aayog intends to add more features and introduce innovative tools to make the portal more interactive and user-friendly.

The launch was attended by UK High-Level Climate Action Champion Nigel Topping and NITI Aayog Adviser Sudhendu Jyoti Sinha.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

**Q.4) With reference to Cotton, consider the following statements:**

1. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for committed price support of Rs. 17,408.85 crore to the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for the cotton seasons from 2014-15 to 2020-21.
2. During cotton season 2020-21, area under cotton cultivation was 133 lakh hectares with estimated production of 360 lakh bales, which account for around 25% of total global cotton production.

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

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

**Solution:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for committed price support of Rs.17,408.85 crore to the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for the cotton seasons from 2014-15 to 2020-21 (upto 30.09.2021).

In order to safeguard the interests of the cotton farmers, it is expedient to conduct price support operations in cotton years 2014-15 to 2020-21 as cotton prices touched the MSP prices.

Cotton is one of the most important cash crops and plays a major role in sustaining livelihood of around 58 lakh cotton farmers and 400 to 500 lakh people engaged in related activities such as cotton processing and trade.

During cotton season 2020-21, area under cotton cultivation was 133 lakh hectares with estimated production of 360 lakh bales, which account for around 25% of total global cotton production.

Government of India based on the recommendations of CACP fixes MSP for seed cotton (kapas).

Government of India appoints CCI as Central Nodal agency and CCI is mandated to undertake MSP in cotton by procuring all FAQ grade cotton from farmers without any quantitative ceiling, as and when cotton prices fall below MSP level.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.5) With reference to the “Nutrition Smart Village”, consider the following statements:**

1. It will be initiated to strengthen the Poshan Abhiyan.
2. This new initiative aims to reach out to all villages across India through the network of All India Coordinated Research Project on Women in Agriculture (AICRP-WIA).

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

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

**Solution:** As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to commemorate the 75th year of Independence of India a programme on “Nutrition Smart Village” will be initiated to strengthen the Poshan Abhiyan.

This new initiative aims to reach out to 75 villages across India through the network of All India Coordinated Research Project on Women in Agriculture (AICRP-WIA) which is in operation at 13 centres in 12 States of India besides the coordinating institute located at Bhubaneswar.

The initiative has been undertaken in line with the Prime Minister's call to all the academicians, agricultural scientists and all the institutions to adopt and transform 75 villages.

Under the initiative, A total of 75 villages will be adopted by AICRP centres and ICAR-CIWA, for which the AICRP centres will adopt 5 villages each with the remaining to be adopted by ICAR-CIWA with an aim to develop 75 Nutri-Smart villages.

The objectives of the initiative are promoting nutritional awareness, education and behavioural change in rural areas involving farm women and school children, harnessing traditional knowledge through the local recipe to overcome malnutrition and implementing nutrition-sensitive agriculture through homestead agriculture and Nutri-garden.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.6) India and Israel have recently entered into a Bilateral Innovation Agreement (BIA) to**

promote -

- a) Development of dual use technologies
- b) Development of next-generation COVID-19 vaccines
- c) Innovation in agriculture and irrigation
- d) Deployment of cyber defence tools

**Solution:** Recently India and Israel have signed a Bilateral Innovation Agreement for the development of dual use technologies.

Dual use goods are products and technologies normally used for civilian purposes but which may have military applications. Hence “dual-use” refers to technology that can be used for both peaceful and military aims.

The agreement will help promote startups and generate technology in the areas of Drones, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Photonics, Biosensing, Brain Machine, Natural Language Processing, etc.

**Q.7) Recently seen in news, the Global Fuel Economy Initiative is partnership of?**

- a) International Energy Agency & UNEP
- b) UNEP & World Bank
- c) World Bank & IMF
- d) WEF & OECD

**Solution:** GFEI's partnership includes six of the world's leading transport and energy organisations which work together to plan and shape the Initiative's activities. The partners are: UNEP, IEA, International Transport Forum of the OECD, the International Council on Clean Transportation, the University of California-Davis & the FIA Foundation.

GFEI works towards its goal of a more efficient global fleet through three key activities. We undertake research, undertake global advocacy,

and support countries as they seek policy solutions.

**Q.8) Which of the following Indian cities are included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)?**

1. Hyderabad
2. Varanasi
3. Jaipur
4. Srinagar

**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) 1, 2, 3 and 4**

**Solution:** Recently, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Srinagar as a part of UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

After Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Varanasi and Jaipur, Srinagar is the sixth Indian city to achieve this distinction.

Hence, option D is correct.

**Q.9) Consider the following statements:**

1. Project 75 is associated with the development of indigenous aircraft carriers for the Indian Navy.
2. The Scorpene class of submarines are being developed in collaboration with France.

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

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

**Solution:** Project 75 is a programme by the Indian Navy that entails building six Scorpene Class

attack submarines. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The design of the Kalvari class of submarines is based on the French Scorpene class of submarines. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

It is given support by the Department of Defence Production (Ministry of Defence) and the Indian Navy throughout its various phases of construction.

The Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) is manufacturing six Scorpene submarines with technical assistance from the Naval Group of France under a USD 3.75 bn deal signed in October 2005.

MDL is a defence public sector undertaking shipyard under the Ministry of Defence.

Other Submarines under Project-75:

Two submarines, Kalvari and Khanderi, have been commissioned into the Indian Navy.

The Scorpene 'Vagir' is under trials.

The sixth one, INS Vagsheer, is under construction.

**Q.10) With reference to Metaverse, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a network of always-on virtual environments in which people can interact with one another and digital objects through virtual representations of themselves.
2. Technology industry is envisioning Metaverse as the successor to today's internet.

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

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

**Solution:** Both statements are correct. It is a network of always-on virtual environments in

which many people can interact with one another and digital objects through virtual representations of themselves. The term may also refer to digital spaces which are made more lifelike by the use of virtual reality (VR) or augmented reality (AR). There is also a specific type of metaverse which uses blockchain technology. In these, users can buy virtual land and other digital assets using cryptocurrencies. Technology industry is envisioning Metaverse as the successor to today's internet where people shall be able to do anything like go shopping, study, attend meetings etc.

November 12

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

- a) Municipal Waste disposal system
- b) Crude oil refining method
- c) Afforestation method
- d) Water harvesting method

**Solution:** Project Pyrasol is a new waste disposal method to convert urban municipal waste (fibrous organic and sludge) into valuable biochar via pyrolysis (heating at extremely high temperatures in the absence of oxygen), with energy sourced from renewable source-solar plants.

It is being developed as a collaboration between India and Germany.

It is a part of the Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC) flagship program 2+2 Project.

**Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to MPLADS funds:**

Funds released to district authorities under MPLADS are not lapsable.

The MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India.

The Ministry of Rural Development is the administrative ministry for the scheme at the Centre.

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

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

**Solution:** The MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India wherein funds are allocated to the MPs to carry out developmental activities in their constituencies. Under this scheme, funds released to district authorities under MPLADS are not lapsable.

Initially, the MPLADS was under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development. The 1st Guidelines were issued in February 1994, covering the concept, implementation and monitoring of the Scheme. The MPLAD Scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in October 1994.

**Q.3) Consider the following Pairs:**

Martial Arts	State
1. Kalaripayattu	Kerala
2. Mardani Khel	Rajasthan
3. Pari-Khanda	Uttar Pradesh
4. Thoda	Madhya Pradesh

**Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?**

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

**Solution:** Mardani Khel is an armed Indian martial art from Maharashtra.

'Pari Khanda' the famous martial art form created by Rajputs is practised in the state of Bihar.

Thoda is a martial art form of Himachal Pradesh.

**Q.4) With respect to Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. It is the second-largest stretch of mangrove forests in India.
- 2. The Sanctuary is declared as a Ramsar site.

**Options:**

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



**Solution:** Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is an estuary situated near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. It constitutes a large stretch of mangrove forests in India.

The sanctuary is a part of the Godavari estuary.

The sanctuary is yet to be declared as a Ramsar site despite facing various threats to its ecology.

**Q.5) With reference to Pashmina Shawls, consider the following statements:**

1. Traditional producers of pashmina wool are people known as the Changpa.
2. It has been assigned Geographical indication tag under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: Changthangi or Pashmina goat is a special breed of goat mainly found in the Ladakh region and Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh. The goats are raised for ultra-fine cashmere wool, known as Pashmina wool. These goats are generally domesticated and reared by nomadic communities called the Changpa in the Changthang region of Ladakh. Statement 2 is correct: Kashmir Pashmina has been assigned a Geographical indication (GI) tag under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

**Q.6) With reference to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), consider the following:**

1. It is an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance of various countries.
2. Sweden has placed 1st in the CCPI ranking.

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

- a) 1 only**

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: It is an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance of 57 countries and the European Union. These countries together generate 90%+ of global greenhouse gas emissions. Statement 2 is incorrect: Top three ranks were empty as no country had met the criteria to get placed high enough on the index. Sweden has ranked 3rd in this ranking.

**Q.7) With reference to Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, consider the following statements:**

1. Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged under the Act.
2. The Act is based on Innocent until proven guilty principle.
3. The central government can designate individuals as 'terrorist'.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: Under the act, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. The act has the death penalty and life imprisonment as the highest punishments. Statement 2 is incorrect: The 2019 amendment reversed the innocent until proven guilty principle. Statement 3 is correct: The central government can designate individuals as 'terrorist'.

**Q.8) Singhbhum region is located in:**

- a) Gujarat
- b) Nagaland
- c) Ladakh

#### d) Jharkhand

**Solution:** A new study has challenged the widely accepted view that the continents rose from the oceans about 2.5 billion years ago.

It suggests this happened 700 million years earlier — about 3.2 billion years ago — and that the earliest continental landmass to emerge may have been Jharkhand's Singhbhum region.

The study, by researchers from India, Australia and the US, has been published in the journal PNAS.

Scientists have found sandstones in Singhbhum with geological signatures of ancient river channels, tidal plains and beaches over 3.2 billion years old, representing the earliest crust exposed to air.

The researchers studied the granites that form the continental crust of Singhbhum region.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q.9) The 11th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group meeting held between India and which of the countries?

a) Australia

b) Brazil

c) France

d) USA

**Solution:** The 11th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group meeting between India and the United States (US) was held virtually on November 09, 2021.

The DTTI Group meetings are normally held twice a year, alternating between India and the US. However, this DTTI meeting was held via Video Conferencing consecutively for a second time on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aim of the DTTI Group is to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.

Four Joint Working Groups focused on land, naval, air and aircraft carrier technologies have been established under DTTI to promote mutually agreed projects within their domains.

The co-chairs were also pleased to note that since the last DTTI Group meeting in September 2020, the first Project Agreement for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle under the Joint Working Group Air Systems was signed which is a major accomplishment for DTTI. To further encourage US and Indian industries to develop niche technologies under the DTTI Group, the Defence Industry Collaboration Forum (DICF) Virtual Expo was conducted on November 08, 2021.

**Q.10) With reference to the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to further improve the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against entities regulated by RBI.

2. The central theme of the scheme is based on 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' with one portal, one email and one address for the customers to lodge their complaints.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will launch two innovative customer centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India on 12 November, 2021 at 11 AM via video conferencing. These initiatives are the RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.

RBI Retail Direct Scheme

The RBI Retail Direct Scheme is aimed at enhancing access to government securities market for retail investors.

It offers them a new avenue for directly investing in securities issued by the Government of India and the State Governments.

Investors will be able to easily open and maintain their government securities account online with the RBI, free of cost.

Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme

The Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme aims to further improve the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against entities regulated by RBI.

The central theme of the scheme is based on 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' with one portal, one email and one address for the customers to lodge their complaints.

There will be a single point of reference for customers to file their complaints, submit the documents, track status and provide feedback. A multi-lingual toll-free number will provide all relevant information on grievance redress and assistance for filing complaints.

Hence both statements are correct.

**November 13**

**Q.1) “EX SHAKTI 2021” is a biennial training exercise between India and which of the following country?**

- a) France
- b) U.K
- c) Spain
- d) Italy

**Solution:** The 6th Edition of the biennial training exercise “EX SHAKTI 2021” is being conducted from 15 to 26 November 2021 in Frejus, France.

A platoon strength of a Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion is representing the Indian Army in this bilateral exercise and the French side is being represented by troops of 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of 6th Light Armoured Brigade.

Exercise SHAKTI will focus on Counter Terrorism operations in backdrop of semi-urban terrain under United Nations Mandate with an aim to enhance military cooperation and interoperability between the two Armies.

The last edition of Exercise SHAKTI was conducted at Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan from 31 Oct to 13 Nov 2019.

India and France carry out three biennial training exercises namely, Exercise GARUDA with Indian Airforce, Exercise VARUNA with Indian Navy and Exercise SHAKTI with Indian Army.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.2) With reference to the norovirus, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an animal-borne disease transmitted through contaminated water and food.
2. It causes gastrointestinal illness, including inflammation of the lining of the stomach and intestines, severe vomiting and diarrhoea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Kerala health minister issued guidelines after norovirus, a highly contagious stomach bug that causes a range of symptoms, was confirmed in the state’s Wayanad district.

Norovirus is an animal-borne disease transmitted through contaminated water and food.

Norovirus causes gastrointestinal illness, including inflammation of the lining of the stomach and intestines, severe vomiting and diarrhoea.

Norovirus does not significantly affect healthy people but it can be serious in young children, the elderly and people with comorbidities.

Norovirus is easily transmitted through close contact with people who have been infected, or by touching contaminated surfaces. It can also be spread by eating food that has been prepared or handled by someone with the stomach bug.

The virus is spread through the excrement and vomit of an infected person.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.3) With reference to a survey by ICRIER and LIRNEAsia on remote education, consider the following statements:**

1. 38% of households said at least one child had dropped out of school due to COVID-19.
2. Among the 20% who received education, only 55% had access to live online classes, while 68% had access to recorded audio or video lessons.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Only 20% of school-age children in India had access to remote education during the pandemic, of whom only half participated in live online lessons, according to a new national sample

survey by ICRIER and LIRNEAsia, a think tank focused on digital policy.

In fact, 38% of households said at least one child had dropped out of school due to COVID-19.

The survey found that although digital connectivity shot up 40% during the pandemic, low access to devices, poor signal and high costs prevented most children from reaping the benefits.

Among children aged 5-18, it found that 80% of those who were enrolled in schools prior to the pandemic did not receive any educational services at all during school closure.

The situation was significantly worse among those from lower socio-economic classes, where the head of the household had lower education levels, and among rural households.

Among the 20% who received education, only 55% had access to live online classes, while 68% had access to recorded audio or video lessons.

Three-fourths of the students had work sent to them over a smartphone, usually via WhatsApp, and 61% via text messages.

Almost 70% had contact with their teachers via phone calls.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.4) Rezang La, often mentioned in news, is located in:**

- a) Sikkim
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Nagaland

**d) Ladakh**

Solution: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate the revamped war memorial at Rezang La in eastern Ladakh next week.

The memorial, dedicated to those who laid down their lives in the Battle of Rezang La during the 1962 war, now includes the names of Army personnel who lost their lives in the violent clash at Galwan last year.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**Q.5) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) is a joint mission of NASA and ISRO.

2. The DART mission aim is to test the newly developed technology that would allow a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course.

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

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

**Solution:** NASA will launch its first planetary defense test mission named the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART).

The DART spacecraft will be launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The aim of the mission is to test the new technology to be prepared in case an asteroid heads towards Earth in the future.

The aim is to test the newly developed technology that would allow a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

After the mission has collided with the asteroid, scientists will study its impact on the trajectory of the asteroid with a range of telescopes deployed on different regions of the planet.

DART will be the first demonstration of the kinetic impactor technique to change the motion of an asteroid in space.

The target of the spacecraft is a small moonlet called Dimorphos (Greek for “two forms”).

Dimorphos orbits a larger asteroid named Didymos (Greek for “twin”).

It is a suicide mission and the spacecraft will be completely destroyed.

The collision is expected to take place between 26th September and 1st October, 2022.

**Q.6) With reference to Certificate of Origin (CoD), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a document declaring in which country a commodity or good was manufactured.
2. It is often issued to the importers in a 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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: CoD is often mandated by the importing countries and hence is issued to the exporters

**Q.7) With reference to MPLADS scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. Under the scheme, each MP can suggest works to the District Collector.
2. The nodal ministry for MPLADS is the Ministry of Rural Development.
3. It is a Central Sector Scheme.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 and 3 are correct.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Nodal ministry for MPLADS is the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

**Q.8) With reference to Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) between India and the US, consider the following statements:**

1. The initiative is led by Defence ministers of both India and USA.
2. It aims to create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is incorrect: The initiative is led by the Undersecretary of Defence for Acquisition and Sustainment from the United States and Secretary for Defence Protection from India.

Statement 2 is correct

**Q.9) With reference to e-AMRIT, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a web portal for creating awareness about electric mobility in India.
2. It is a joint initiative between NITI Aayog & Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: It is a joint initiative between NITI Aayog and UK government.

**Q.10) World Happiness Report, is published by which of the following organization:**

- a) Global Happiness Organization
- b) UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- c) Happiness Alliance
- d) World Bank

**Solution:** Statement b is correct: The Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations released the World Happiness Report 2021.

November 15

**Q.1) The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) identified which of the following areas contributing to the prevailing adverse air quality of Delhi-NCR that need better focus with intensified efforts by the concerned agencies of the State Governments of National Capital Region (NCR) and GNCTD?**

1. Control of paddy stubble burning incidences
2. Control of dust from Construction and Demolition (C&D) activities
3. Control of dust from roads and open areas

**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**

**Solution:** The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) convened a crucial meeting on an emergent basis in wake of deteriorating air quality of the Delhi-NCR region.

States and concerned agencies have been advised to be in complete readiness for implementing 'Emergency Measures' as listed under Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

The adverse air quality scenario in Delhi-NCR as a combined result of paddy stubble burning, vehicular pollution, post-Diwali pollution, dip in temperature and other local factors, was also greatly impacted by a dust storm moving in from the South-Westerly directions of the Thar desert which brought in huge quantities of dust that further amplified the PM<sub>2.5</sub> / PM<sub>10</sub> levels significantly.

The Commission has also identified 5 different areas contributing to the prevailing adverse air quality of Delhi-NCR that need better focus with intensified efforts by the concerned agencies of the State Governments of National Capital Region (NCR) and GNCTD.

These areas are:

Control of paddy stubble burning incidences;  
Control of dust from Construction and Demolition (C&D) activities;  
Control of dust from roads and open areas;  
Vehicular Pollution; and  
Industrial Pollution  
Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**Q.2) With reference to the Kaiser-i-Hind, consider the following statements:**

1. Arunachal Pradesh State cabinet recently approved it as the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It is found only in Arunachal Pradesh.
3. It is protected under Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

**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

**Solution:** An elusive swallowtail butterfly carrying 'India' in its name and found in next-door China will become the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.

The State Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu approved the large, brightly coloured Kaiser-i-Hind as the State butterfly. The Cabinet meeting was for the first time held outside State capital Itanagar at an unusual location — Pakke Tiger Reserve.

The Cabinet also adopted the Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 declaration on climate change-resilient and responsive Arunachal Pradesh aimed at lowering emissions and sustainable development.

Kaiser-i-Hind (*Teinopalpus imperialis*) literally means Emperor of India. This butterfly with a 90-120 mm wingspan is found in six States along the eastern Himalayas at elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in well-wooded terrain.

The butterfly also flutters in Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and southern China.

Although the Kaiser-i-Hind is protected under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it is hunted for supply to butterfly collectors.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.3) With reference to Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) of 2017, consider the following statements:**

1. The CAATSA is designed to ensure that no country is able to increase military engagement with Iran, North Korea and Russia without facing deterrent punitive action from the U.S.
2. Section 231 says the U.S President shall impose no fewer than five different sanctions on any Government that enters into a significant defence or intelligence deal with the Russian 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

**Solution:** India is preparing for a visit from Russian President Vladimir Putin for an annual bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in early December, but it is the arrival of the \$5.4-billion Russian long-range surface-to-air missile defence shield "S-400", also expected next month, that is likely to generate more international headlines.

The United States Government has made it clear that the delivery of the five S-400 systems is considered a "significant transaction" under its Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) of 2017, which could trigger sanctions against Indian officials and the Government.

The CAATSA is designed to ensure that no country is able to increase military engagement with Iran, North Korea and Russia without facing deterrent punitive action from the U.S.

The sanctions are unilateral, and not part of any United Nations decision, and therefore no country is bound to accept them.

Section 231 says the President shall impose no fewer than five different sanctions on any Government that enters into a significant defence or intelligence deal with the Russian Government.

Section 235 lists 12 options, including stopping credit lines from U.S. and international banks such as the IMF, blocking sales of licensed goods and technology, banning banks, manufacturers and suppliers, property transactions and even financial and visa sanctions on specific officials.

However, the law empowers the President to waive sanctions or delay them if he/she certifies that the deal is not a threat to the U.S. and allies, that waiver of sanctions is in the U.S.'s "vital national security interests" or that the country being sanctioned promises to reduce its future dependence on the "adversary country".

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.4) Which of the following railway station recently renamed after Rani Kamlapati?**

- a) Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station
- b) Habibganj railway station
- c) Mumbai Central railway station
- d) None of the above

**Solution:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has set the stage for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the State by renaming the Habibganj railway station after Rani Kamlapati, an 18th century Gond queen.

She was the last Hindu queen of Bhopal.

Many believe Rani Kamlapati was the widow of Gond ruler Nizam Shah, chief of Ginnorgarh.

They say the station was built in 1905 and was named Shahpur (one popular area in new Bhopal is known as Shahpura, named after the Shahpura lake).

In 1979, when the Railways was looking for land for the expansion of the station, Habib Miya



decided to give land free of cost and the station was named after him.

Gond community

The Gond community is the largest tribal group in India with more than 1.2 crore population.

The community is largely spread in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

In the previous Assembly election, the BJP recorded its worst performance in a decade in reserved seats across Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

**Q.5) Which of the following agency will launch its first planetary defense test mission named the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)?**

a) NASA

b) ISRO

c) JAXA

d) ESA

**Solution:** On November 24, at around 11.50 am (IST), NASA will launch the agency's first planetary defense test mission named the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART).

The main aim of the mission is to test the newly developed technology that would allow a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course. The spacecraft will be launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

The target of the spacecraft is a small moonlet called Dimorphos (Greek for "two forms"). It is about 160-metre in diameter and the spacecraft is expected to collide when it is 11 million kilometres away from Earth.

The target of the spacecraft is a small moonlet called Dimorphos (Greek for "two forms"). It is about 160-metre in diameter and the spacecraft is expected to collide when it is 11 million kilometres away from Earth.

Dimorphos orbits a larger asteroid named Didymos (Greek for "twin") which has a diameter of 780 metres.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.6) With reference to Landraces, consider the following statements:**

1. It refer to naturally occurring variants of commonly cultivated crops.

2. These are as opposed to commercially grown crops, which are developed by selective breeding (hybrids) or through genetic engineering to express a certain trait over others.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Among the winners of this year's Padma awards is Rahibai Popere, popularly known as Seedmother, from Akole taluka of Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.

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

Landraces refer to naturally occurring variants of commonly cultivated crops. These are as opposed to commercially grown crops, which are developed by selective breeding (hybrids) or through genetic engineering to express a certain trait over others.

Amid the threat of climate change, a challenge before scientists and policymakers is to develop varieties that can withstand both abiotic and biotic stresses. Naturally occurring landraces have a large pool of still untapped genetic material, which can provide solutions.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.7) The term Messier 87 is sometimes seen in the news with reference to:**

a) It is a supergiant elliptical galaxy with several trillion stars in the constellation Virgo.

- b) It is the traditional medicine practice based on bioactive compounds in plants and animals.
- c) It is a biosensor that can detect the COVID-19 in saliva samples.
- d) None of the Above

**Solution:** Scientists studying the galaxy Messier 87 (M87) – which surrounds the only black hole to have been imaged so far – have come up with a theoretical model of the jets of material emanating from M87.

Messier 87 (also known as Virgo A or NGC 4486, generally abbreviated to M87) is a supergiant elliptical galaxy with several trillion stars in the constellation Virgo.

It is one of the brightest radio sources in the sky and a popular target for both amateur and professional astronomers.

**Q.8) Kalaripayattu, is an Indian martial art originated in which of the following Indian state?**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Telangana
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

**Solution:** Kalaripayattu, also known simply as Kalari, is an Indian martial art that originated in modern-day Kerala, a state on the southwestern coast of India. Kalaripayattu is known for its long-standing history within Indian martial arts. It is believed to be the oldest surviving martial art in India.

Kalaripayattu is a martial art designed for the ancient battlefield (the word “Kalari” meaning “battlefield”), with weapons and combative techniques that are unique to India.

**Q.9) Consider the following with respect to the S-400 Triumph.**

- 1) It is a highly advanced UAV.
- 2) It is developed by Russia.

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

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

**Solution:** In a big boost to India’s air-defense capabilities, Russia has started delivery of the much-awaited S-400 missile system for deployment on schedule this year, official sources have confirmed.

India had bought the system for over US\$ 5 billion in 2018, in a deal that became contentious amid a threat of sanctions from the US on countries engaging in defence deals with Russia.

The S-400 Triumph, previously known as the S-300PMU-3, is an anti-aircraft weapon system developed in the 1990s by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau as an upgrade of the S-300 family.

It has been in service with the Russian Armed Forces since 2007.

S-400 Triumph is one of the world’s most advanced air defence systems.

The system is a large complex of radars, control systems and different types of missiles.

It can simultaneously track numerous incoming objects in a radius of a few hundred kilometres.

The objects may include all kinds of aircraft, missiles and UAVs

**Q.10) With reference to International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO), consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to provide credible data to track countries progress on meeting methane reduction pledges.
2. It has been launched by WB in collaboration with UNEP.
3. It will focus only on methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 3 only

d) 1 and 2 only

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: It has been launched by UNEP with support from EU.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Initially it will focus on methane emissions from fossil fuel sector and then expand to other major emitting sectors like agriculture and waste.

## November 16

**Q.1) With reference to the Exercise SITMEX – 21, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a Trilateral Maritime Exercise between India, Singapore and Sri Lanka.
2. It is being conducted annually since 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution:** Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette is participating in the 3rd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX – 21, from 15 to 16 Nov 21 in Andaman Sea.

SITMEX is being conducted annually since 2019 with an aim to enhance mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices between Indian Navy (IN), RSN and RTN.

The maiden edition of SITMEX was hosted by IN off Port Blair in September 2019. RSN hosted the second edition of the exercise in November 2020. The 2021 edition of the exercise is being hosted by RTN in Andaman Sea.

SITMEX-21 will fortify the long-standing bond of friendship and further enhance the cooperation between the participating navies towards augmenting the overall maritime security in the region.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**Q.2) With reference to the Audit Diwas, consider the following statements:**

1. It is being celebrated to mark the historic origins of the institution of CAG and the contribution it has made to the governance, transparency and accountability over the past several years.

2. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the Constitutional Authority in India, established under Article 324 of the Constitution 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

**Solution:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the event marking the first Audit Diwas at CAG office premises, on 16th November, 2021.

Audit Diwas is being celebrated to mark the historic origins of the institution of CAG and the contribution it has made to the governance, transparency and accountability over the past several years.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the Constitutional Authority in India, established under Article 148 of the Constitution of India.

He is empowered to Audit all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the State Governments, including those of autonomous bodies and corporations substantially financed by the Government.

Articles 148 – 151 of the Constitution of India deal with the institution of the CAG of India.

The former Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu Kashmir G. C. Murmu is the current CAG of India. He assumed office on 8 August 2020. He is the 14th CAG of India.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.3) Consider the following with respect to Birsa Munda:**

1. Birsa Munda started a movement called 'Ulgulan', or 'The Great Tumult'.
2. His Munda Revolt led to the passing of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act being passed in 1908 by the British Raj.

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

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

**Solution:** Both the Statements are correct:

Munda rebellion is one of the prominent 19th-century tribal rebellions. Birsa Munda led this movement in the Chota Nagpur region in 1899-1900. Birsa Munda started a movement called 'Ulgulan', or 'The Great Tumult'.

His struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to a big hit against the British government in the form of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act being passed in 1908. The act restricted the passing on of land from the tribal people to non-tribals.

**Q.4) Consider the following about the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)?**

1. It reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and the UN Security Council.
2. India is a founding member of the IAEA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution:** Both the statements are true:

Facts about the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

It was set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957, within the United Nations family.

It reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and the UN Security Council.

India is a founding member of the IAEA.

The IAEA is an autonomous organization within the United Nations system. It is not a specialized agency, because of the political nature of the work done by it.

It seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

It aims at applying mandatory comprehensive safeguards in the non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS), under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and other international treaties.

**Q.5) With reference to Science and technology, the terms 'Didymos and Dimorphos' pertain to**

- a) Asteroids and moonlets**
- b) Newly found blackholes
- c) larger space debris
- d) new planets

**Solution:** The DART Mission will target a small moonlet called Dimorphos (Greek for "two forms"). Dimorphos orbits a larger asteroid named Didymos (Greek for "twin").

**Q.6) With respect to Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin), which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. The cost of houses would be shared between Centre and States.
2. Selection of beneficiaries is only based on housing deprivation parameters of Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011

**Options:**

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

**Solution:** Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana is a social welfare programme of the Indian Government, to provide housing for the rural poor in India.

The cost of houses would be shared between Centre and States.

Selection of beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) is based on housing deprivation parameters of Socio-

Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011, subject to 13 point exclusion criteria, followed by Gram Sabha verification. Households that are houseless or living in zero, one or two room kutcha houses (kutcha wall and kutcha roof) are provided financial assistance for construction of pucca houses under PMAY-G.

**Q.7) Kamo'oalewa recently seen in news is**

- a) A new variant of coronavirus found in samples taken from the Xinjiang region of China
- b) A fossil of a new megaraptor in Patagonia
- c) **A Near-Earth asteroid which could be a fragment of our moon**
- d) A Most Advanced Humanoid Robot

**Solution:** Kamo'oalewa is a very small asteroid, fast rotator and near-Earth object. Currently, it is the smallest, closest, and most stable (known) quasi-satellite of Earth.

Recent studies point to the possibility of Kamo'oalewa being a part of the Earth's Moon. It could have broken away from the Moon due to a possible impact, and gone on to orbit the Sun rather than the Earth-like its parent does.

**Q.8) In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents?**

- 1. Service providers
- 2. Data centres
- 3. Body corporate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**d) 1, 2 and 3**

**Solution:** Cybersecurity incidents mean any real and suspected adverse event in relation to cybersecurity that violates an explicitly or implicitly applicable security policy resulting in

unauthorized access, denial of services, unauthorised use of computer resources for processing or storage of data or change in data without authorization.

Section 70-B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 gives the Central government the power to appoint an agency of the government, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team to report incidents of cybersecurity.

Rule 12 of the CERT rules gives every person, company or organization the option to report cybersecurity incidents to the CERT-In.

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Metaverse, recently seen in news.**

- 1. Metaverse is a parallel, virtual, world where users can have different identities, possessions and characters.
- 2. Facebook is the only company which has built a metaverse.
- 3. Interoperability is key to the success of metaverse.
- 4. Services could be offered virtually in exchange for virtual assets or Cryptocurrencies.

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

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

**Solution:** Metaverse is as a parallel, virtual, world where users can have different identities, possessions and characters.

Interoperability is key to metaverse's success.

Metaverse is not something that just one company can build. Nor is Facebook the only one working on this.

The metaverse is being envisioned as a new world order really, where your services could be offered virtually in exchange for other virtual assets, or Cryptocurrencies.

According to Facebook's definition, the metaverse will let users hang out with people who are not in

the same physical space. “You’ll be able to hang out with friends, work, play, learn, shop, create, and more.

reserve adequacy ratio and sovereign default history.

**Q.10) Which of these factors is usually accounted for by International Credit Rating agencies to evaluate India’s credit rating?**

1. Rule of law
2. Current account balance
3. Control of corruption
4. Political stability
5. GDP growth rate
6. Sovereign default history

**Select the correct answer code:**

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4
- b) 1, 2, 3, 5, 6
- c) 1, 2, 6
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

**Solution:** Within its sovereign credit ratings cohort – countries rated between A+/A1 and BBB-/Baa3 for S&P/ Moody’s – India is a clear outlier on several parameters, i.e. a sovereign whose rating is significantly lower than mandated by the effect on the sovereign rating of the parameter. These include

- GDP growth rate,
- inflation,
- general government debt (as per cent of GDP),
- cyclically adjusted primary balance (as per cent of potential GDP),
- current account balance (as per cent of GDP),
- political stability,
- rule of law,
- control of corruption,
- investor protection,
- ease of doing business,
- short-term external debt (as per cent of reserves),

November 17

**Q.1) With reference to antibiotic consumption rates, consider the following statements:**

1. Global antibiotic consumption rates decreased by 46% in the last two decades, according to a study published in the Lancet Planetary Health by the Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM) Project.
2. Excess and inappropriate use of antibiotics is an important driver of drug resistant infections.

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

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

**Solution:** Global antibiotic consumption rates increased by 46% in the last two decades, according to a study covering 204 countries from 2000 to 2018, and published in the Lancet Planetary Health by the Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM) Project.

The key findings:

10-fold: Variation between countries in total antibiotic consumption rates, ranging from as low as 5 DDD to 45.9 DDD per 1000 population per day.

46% up: Between 2000 and 2018, global antibiotic consumption rates increased from 9.8 to 14.3 DDD per 1000 population per day).

76%: Increase observed between 2000 and 2018 in low- and middle-income countries (from 7.4 to 13.1 DDD per 1000 per day). In high-income countries, consumption rates remained stable.

116%: Increase in antibiotic consumption rates in South Asia. The second largest increase was in the North Africa and Middle East region (111%).

Comment

Excess and inappropriate use of antibiotics is an important driver of drug resistant infections.

These findings reveal the huge task ahead, implementing and delivering the WHO Global

Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, which relies on optimising antibiotic use and reducing the incidence of infections.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**Q.2) With reference to the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an in-house advanced software application for the registration system developed by NIC.
2. Currently it is implemented in all States.

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

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

**Solution:** Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh launched National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) portal and Dashboard.

NGDRS is an in-house advanced software application for the registration system developed by NIC. It ensures transparency, accountability of the officials executing the documents and reduction in cost, time and number of visits and procedures required for the execution of the registration documents.

So far, it has already been implemented in 12 States and pilot tested in 3 States covering more than 10 crore population. As per the report, more than 25 lakh documents have already been registered using this system.

To integrate all the processes and land records database, the Department has also initiated a consolidated effort to computerize the land management system through Integrated Land Management Information System (ILMIS) Project wherein land-related information are available in a single window.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.



**Q.3) G.N. Bajpai committee, recently seen in news, is related to:**

**a) identify key areas for the development of insurance and reinsurance business from IFSC**

- b) report on the working of capital market infrastructure institutions (MIIs)
- c) decide the appropriate level of reserves that the RBI should hold
- d) None of the above

**Solution:** The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), with an objective to develop the financial products and services International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) has constituted an Insurance Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. G.N. Bajpai, former Chairman LIC and SEBI, to identify key areas for the development of insurance and reinsurance business from IFSC.

The significant recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

IFSCA has developed eco-system for Aircraft Leasing and Financing which can be utilized to develop Aviation Insurance Hub and Trade Credit Insurance at IFSC. Also, similar platform may be implemented for shipping industry through facilitating of Protection and Indemnity clubs.

The Captive insurance model is one of the cost efficient manner of managing own risk. Globally, leading financial centres have favourable regulatory regime for captive insurance model. Hence IFSCA may develop a new framework for enabling operations of Captives.

IFSCA has enabled framework for Global In-house centres which may be utilized by (re)insurers to develop Global In-House Centres to provide services ancillary to insurance.

Investment framework may be redesigned to give more avenues for insurers to mobilize their funds to a basket of financial instruments and products offering them more returns and flexibility.

Globally premium financing is prevalent which is very significant driver for some the niche areas of

insurance business. The same may be introduced in IFSC.

Developing alternate risk transfer solutions such as insurance linked securities, catastrophe bonds and parametric risk transfers available for the global market.

The Committee has also recommended the mapping of insurance needs of the Indian diaspora and meet such needs through promotion and development of the 'hub and spoke' model.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.4) Pochampally Village, recently in news, is located in:**

- a) Telangana
- b) Odisha
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

**Solution:** The Pochampally Village in Telangana State has been selected as one of the best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

The prestigious award will be given on the occasion of the 24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly on 2nd December 2021 in Madrid, Spain.

Pochampally, 50 Kms from Hyderabad, is a town in Nalgonda district of Telangana and is often referred to as the Silk City of India for the exquisite sarees that are woven through a unique style called Ikat. This style, Pochampally Ikat, received a Geographical Indicator (GI Status) in 2004.

Ikat is a Malaysian, Indonesian word which means "Tie and Dye".

Ikat involves the process of wrapping (or tying) and dyeing sections of bundled yarn to a predetermined colour pattern before they are woven. The dye penetrates into exposed sections while the wrapped section remains undyed. This pattern formed by the yarn in this process is woven into fabric.

Pochampally is also known as Bhoodan Pochampally to commemorate the Bhoodan Movement that was launched by Acharya Vinobha Bhave from this village on April 18th, 1951.

Currently a two room Vinobha Bhave Mandir exists within the village which was earlier the place where Vinobha Bhave resided during his visit to the village.

Best tourism village

The Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO Pilot initiative aims to award those villages which are outstanding examples of rural destinations and showcase good practices in line with its specified nine evaluation areas.

It also aims to support villages to enhance their rural tourism potential through training and access to opportunities for improvement.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to S-400 Triumf**

1. It is a mobile, surface-to-air missile (SAM) system
2. It is designed by DRDO and developed by Russia
3. India is the first foreign buyer to broker a government deal with Russia for the system

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

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

**Solution:** The S-400 Triumf is a mobile, surface-to-air missile (SAM) system designed and developed in the 1990s by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau for Marine Engineering as an upgrade to the S-300 family.

China was the first foreign buyer to broker a government deal with Russia in 2014; while Saudi Arabia, Turkey, India and Belarus have all

acquired, or expressed interest, in the system since.

The S-400 Triumf air defence missile system will give a major boost to India's capabilities to take out enemy fighter aircraft and cruise missiles at long range. The Indian Air Force (IAF) will induct the first unit of S-400 systems at a time when India is locked in a standoff with China in the Ladakh sector.

China has already deployed two S-400 squadrons at Ngari Gar Gansa and Nyingchi airbase in Tibet, across Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh respectively.

**Q.6) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Birsa Munda is a 16th-century tribal freedom fighter.
2. During British rule, he spearheaded an Indian tribal religious movement across the tribal belt of modern-day Bihar and Jharkhand.
3. His birth anniversary is marked as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, to remember the contribution of tribal freedom fighters.

**Options:**

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

**Solution:** Birsa Munda was a young tribal freedom fighter who is famous for his anti-British India agitation in the late 19th century (not the 16th century). Hence Statement 1 is incorrect.

Birsa Munda, who belonged to the Munda tribe spearheaded an Indian tribal religious millenarian movement across the tribal belt in undivided Bihar. Hence Statement 2 is correct.

Recently, the Central government has announced that Birsa Munda's birth anniversary will be celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. Hence Statement 3 is correct.

**Q.7) Rani Kamlapati belonged to which tribal community?**

a) Santhal

**\*b) Gond**

c) Muria

d) Baiga

**Solution:** Rani Kamlapati is an 18th-century Gond queen who was one of the seven wives of Gond warlord Nizam Shah.

The queen was well-known for her beauty and abilities and was often praised. She built the seven-storey 'Kamlapati Palace'.

Hence Option B is correct.

**Q.8) 'SITMEX', recently seen in the news, refers to -**

a) Anti-satellite weapon tested by Russia

**b) Maritime exercise between India, Singapore and Thailand**

c) New inflation index developed by the RBI

d) A report on hunger brought out by the UN

**Solution:** SITMEX is a trilateral naval drill involving India, Singapore, and Thailand.

The primary goal of the exercise is to strengthen interoperability and improve understanding between the three fleets.

Hence Option B is correct.

**Q.9) With reference to Octacopter drone, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an indigenous medium-class drone.

2. The drone can be used for the last-mile delivery of medicines, vaccines, food, postal packets and human organs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

**c) Both 1 and 2**

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Both statements are correct. Octacopter is an indigenous medium-class drone developed by National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) a constituent of CSIR. The drone can be used for the last-mile delivery of medicines, vaccines, food, postal packets and human organs. It is also integrated with Powerful onboard embedded computers and the latest generation sensors for other applications like agricultural pesticide spraying, crop monitoring, mining survey, magnetic geo survey mapping among others.

**Q.10) Annual Financial Statement (AFS) includes**

1. Estimates of revenue and capital receipts
2. Ways and means to raise the revenue
3. Estimates of expenditure
4. Introduction of new schemes/projects

Select the correct answer code:

a) 1, 2, 3

b) 1, 3, 4

**c) 1, 2, 3, 4**

d) 2, 3, 4

**Solution:** Annual Financial Statement (AFS) is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government in a financial year. In addition to it, the Budget contains:

Estimates of revenue and capital receipts,

Ways and means to raise the revenue,

Estimates of expenditure,

The economic and financial policy of the coming year, i.e., taxation proposals, prospects of revenue, spending programme and introduction of new schemes/projects.

**November 18**

**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect ATMA Scheme:**

1. “Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms” is popularly known as ATMA Scheme.
2. It is a Centrally sponsored scheme.
3. The scheme promotes decentralized farmer-friendly extension system in the country.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?**

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) None of the above**

**Solution:** All the given statements are correct.

ATMA stands for Agricultural Technology Management Agency.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms”, popularly known as ATMA Scheme, is under implementation since 2005.

The scheme promotes decentralized farmer-friendly extension system in the country.

Under the scheme, grants-in-aid are released to the State Governments with an objective to support State Government’s efforts to make available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied areas to farmers.

Scheme objective: The scheme aims at making extension system farmer-driven and farmer accountable by way of new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at the district level to operationalize the extension reforms.

**Q.2) With reference to the mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremist areas, consider the following statements:**

1. The project would be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
2. This project will be completed within 18 months after the signing of the Agreement and is likely to be completed by 23 November 2023.

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

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

**Solution:** The Union Cabinet has given nod to provide 4G mobile services in over 7,000 villages of 44 aspirational districts across Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Odisha.

Mobile towers connectivity will be provided in Left Wing Extremist areas. The project is expected to be worth 6466 crore rupees.

The project would be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

This project will be completed within 18 months after the signing of the Agreement and is likely to be completed by 23 November 2023.

The work related to providing 4G mobile services in identified uncovered villages will be awarded through an open competitive bidding process.

The proposal for provisioning of mobile services in the remote and difficult uncovered areas of Aspirational Districts will enhance digital connectivity, facilitate learning, dissemination of information and knowledge, skill up-gradation, and development.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.3) With reference to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2021, consider the following statements:**

1. The percentage of rural children who were not enrolled in school doubled during the pandemic, with government schools seeing an increase in enrolment at the expense of private schools.

2. 52% of children had textbooks for their grade, only a third had access to any other learning resources or support.

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

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

**Solution:** The percentage of rural children who were not enrolled in school doubled during the pandemic, with government schools seeing an increase in enrolment at the expense of private schools, according to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2021.

Over a third of children enrolled in Classes 1 and 2 have never attended school in person.

However, enrolment does not necessarily mean that learning took place.

In a survey of over 76,000 households with children aged six to 14, ASER found that while 92% of children had textbooks for their grade, only a third had access to any other learning resources or support.

With smartphone availability and access limited, online learning was restricted to a quarter of students, though there were major differences in the experience of students from different States.

For instance, 91% of students from Kerala and almost 80% from Himachal Pradesh had online education, but only 10% from Bihar and 13% from West Bengal.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.4) Maitree maritime exercise, is held between India and which of the following country:**

- a) Nepal
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) **Thailand**
- d) Bangladesh

**Solution:** Statement c is correct: It is a bilateral military exercise between India and Thailand.

**Q.5) With reference to the selection of Pochampally as one of the best tourism villages by United Nations World Trade Organisation (UNWTO), consider the following statements:**

1. It is often referred to as the Silk City of India.
2. Acharya Vinobha Bhave launched the Bhoodan movement from this village.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: Pochampally, 50 Kms from Hyderabad, is a town in Nalgonda district of Telangana and is often referred to as the Silk City of India for the exquisite sarees that are woven through a unique style called Ikat. This style, Pochampally Ikat, received a Geographical Indicator (GI Status) in 2004.

Statement 2 is correct: Pochampally is also known as Bhoodan Pochampally to commemorate the Bhoodan Movement that was launched by Acharya Vinobha Bhave from this village on April 18th, 1951. Currently a two room Vinobha Bhave Mandir exists within the village which was earlier the place where Vinobha Bhave resided during his visit to the village.

**Q.6) Only half of children aged 6-23 months are being fed the minimum recommended number of meals a day across the world, according to 'Fed to Fail' report. The 'Fed to Fail' report is released by**

- a) World Bank
- b) UNESCO
- c) **UNICEF**
- d) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

**Solution:** Only half of children aged 6-23 months are being fed the minimum recommended number of meals a day across the world, while just a third consume the minimum number of food groups they need to thrive, according to a new Unicef report analysing over 91 countries.

**Q.7) Consider the following with respect to Global Climate Risk Index 2021:**

1. India was ranked 7th in the Index
2. It is released by the German Watch

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

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

**Solution:** Both the statements are correct:

The international environmental think tank 'Germanwatch' released the Global Climate Risk Index 2021.

Germanwatch, based in Bonn and Berlin (Germany), is an independent development and environmental organization which works for sustainable global development.

This is the 16th Edition of the Index. It is published annually.

India has improved its rankings from last year. It is ranked 7th in the 2021 Index as compared to 5th in the 2020 Index.

The Indian monsoon lasted a month longer than usual in the year 2019, with surplus rains causing major hardship. The rain was 110% of normal, which is the most since 1994.

The report also points to an increase in the number of heatwaves, increased intensity and frequency of cyclones, and an increased rate of melting glaciers in India.

**Q.8) Recently seen in the news, Kamo'oalewa is related to which of the following?**

- a) Unique Missile
- b) Newly discovered crater on Moon
- c) Volcano in Andaman

**d) Quasi Satellite**

**Solution:** In 2006, the PanSTARRS telescope in Hawaii spotted a quasi-satellite — a near-Earth object that orbits the Sun and yet remains close to the Earth. Scientists named it Kamo'oalewa, a word that is part of a Hawaiian chant, and alludes to an offspring that travels on its own. The asteroid is roughly the size of a Ferris wheel – between 150 and 190 feet in diameter – and gets as close as about 9 million miles from Earth.

Because of its small size (about 50 meters wide), this quasi-satellite has been difficult for scientists to study, and little was known about it so far. Now, a study in the journal Communications Earth and Environment offers insights into where this satellite could have come from.

One possibility is that Kamo'oalewa was a part of the Earth's Moon, the study suggests. It could have broken away from the Moon due to a possible impact, and gone on to orbit the Sun rather than the Earth-like its parent does.

When scientists compared its spectrum with a lunar sample that was brought back to Earth during the Apollo 14 mission, they found striking similarities between the two. A mission to collect Kamo'oalewa's samples has been scheduled for a launch in 2025.

Another possibility is that Kamo'oalewa was captured in its Earth-like orbit from the general population of Near Earth Objects.

A third possibility could be that it originated from an as-yet-undiscovered quasi-stable population of Earth's Trojan asteroids (Trojans are a group of asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet.

**Q.9) Which of the following countries have carried out the Direct-Ascent Anti-Satellite (DA-ASAT) test?**

- a) USA
- b) China
- c) Russia**

d) Turkey

**Solution:** Russia has carried out a Direct-Ascent Anti-Satellite (DA-ASAT) test by shooting down an old satellite on Monday which has created huge debris in the low earth orbit, according to the U.S. space command. It drew sharp reactions from US officials who also said it endangered the International Space Station (ISS).

According to the US space command, Russia has conducted the DA-ASAT test to shoot down an old Soviet Tselina-D SIGINT satellite, Kosmos-1408, which was launched in 1982 and had been dead for a long time. “The test so far has generated more than 1,500 pieces of trackable orbital debris and will likely generate hundreds of thousands of pieces of smaller orbital debris,” it said in a statement.

While Russia has previously tested ASAT weapons, the DA-ASAT is more advanced and similar to the ones the US has in its inventory, according to observers.

ASAT weapon gives the capability to destroy satellites in orbit disrupting the communications and surveillance capabilities of adversaries. Only a handful of countries have successfully demonstrated ASAT capability - China, India, Russia, and the U.S.

**Q.10) Recently seen in the news, the Project SATH-E initiative, was launched by?**

a) NITI Aayog

b) Pratham NGO

c) Tata Trust

d) Ministry of Skill Development

**Solution:** Project SATH-E, ‘Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital-Education’, was launched in 2017 to identify and build three ‘role model’ States for the school education sector. After an elaborate selection process, Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh were chosen.

The first phase of SATH-E was completed in March 2020. Significant strides were made in learning enhancement programmes (remediation), governance reforms, teacher training, recruitment, assessment and accountability, school

consolidation, IT-enabled monitoring of schools, coaching of academic coordinators (BRCs/CRCs), among others.

NITI Aayog, the Centre’s public policy think tank, has suggested 11 measures to improve the country’s school education system, especially learning outcomes, for effective implementation of National Education Policy, 2020.

The recommendations, released as part of a report Systemic Transformation of School Education on Tuesday, are based on findings of NITI Aayog’s Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH-Education) initiative, which was launched in 2017 to identify and build three ‘role model’ states -- Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh -- for the school education sector.

**November 19**

**Q.1) With reference to the Section 7 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) act, consider the following statements:**

1. According to the Supreme Court the act of touching a sexual part of the body with sexual intent will not be trivialised and not excluded under Section 7 of the POCSO Act.
2. The most important ingredient in Section 7 was the sexual intent of the offender and not skin-to-skin 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

**Solution:** The Supreme Court quashed a Bombay High Court decision to acquit a man charged with assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) solely on the grounds that he groped the child over her clothes without “skin-to-skin” contact.

“The act of touching a sexual part of the body with sexual intent will not be trivialised and not excluded under Section 7 of the POCSO Act,” the Bench held.

Section 7 mandates that “whoever with sexual intent touches the vagina, penis, anus or breast of the child or makes the child touch the vagina, penis, anus or breast of such person or any other person, or does any other act with sexual intent which involves physical contact without penetration is said to commit sexual assault”.

It also observed that the “purpose of law is not to allow the offender to sneak out of the mesh of law”.

The court said limiting the ambit of “touch” to a narrow and pedantic” definition would lead to an “absurd interpretation”. The Bench noted that the most important ingredient in Section 7 was the sexual intent of the offender and not skin-to-skin contact.

The conclusion that “sexual intent” mentioned in the provision should be ex facie skin to skin would defeat the object of the provision. It would, rather than giving effect to the rule, destroy it.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.2) Which of the following country recently conducted the successful test of its Zircon hypersonic cruise missile?**

- a) U.S.A
- b) Russia**
- c) China
- d) India

**Solution:** Russia carried out another successful test of its Zircon hypersonic cruise missile, one the latest additions to the country’s arsenal of weapons called “invincible” by President Vladimir Putin.

Moscow has in recent years touted the development of weapons that it hopes will give it the edge in any arms race with the U.S..

Hypersonics can travel more than five times the speed of sound and manoeuvre in mid-flight, making them much harder to track and intercept than traditional projectiles.

it fired the Zircon missile from a warship and hit a test target in Russia’s Arctic waters of the White Sea.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

**Q.3) With reference to the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act 1996 (PESA), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a law enacted by the Government of India to cover the "Scheduled areas", which are not covered in the 73rd amendment or Panchayati Raj Act of the Indian Constitution.
2. The recommendation of the gram sabha is not mandatory for granting mining licenses in the scheduled areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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

**Solution:** The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda and the Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh jointly inaugurated the one-day National Conference on provisions of the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act 1996 (PESA) in New Delhi.

PESA seeks to protect the principle of Jal, Jungle , Jameen (Water, forest and land) for the tribals.

Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA is a law enacted by the Government of India to cover the "Scheduled areas", which are not covered in the 73rd amendment or Panchayati Raj Act of the Indian Constitution.

It was enacted on 24 December 1996 to enable Gram Sabhas to self-govern their natural resources. It is an Act to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas.

“Scheduled Areas” means the Scheduled Areas as referred to in Clause (1) of Article 244 of the Constitution. The Act extended the provisions of Panchayats to the tribal areas of states that have Fifth Schedule Areas.

A state legislation on panchayats in the scheduled area should take care of the customs, religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources

Every village shall contain a grama sabha whose members are included in the electoral list for the panchayats at village level

The recommendation of the gram sabha is mandatory for granting mining licenses in the scheduled areas

Planning and management of minor water bodies are entrusted to the panchayats

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.4) Which one of the following is the best description of ‘INS Trikand’, that was in the news recently?**

- a) Guided missile stealth frigate
- b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- c) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier
- d) None of the above

**Solution:** INS Trikand is currently deployed in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman as part of Operation Sankalp, the Indian Navy's effort to maintain a frontline ship in the region to ensure safe and secure movement of trade and contribute to regional maritime security.

The ship entered Manama, Bahrain, on 13th November 21 for a three-day operational turn round (OTR).

INS Trikand is a state-of-the-art guided missile stealth frigate and is part of the Western Fleet that operates under the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, based at Mumbai.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.5) Which committee referred to the 5th Schedule as “Constitution within Constitution”?**

- a) Mungekhar Committee
- b) Dhebar Commission
- c) Tendulkar Committee
- d) C. Rangarajan Committee

**Solution:** The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas as well as of Scheduled Tribes residing in any State other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

The Mungekhar Committee Report on Standards of Administration and Governance in the Scheduled Areas submitted by the Standing Committee on Inter-Sectoral Issues relating to Tribal Development under the chairmanship of Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekhar contains recommendations on a variety of issues. These

include inter-alia reviving institutions of self-governance, effective delivery mechanism, creation of critical infrastructure, Tribal Sub-plan, implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Governors Report.

The Mungekar Committee famously referred to the 5th schedule as “Constitution within Constitution”

Dhebar Commission (1960-61) laid down the four factors for the creation of scheduled areas:

Preponderance of tribal population

Compactness and reasonable size of the area

Under-developed nature of the area

Marked disparity in economic standard of the people

**Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to The Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)**

1. It aims to impose sanctions, including new blocking and secondary sanctions, on foreign governments and persons that interfere in any U.S. federal election

2. The sanction under CAATSA includes stopping credit lines from U.S. and international banks such as the IMF

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

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

**Solution:** The Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) is a United States federal law that imposed sanctions on Iran, North Korea, and Russia.

What is CAATSA?

The Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) is intended to ensure that no country may strengthen military involvement with Iran, North Korea, or Russia

without incurring serious actions from the United States.

No country is obligated to accept the penalties because they are unilateral and not part of any UN decision.

This policy makes it illegal for US trading partners to enter into bilateral deals with these three nations.

Sanctions under CAATSA?

Section 231 states that the President must impose at least five sanctions on any government that engages into a serious defense or intelligence agreement with Russia.

Section 235 includes the following options:

stopping credit lines from U.S. and international banks such as the IMF

blocking sales of licensed goods and technology,

banning banks, manufacturers and suppliers,

The Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines Act, known by the acronym DETER, aims to impose sanctions, including new blocking and secondary sanctions, on foreign (primarily, Russian) governments and persons that interfere in any U.S. federal election

**Q.7) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Birsa Munda?**

1. His birth anniversary is marked as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, to remember the contribution of tribal freedom fighters

2. He is the only tribal leader whose portrait hangs in the Indian Parliament Museum

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

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

**Solution:** Birsa Munda was an 16th-century Indian tribal freedom fighter, religious leader, and folk hero who belonged to the Munda tribe. He

spearheaded a tribal religious millenarian movement that arose in the Bengal Presidency (now Jharkhand) in the late 19th century, during the British Raj, thereby making him an important figure in the history of the Indian independence movement. The revolt mainly concentrated in the Munda belt of Khunti, Tamar, Sarwada and Bandgaon.

His portrait hangs in the Indian Parliament Museum he is the only tribal leader to have been so honored

His birth anniversary is marked as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, to remember the contribution of tribal freedom fighters

**Q.8) With reference to CBI, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It was recommended by Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is incorrect: The CBI is the main investigating agency of the GOI. It is not a statutory body. it derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. Statement 2 is correct: Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption recommended the establishment of the CBI. The CBI was then formed by a resolution of the Home Affairs Ministry. The Ministry of Personnel, later on, took over the responsibility of the CBI and now it plays the role of an attached office.

**Q.9) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is a voluntary and inclusive initiative that brings together navies of Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

littoral states to increase maritime co-operation and enhance regional security.

2. In 2021 India held the chairmanship of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) for the first time.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Solution:** The 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs is being hosted by the French Navy at Paris from 15th-16th Nov 21.

The IONS is a voluntary and inclusive initiative that brings together navies of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) littoral states to increase maritime co-operation and enhance regional security. Hence statement 1 is correct.

It also serves to develop an effective response mechanism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) against natural disasters.

The chairmanship of IONS has been held by India (2008-10), UAE (2010-12), South Africa (2012-14), Australia (2014-16), Bangladesh (2016-18) and Islamic Republic of Iran (2018-21). France assumed the Chairmanship in June 2021 for a two-year tenure. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

**Q.10) Consider the following statements:**

1. Indus River Dolphin is the national aquatic animal of India.
2. It is found only in the Indus River.

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

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

Solution: Recently, Punjab's wildlife preservation wing has batted for conservation of Indus river dolphins and also their natural habitat.

The Indus river dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

The Ganges river dolphin is the national aquatic animal of India.

They can only be found in the lower parts of the Indus River in Pakistan and in River Beas, a tributary of the Indus River in Punjab, India. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Conservation Status:

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species(CITES): Appendix

Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972: Schedule I

November 20

**Q.1) With reference to the Zero budget natural farming (ZBNF), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a method of chemical-free agriculture drawing from traditional Indian practices.
2. It promotes soil aeration, minimal watering, intercropping, bunds and topsoil mulching and discourages intensive irrigation and deep ploughing.

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

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

**Solution:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the formation of a committee to promote zero budgeting-based agriculture, to change crop patterns as per the changing needs of the country and to make MSP more effective and transparent.

Zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) is a method of chemical-free agriculture drawing from traditional Indian practices.

It was originally promoted by Maharashtra agriculturist and Padma Shri recipient Subhash Palekar, who developed it in the mid-1990s as an alternative to the Green Revolution's methods driven by chemical fertilizers and pesticides and intensive irrigation.

The ZBNF method also promotes soil aeration, minimal watering, intercropping, bunds and topsoil mulching and discourages intensive irrigation and deep ploughing.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.2) With reference to the Competition Commission of India (CCI), consider the following statements:**

1. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recommended the creation of a National Digital Drugs Databank and strict enforcement of

drug quality standards to boost price competition among generic drugs in India.

2. Pharmaceuticals including generic drugs account for about 95 per cent of out of pocket healthcare expenditure in India according to the CCI study.

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

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

**Solution:** The Competition Commission of India (CC) has recommended the creation of a National Digital Drugs Databank and strict enforcement of drug quality standards to boost price competition among generic drugs in India.

The CCI found that the market for generic drugs is driven by brand competition instead of price competition despite such drugs being functionally and chemically identical.

Pharmaceuticals including generic drugs account for about 43.2 per cent of out of pocket healthcare expenditure in India according to the CCI study and about 62.7 per cent of the total health spending in the country.

The report noted that other manufacturers focus on increasing sales volume bidding up trade margins for retailers thereby incentivising them to push for the sale of their brands.

The CCI noted while the share of online pharmacies stood at 2.8 per cent in 2018, the online pharmacy sector's reach has expanded during the pandemic to 8.8 million households from 3.5 million households prior to the pandemic.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.3) Recently seen in the news, Sydney Dialogue is related to which of the following?**

- a) Cyber Security related
- b) Climate Change related

c) Proliferation of Weapons of Mass destruction related

d) Space debris related

**Solution:** Sydney Dialogue is an initiative of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

It is an annual summit of cyber and critical technologies to discuss the fallout of the digital domain on the law and order situation in the world.

Indian PM delivers the keynote address at The Sydney Dialogue, speaks on India's technology evolution and revolution

Lists five important transitions taking place in India

“The biggest strength of democracy is openness. At the same time, we should not allow a few vested interests to misuse this openness”

“India's digital revolution is rooted in our democracy, our demography, and the scale of our economy”

“We use data as a source of empowerment of people. India has unmatched experience in doing this in a democratic framework with strong guarantees of individual rights”

“India's democratic traditions are old; its modern institutions are strong. And, we have always believed in the world as one family”

Gives a roadmap for democracies to work together that recognizes national rights and, at the same time, promote trade, investment, and the larger public good

“It is important that all democratic nations work together on crypto-currency and ensure it does not end up in wrong hands, which can spoil our youth”

**Q.4) With reference to Advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) System – Shakti, consider the following statements:**

1. It is designed for identification and jamming of conventional and modern radars.

2. It will be installed on capital warships under production, including P-15B and Talwar class follow-on ships.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) **Both 1 and 2**

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) System ‘Shakti’ has been designed and developed by Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL) Hyderabad a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for Capital Warships of the Indian Navy for the interception, detection, classification, identification and jamming of conventional and modern Radars.

First Shakti system has been installed on-board INS Visakhapatnam and is being installed on-board Indigenous Aircraft Carrier, INS Vikrant. these systems are scheduled to be installed on-board capital warships under production, including P-15B, P-17A and Talwar class follow-on ships.

**Q.5) Lapis Lazuli Corridor was sometimes seen in news. It connects which of the following pairs?**

a) Australia and New Zealand.

b) China and North Korea.

c) **Turkey and Afghanistan.**

d) US and Canada.

**Solution:** Turkey is building transportation corridors to Central Asia and beyond, to China, Georgia and Azerbaijan. The so-called Lapis Lazuli Corridor now connects Turkey to Afghanistan via Turkmenistan

**Q.6) With reference to Shale oil/gas, consider the following statements:**

1. Its extraction requires the creation of fractures in oil and gas rich shale to release hydrocarbons.

2. Conventional crude deposits are found in smaller batches and deeper than Shale oil.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect: The key difference between shale oil and conventional crude is that the shale oil is conventional crude deposits.

**Q.7) The term ‘Zircon’, recently seen in the news, refers to -**

- a) DRDO’s robotic bomb disposal prototype
- b) Russian hypersonic cruise missile
- c) Israel’s single-dose COVID-19 vaccine
- d) Google’s satellite-based internet project

**Solution:** Russia has carried out another successful test of its Zircon hypersonic cruise missile.

Hypersonics can travel more than five times the speed of sound making them much harder to track and intercept than traditional projectiles.

**Q.8) With reference to Remittances, consider the following statements:**

- 1. They help in stimulating economic development in recipient countries.
- 2. The World Bank has declared India as the world’s third largest recipient of remittances after China 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

**Solution:** Remittances are usually understood as financial or in-kind transfers made by migrants to friends and relatives back in communities of origin.

These are basically sum of two main components - Personal Transfers in cash or in kind between resident and non-resident households and Compensation of Employees, which refers to the income of workers who work in another country for a limited period of time.

Remittances help in stimulating economic development in recipient countries, but this can also make such countries over-reliant on them. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

According to the World Bank’s Migration and Development Brief, India has become the world’s largest recipient of Remittances, receiving USD 87 billion (a gain of 4.6 % from previous year) in 2021.

India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

The United States being the biggest source, accounting for over 20% of all Remittances.

**Q.9) Hydraulic fracking has been recently in the news. Which of the following statements most appropriately describes it.**

- a) Process used in extraction of shale gas.
- b) Process of centrifugation in nuclear fission.
- c) Process of extracting geothermal energy.
- d) Process of whaling

**Solution:** Extraction requires creation of fractures in oil and gas rich shale to release hydrocarbons through a process called hydraulic fracking/fracturing.

It requires a mixture of ‘pressurised water, chemicals, and sand’ (shale fluid) to break low permeable rocks and have access to the shale gas reserves.

While fracking, the shale fluid could possibly penetrate aquifers leading to methane poisoning of groundwater used for drinking and irrigation purposes.

Hence, option A is correct.

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in India.**

1. It is a statistical measure used in the education sector to indicate the level of education among a certain age group.
2. Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education in India is higher for men in comparison to women.

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

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

**Solution:** The Gross Enrolment Ratio of females stands at 27.3%, which is better in comparison to that of males 26.9%. The survey also found a very high and sharp increase of female participation at MA, MSc and MCom levels during the last five years.



November 22

**Q.1) Consider the following:**

1. Swachh Survekshan 2021 is launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
2. Indore has been awarded as India's cleanest city.

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

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

**Solution:** Both the statements are correct:

Indore has once again bagged the award for being India's cleanest city as President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday announced the 'Swachh Survekshan 2021' awards. This is the fifth time in a row the city in Madhya Pradesh has won the award in the sixth edition of the event.

Surat in Gujarat, which grabbed the second spot in the cleanest cities' list last year, has retained its position this year as well. Meanwhile, Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh has bagged the third position in the list. In 2020, Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra was adjudged as the third cleanest city in India.

Chhattisgarh has been awarded cleanest state in the annual cleanliness survey while Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh has won the cleanest Ganga town in the Swachh Survekshan 2021' awards.

Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation in cities and towns across India. It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aimed to make India clean and free of open defecation by 2nd October 2019. The first survey was undertaken in 2016 and covered 73 cities; by 2020 the survey had grown to cover 4242 cities and was said to be the largest cleanliness survey in the world.

In a bid to scale up the coverage of the ranking exercise and encourage towns and cities to actively implement mission initiatives in a timely and innovative manner, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is now in the process of conducting the 7th edition of the survey to rank all cities under Swachh Bharat Mission-

Urban (SBM-U) with Quality Council of India (QCI) as its implementation partner.

**Q.2) Which one of the following ministries has developed the PENCIL portal?**

- a) Ministry of Women & Child Labour
- b) Ministry of Social Welfare
- c) **Ministry of Labour**
- d) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

**Solution:** PENCIL is an electronic platform developed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment for effective enforcement of the no child labour policy. It was launched in 2017.

PENCIL stands for Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour. It is an efficient enforcement mechanism contributing towards the ultimate goal of a "child labour free society". It facilitates the uploading and sharing of awareness generation activities. National Informatics Centre (NIC) designed, developed and hosts the PENCIL portal.

**Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Global Climate Risk Index (GCRI)?**

1. It is published annually by GermanWatch
2. The index accounts for information on geological incidents like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or tsunamis.
3. The index also accounts for information on weather-related events like storms, floods, temperature extremes and mass movements.

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

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

**Solution:** Recent discussions around climate risk assessment and management have been based on the "Global Climate Risk Index" (GCRI),

published annually by GermanWatch, a non-profit organisation. The latest version of the GCRI, published in January 2021, ranked 180 countries based on the impact of extreme weather events and associated socio-economic data from 2000-2019. According to the publishing agency, the rankings are meant to forewarn countries about the possibility of more frequent and/or severe climate-related events in the future. This index uses historical data to provide insights on exposure to extreme events.

The GCRI ranks countries based on four key indicators: number of deaths; number of deaths per 1,00,000 inhabitants; sum of losses in Purchasing Power Parity (in U.S. dollars); and losses per unit of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Of these indicators, two are absolute while the other two are relative. However, the GCRI report does not provide a rationale for the selection of these macro indicators.

The index accounts for information on weather-related events like storms, floods, temperature extremes and mass movements. However, it omits geological incidents like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or tsunamis, which may be potentially triggered by climate change and can have economic and humanitarian impact.

**Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Sabz Burj**

1. Sabz Burj is one of Delhi's earliest Mughal-era monuments
2. It is the tomb of the first Mughal emperor Babur

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution:** Sabz Burj restored to its Mughal-era glory.

Sabz Burj is one of Delhi's earliest Mughal-era monuments

The monument stands at the entrance to Humayun's Tomb

The tomb, which was built in 1530, does not have any markings pointing to the identity of those buried under it. However, it is of immense significance due to the ceiling on its double dome structure painted in pure gold and lapiz

Conservationists believe that the painting on the ceiling that has floral motifs predates similar work that was seen in miniature paintings and textiles from the Mughal era

**Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding STARS programme?**

1. The STARS programme is partly funded by the World Bank.
2. The objective is to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states.
3. A major component of the project is the establishment of PARAKH as a National Assessment Centre.

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

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

**Solution:** The Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project

A major component of the project is the establishment of PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) as a National Assessment Centre.

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

The objective is to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states.

Six states are– Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

Some 250 million students (between the age of 6 and 17) in 1.5 million schools and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the program.

**Q.6) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Compulsory licensing is when a government allows someone else to produce patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner or plans to use the patent-protected invention itself.

2. Countries can only make use of compulsory licenses for the domestic market, not for export.

**Options:**

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both

d) None

**Solution:** Compulsory licensing is when a government allows someone else to produce a patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner or plans to use the patent-protected invention itself. Hence Statement 1 is correct.

Compulsory licenses can be used by countries for both domestic and export products. Hence Statement 2 is incorrect

**Q.7) India has funded which of the following projects in Sri Lanka?**

1. Northern housing project

2. Jaffna cultural centre

3. Kankesanthurai port revival

4. Mattala airport

5. Palaly civilian airport

**Options:**

a) 1 and 4 only

b) 2, 3 and 4 only

c) 1, 3 and 5 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

**Solution:** India has funded the Northern housing project, Jaffna cultural centre, Palaly civilian airport and Kankesanthurai port revival project in Sri Lanka. Hence statements 1, 2, 3, 5 are correct.

The Mattala airport was funded through high interest Chinese commercial loans. Hence statement 4 is incorrect.

**Q.8) Jayant Kumar Dash committee was sometime seen in news. The committee is related to which of the following sector?**

a) Online banking

b) Financial inclusion

c) Digital Lending

d) E-Commerce

**Solution:** RBI had constituted the working group on digital lending including lending through online platforms and mobile apps under the chairmanship of Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI. The working group has now submitted its recommendations. Key recommendations of the working group: Legislation to curb Digital Lending: The group has recommended a separate legislation to prevent illegal digital lending activities. Nodal Agency: A nodal agency should be set up which will verify the technological credentials of digital apps of balance sheet lenders and lending service providers. It will also maintain a public register of verified apps on its website. Self-Regulation: RBI has mooted a Self-Regulatory Organisation for participants in the digital lending ecosystem.

**Q.9) With reference to PM SVAMITA Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme aims to provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners and issuance of property cards to the property owners.

2. The scheme uses Traditional surveying techniques to create land records.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect: SVAMITVA Scheme uses the combination of Survey Grade Drones and CORS network (Continuously Operated Reference Stations) instead of Traditional surveying techniques.

**Q.10) With reference to the powers of Gram Sabha under the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act,1996, consider the following statements:**

1. Gram Sabha have the right to mandatory consultation in land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced persons.

2. The Gram Sabha has the power to regulate sale/consumption of intoxicants and ownership of minor forest produce.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) **Both 1 and 2**

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Both statements are correct.

**November 23**

**Q.1) With reference to the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), consider the following statements:**

1. Section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act 2019 established the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
2. The objective of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.

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

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

**Solution:** The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has initiated a country-wide campaign to prevent sale of spurious and counterfeit goods that violate Quality Control Orders published by the Central Government.

In this regard, CCPA has already issued directions to district collectors across the country to investigate unfair trade practices and violation of consumer rights concerning manufacture or sale of such goods. Essential, daily use products which have been identified for the campaign are Helmets, Pressure Cooker and Cooking Gas Cylinders.

In furtherance to the campaign, CCPA has taken suo-moto cognizance against e-commerce entities found to be selling Pressure Cookers in violation to the Domestic Pressure Cooker (Quality Control) Order, 2020 issued by the Central Government under Section 16 (1) of the BIS Act, 2016 on 21st January 2020.

By the said Order, Domestic Pressure Cooker are mandated to conform to Indian Standard IS 2347: 2017 and bear the standard mark under a license from BIS with effect from 1st August 2020.

Rule 4(2) of the Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020 specifies that no e-commerce entity shall adopt any unfair trade

practice, whether the in course of business on its platform or otherwise.

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has come into force from 20th July, 2020. As provided in section 10 of the Act, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has been established w.e.f. 24th July, 2020.

The objective of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.2) With reference to the All India Survey on Domestic workers, consider the following statements:**

1. Government of India has entrusted Labour Bureau to conduct an all-India survey on Domestic workers.
2. It is conducted biennial since the independence 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

**Solution:** Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri Bhupender Yadav today flagged off the first ever All India Survey on Domestic workers being conducted by Labour Bureau, Chandigarh.

Domestic workers (DWs) constitute a significant portion of total employment in the informal sector. However, there is a dearth of data on the magnitude and prevailing employment conditions of DW.

Hence with the view to have time series data on domestic workers, Government of India has entrusted Labour Bureau to conduct an all-India survey on DWs.

The All India Survey on Domestic Workers is aimed to estimate the number and proportion of domestic workers at National and State level,

percentage distribution of domestic workers with respect to Live-in/Live-out, formal/ Informal Employment, Migrant/Non-Migrant, their wages and other socio-economic characteristics.

The result of the All-India Survey on Domestic Workers is expected within a time-span of 1 year.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

### Q.3) Why Russia's Hypersonic Missile Zircon can't be seen on Radar?

1. Zircon flies at a speed of up to 6 times the speed of the sound and at a low atmospheric-ballistic trajectory.

2. The speed of the missile makes the air pressure in front of the weapon form a plasma cloud as it moves, absorbing radio waves and making it practically invisible to active radar systems.

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

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

**Solution:** Russia test-fires new hypersonic missile Zircon from submarine

Zircon is intended to arm Russian cruisers, frigates and submarines. It is one of several hypersonic missiles under development in Russia.

Hypersonic weapons such as Russia's 3M22 Zircon fly so fast and low — at speeds of up to 6 times the speed of sound and at a low atmospheric-ballistic trajectory — that they can penetrate traditional anti-missile defense systems.

The missile flies with an advanced fuel that the Russians say gives it a range of up to 1,000 kilometers. And it's so fast that the air pressure in front of the weapon forms a plasma cloud as it moves, absorbing radio waves and making it practically invisible to active radar systems.

### Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to The POCSO Act:

1. The Act defines a child as any person below fifteen years of age
2. According to the Section 7 of the act, the offender is said to have committed the sexual assault if he touches a child with the sexual intent.

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

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

**Solution:** The Supreme Court quashed a Bombay High Court decision to acquit a man charged with assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) solely on the grounds that he groped the child over her clothes without 'skin-to-skin' contact.

Section 7 mandates that "whoever with sexual intent touches the vagina, penis, anus or breast of the child or makes the child touch the vagina, penis, anus or breast of such person or any other person, or does any other act with sexual intent which involves physical contact without penetration is said to commit sexual assault".

The Bench said the most important ingredient in Section 7 was the sexual intent of the offender and not skin-to-skin contact.

Salient features of the Act

The Act is gender neutral and regards the best interests and welfare of the child as a matter of paramount importance at every stage so as to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.

The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age.

It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography

People who traffic children for sexual purposes are also punishable under the provisions relating to abetment in the Act.

The Act prescribes stringent punishment graded as per the gravity of the offence, with a maximum term of rigorous imprisonment for life, and fine.

It defines “child pornography” as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child which include photograph, video, digital or computer generated image indistinguishable from an actual child, and image created, adapted, or modified, but appear to depict a child;’

**Q.5) Recently seen in the news, the Spotlight Initiative is related to which of the following?**

a) Ending Violence against Women

b) Ending Marine Pollution

c) Eliminating Corruption in Judiciary

d) Reducing Ozone depletion

**Solution:** With the aim of ending all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030, the European Union and the United Nations have been collaborating since 2017 to empower, promote, and protect the rights of women and girls worldwide.

**Q.6) Shakti Exercise, is held between India and which of the following country**

a) Nepal

b) Sri Lanka

c) France

d) Indonesia

**Solution:** Statement c is correct: Shakti Exercise is a bilateral exercise between the armies of India and France. It is a biennial exercise that takes place between Indian and French armies.

**Q.7) With reference to Urban Canyon Effect, consider the following statements:**

1. It is caused when traffic-related air pollution gets substantially elevated along a road surrounded by tall buildings.

2. Concentration of pollutants in the ambient air gets increased due to this effect.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Both statements are correct. Over the past three days, Colaba and Mazagaon in South Mumbai have emerged as the most polluted localities in the city. In Mumbai, from the Mumbai monsoon to the winter, the city gets slow or static wind speed. The build-up of pollutants in the locality (Colaba) could be because of the urban canyon effect.

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding.**

1. RBI Retail Direct Scheme allows retail investors to buy and sell government securities (G-Sec) online, both in the primary and secondary markets.

RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme will help in improving the grievance redress mechanism 2. for resolving customer complaints against RBI’s regulated entities.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) — the RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.

RBI Retail Direct Scheme

The scheme allows retail investors to buy and sell government securities (G-Sec) online, both in the primary and secondary markets. According to details provided by RBI, these small investors can

now invest in G-Secs by opening a gilt securities account with the RBI. The account opened will be called Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account.

#### RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme

This will help in improving the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against RBI's regulated entities. According to the PMO, the scheme is based on "One Nation-One Ombudsman" with one portal, one email, and one address for the customers to lodge their complaints.

The redressal will continue to be cost-free for customers of banks and members of the public.

#### **Q.9) Consider the following Statements regarding Puri Jagannath Temple:**

1. The temple is believed to be constructed in the 12th century by King Anatarvarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
2. This temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha' where, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
3. This temple is called the "White Pagoda" and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages.

**Which of the Statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

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

**d) 1, 2 and 3**

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: The temple is believed to be constructed in the 12th century by King Anatarvarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.

Statement 2 is correct: Jagannath Puri temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.

Statement 3 is correct: This temple was called the "White Pagoda" and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram).

#### About Puri Jagannath Temple:

It is an important Vaishnavite temple dedicated to Jagannath, a form of Sri Krishna in Puri in Odisha.

The temple is believed to be constructed in the 12th century by King Anatarvarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.

Jagannath Puri temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.

This temple was called the "White Pagoda" and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram).

There are four gates to the temple- Eastern 'Singhdwara' which is the main gate with two crouching lions, Southern 'Ashwadwara', Western 'Vyaghra Dwara' and Northern 'Hastidwara'.

There is a carving of each form at each gate.

In front of the entrance stands the Aruna stambha or sun pillar, which was originally at the Sun Temple in Konark.

The Puri temple is famous for its annual Ratha Yatra, or chariot festival, in which the three principal deities are pulled on huge and elaborately decorated temple cars.

#### **Q.10) Consider the following Statements regarding E-way bill:**

1. It is usually a unique bill number generated for the specific consignment involving the movement of goods.
2. Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, EWBs are mandatory for inter-state transportation of all the goods valued over Rs. 50,000.
3. 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.

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

- a) 1 Only



b) 2 and 3

**c) 1 and 3**

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: Electronic Way (E-Way) Bill is usually a unique bill number generated for the specific consignment involving the movement of goods.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, EWBs are mandatory for inter-state transportation of goods valued over Rs. 50,000, with the exemption to precious items such as gold.

Statement 3 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.

The Union Government has integrated the E-Way Bill (EWB) system with FasTag and RFID.

**FASTag:**

The FASTag is a reloadable tag that allows automatic deduction of toll without having to stop for carrying out the cash transaction.

The tag uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.

RFID is the use of radio waves to read and capture information stored on a tag attached to an object.

A tag can be read from up to several feet away and does not need to be within the direct line-of-sight of the reader to be tracked.

From 15th February, 2021, FASTag has become compulsory for all vehicles across the country.

It is operated by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).

**Significance of Integration:**

**Large Movement of Goods Vehicles:** On an average, 25 lakh goods vehicle movements from more than 800 tolls are reported on a daily basis to the E-Way Bill system.

**Live Vigilance:** The integration of EWB, RFID and FASTag will enable tax officers to undertake live vigilance in respect of EWB compliances by businesses.

Taxmen can now access reports on vehicles that have passed the selected tolls without e-way bills in the past few minutes.

**Stop Revenue Leakage:** It will aid in preventing revenue leakage by real-time identification of cases of recycling and/or non-generation of EWBs.

November 24

**Q.1) With reference to SMART Policing Survey 2021, consider the following statements:**

1. As per the findings of the survey the majority of citizens believe that the police are doing their job well.
2. The survey was released by NITI Aayog.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: The majority of citizens (a weighted average of 66.93%) believes that the police are doing their job well and strongly support the police. This is despite being attacked for insufficient sensitivity, declining public confidence and growing concerns about the quality of policing.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Survey has been released by Indian Police Foundation (IPF).

**Q.2) Justice Srikrishna Committee is related to which of the following:**

**\*a) Data protection**

- b) Cyber Security
- c) Monetary Policy
- d) Banking Reforms

**Solution:** Statement a is correct: A committee headed by retired Supreme Court Judge Justice BN Srikrishna has submitted its report on "Data Protection Framework" to the Government. The Supreme Court in its Puttaswamy judgment, 2017 declared privacy a fundamental right. This set the government in motion to take steps to bring a new data protection legislation for the country. The report has emphasized that interests of the citizens and the responsibilities of the state have to be protected, but not at the cost of trade and industry. The Committee has also proposed a draft Personal Data Protection Bill.

**Q.3) With reference to Jigyasa Programme, consider the following:**

1. It aims to connect school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with well-planned research laboratory-based learning.
2. It is implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).

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

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

**Solution:** Both the statements are correct

**Q.4) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin), consider the following statements:**

1. Its objective is to achieve the target of Housing of All by 2025.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
3. Disabled persons are also a beneficiary of this scheme.

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

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

**Solution:** About Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin)

To achieve the objective of "Housing for All" by 2022, the erstwhile rural housing scheme Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was restructured to PMAY-G w.e.f 1st April 2016. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Implementing Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Aim: To provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all rural families, who are homeless or living in kutcha or dilapidated houses by the end of March 2022.

To help rural people Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing unserviceable kutcha houses by providing assistance in the form of a full grant.

Beneficiaries: People belonging to SCs/STs, freed bonded labourers and non-SC/ST categories, widows or next-of-kin of defence personnel killed in action, ex servicemen and retired members of the paramilitary forces, disabled persons and minorities. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

**Q.5) Consider the following statements:**

1. Minimum support price (MSP) is the price that government agencies pay whenever they procure the particular crop.
2. The Centre currently fixes MSPs for 23 farm commodities.
3. The Govt. is legally bound to pay MSP when the open market price of the crop falls below the announced price.

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

- a) 1 & 2
- b) 1 & 3
- \*c) Only 3**
- d) None of the Above

**Solution:** Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The minimum support prices are a guaranteed price for their produce from the Government.

The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

Currently, MSP for 23 crops is recommended by CACP, which comprise seven cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi), five pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil), seven oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, sesamum, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed), and four commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute).

However, currently, MSP does not have any legal backing.

**Q.6) Consider the following Statements regarding Lateral entry into government:**

1. It was recommended by NITI Aayog, in its three-year Action Agenda.
2. The induction of personnel will take place at the middle and senior management levels in the central government.
3. These 'lateral entrants' would be part of the central secretariat which in the normal course has only career bureaucrats from the All-India Services/ Central Civil Services.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: Lateral entry into government was recommended by NITI Aayog, in its three-year Action Agenda.

Statement 2 is correct: The induction of personnel will take place at the middle and senior management levels in the central government.

Statement 3 is correct: These 'lateral entrants' would be part of the central secretariat which in the normal course has only career bureaucrats from the All-India Services/ Central Civil Services.

The recent recommendation of 31 candidates by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to be inducted into senior and mid-level positions in various union ministries is the second such attempt towards bringing

specialists from private sector in the senior and middle level of bureaucracy. Earlier too, nine lateral entrants from private sector were inducted in 2019.

What's the issue highlighted by experts?

Experts have warned about the procedure of recruitment.

They say, meritocracy demands that the recruitment procedure of selecting professionals should stand the test of merit through a fair and transparent procedure.

The fair selection and appointment of civil servants is the foundation of modern merit-based bureaucracy.

Therefore, any deviation from the established procedure must also fulfil the conditions of fair procedure of recruitment.

Need of the hour:

To be constitutionally correct and to increase the legitimacy of the move, the recruitment procedure of induction of lateral candidates should be initiated in the parliament.

A comprehensive legislative process will not only help usher in clarity over various aspects of lateral entry recruitment but also legitimise the process and provide it with the endorsement of wider political forces.

What is 'lateral entry' into government?

Recommended by NITI Aayog, in its three-year Action Agenda.

The induction of personnel will take place at the middle and senior management levels in the central government.

These 'lateral entrants' would be part of the central secretariat which in the normal course has only career bureaucrats from the All India Services/ Central Civil Services.

Need for and significance:

Lateral entrants have specialised knowledge and expertise in the domain area.

Meets the twin objectives of bringing in fresh talent as well as augment the availability of manpower.

It provides stakeholders such as the private sector and non-profits an opportunity to participate in governance process.

It will help in bringing change in organisation culture in Government sector culture.

Why is lateral entry sometimes criticised?

There is no reservation in these appointments.

They are seen as back doors for a political party to bring its own people openly.

**Q.7) With reference to India-U.S. A Trade Policy Forum, consider the following statements:**

1. India and U.S.A decided to activate working groups of the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) on agriculture, non-agriculture goods, services, investment, and intellectual property.
2. The recent Trade Policy Forum is convened for the first time between U.S.A and 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

**Solution:** The United States and India committed to integrating their economies across sectors to harness the untapped potential of the bilateral relationship, at the Trade Policy Forum convened after a gap of four years on Tuesday.

Co-chaired by Commerce and Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal and U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Katherine Tai, the Forum resolved to take economic ties between the two countries to the 'next high level' and exchanged views on 'potential targeted tariff reductions'.

The two sides decided to activate working groups of the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) on agriculture, non-agriculture goods, services, investment, and intellectual property to meet frequently and

address issues of mutual concern in a mutually beneficial manner.

The Forum has decided to forge an agreement to facilitate U.S. market access for mangoes, grapes, and pomegranates, pomegranate arils from India, and reciprocate with similar access in the Indian market to cherries, pork/pork products and alfalfa hay for animal feed from the United States.

Discussions will also be held on enhancing market access for products such as distillers' dried grains with solubles from the U.S. and resolving market access concerns for water buffalo meat and wild caught shrimp from India.

The Indian side has sought restoration of the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) benefits by the U.S. and said this would help industries from both sides in integrating their supply chain efficiently. The United States noted it 'for suitable consideration'.

The Forum also agreed on the significance of negotiating a Social Security Totalization Agreement in the interest of workers from both sides, and pursuing further engagements for reaching such an agreement.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.8) Consider the following:**

1. SDG Urban India Index released by NITI Aayog.
2. Shimla topped the index.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution:** Both the statements are correct:

Shimla, Coimbatore, Chandigarh and Thiruvananthapuram are among the top 10 performing urban areas in the NITI Aayog's first Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Urban India Index, while Dhanbad, Meerut, Faridabad and Patna are among the bottom 10 performers,

according to the findings of a report released by the NITI Aayog.

Ranking 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators across 46 targets, the index is focused on driving SDG localisation in urban areas. Of 56 urban areas ranked in the index, 44 are with a population of above 1 million, 12 are state capitals with a population of less than a million. No poverty, zero hunger, good health, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, good jobs and economic growth are among the goals on which urban areas have been ranked.

The top 10 urban areas in SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22 are Shimla, Coimbatore, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Panaji, Pune, Tiruchirappalli, Ahmedabad and Nagpur. The bottom 10 urban areas in SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22 are Dhanbad, Meerut, Itanagar, Guwahati, Patna, Jodhpur, Kohima, Agra, Kolkata and Faridabad.

NITI Aayog has developed the SDG Urban index and a dashboard 2021-22, in collaboration with GIZ and BMZ under the Indo-German Development Cooperation.

**Q.9) Recently seen in the news, Exercise Dosti, a trilateral exercise is between which of the following?**

- a) India-UAE-USA
- b) India-Bangladesh-Srilanka
- c) **India-Maldives-Srilanka**
- d) India-Bangladesh-Maldives

**Solution:** The 15th edition of the biennial trilateral exercise "Dosti" by the coast guard forces of the Maldives, India and Sri Lanka is underway in the Maldives during November 20-24.

The Indian Coast Guard vessels, ICGS Vajra and ICGS Apoorva, and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard's SLCGS Suraksha are in the Maldives for the exercise. This year marks 30 years since the first edition of the exercise.

The trilateral exercise aims to strengthen friendship, enhance mutual operational capabilities, exercise interoperability and build

cooperation between the coast guards of the Maldives, India and Sri Lanka,

Exercise “Dosti” was started in 1991 between the Indian and the Maldives coast guards. Sri Lanka joined the exercise for the first time in 2012.

**Q.10) Which of the following conducts the All India Survey on Domestic Workers?**

- a) Labour Bureau
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Dept of Economic Affairs
- d) NSO

**Solution:** The Labour and Employment Ministry on Monday launched the fieldwork for the All India Survey on Domestic Workers (DWs), covering 742 districts in 37 states and Union Territories.

This survey will cover all types of domestic services like cook, driver, housekeeping, tutor (for children), watchman, etc. This evidence-based study will help the government in policy-making for this segment of workers

The ministry also released an instruction manual with a questionnaire for the All India Survey on Domestic Workers being conducted by the Labour Bureau, Chandigarh.

As per the latest data on the e-Shram portal, around 8.8 per cent of registered 8.56 crore informal sector workers fall in the DW category.

November 25

**Q.1) With reference to SMILE Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme provides for the use of the existing shelter homes for rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of Begging.
2. It has been launched by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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

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

**Solution:** Both statements are correct. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment formulated the SMILE scheme - "SMILE – Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise".

Two Central Sector Schemes namely Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the Act of begging and Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons have been merged in a single scheme named SMILE.

Focus areas: Rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages and so on.

The scheme would be implemented with the support of State/UT Governments/Local Urban Bodies, Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), institutions and others.

Features:

The scheme provides for the use of the existing shelter homes available with the State/UT Governments and Urban local bodies for rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of Begging.

In case of the non-availability of existing shelter homes, new dedicated shelter homes are to be set up by the implementing agencies.

**Q.2) With reference to Igla-S, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a Man-Portable Very Short Range Air Defence System.
2. It is manufactured by Israel.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: Igla-S Man-Portable Air Defence System is a Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) System Statement 2 is incorrect: It is manufactured by Russia. Purpose: These missiles are meant to counter low-flying aircraft as the last line of defence against flying objects in a layered air defence system.

**Q.3) Consider the following statements:**

1. India has set a target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2030.
2. Ethanol is high in oxygen content and ensures more complete combustion when blended with petrol or diesel.
3. India does not allow the production of ethanol from food grains as it affects food security in the country.

**Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) None of the above

**Solution:** India had initially set a target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2030. Later this was advanced by 5 years to 2025 and now it has been further advanced to 2023-24.

Since ethanol contains oxygen in its molecule, it helps in the complete combustion of fuel, resulting in lower emissions. Thus the blending of ethanol with conventional fuels helps ensure lower emission of carbon monoxide.

Even as many developed countries debate limiting policy support for grain-based biofuels amid reports of food-price increases and greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation, India is promoting grain-based biofuels. It is promoting ethanol derived from rice, corn and sugar.

**Q.4) A new tree species of the genus *Cryptocarya* has been named as *Cryptocarya muthuvariana* after a tribe from the locality. Muthuvar tribe belongs to which of the following Indian state?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Nagaland
- d) Odisha

**Solution:** A new tree species of the genus *Cryptocarya* spotted in Edamalakkudy in Idukki district of Kerala has been named after a tribe from the locality.

‘*Cryptocarya muthuvariana*’ has been named so to honour the Muthuvar tribe and as it was discovered in their neighbourhood, researchers responsible for the identification said.

Belonging to the Lauraceae family, the genus *Cryptocarya* comprises over 300 species that are widely distributed over South America, South Africa, Madagascar, Asia, Australia and Oceania.

The ‘Muthuvan’ people were loyal subjects of the dynasty of Madurai, according to tribal legend. When the dynasty was deposed, the surviving royal members migrated to Travancore, central Kerala. On their way to Kerala, the Muthuvas carried the idols of Madurai Meenakshi, the deity of the royal family, on their backs.

The Muthuva tribe grows ragi, cardamom and lemon grass. Now they are also cultivating banana and tapioca for their daily usage.

**Q.5) Recently the term Nihangs seen in news refers to**

- a) musical instrument
- b) an order of Sikh warriors
- c) tribal language
- d) leader of Swadeshi Movement

**Solution:** Nihangs or Nihang Singhs, originally known as Akalis or Akali Nihangs, are designated the Guru’s knights or the Guru’s beloved, and their origin is associated with the founding of the ‘Khalsa Panth’ by the 10th Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh.

They constitute a distinctive order among Sikhs and are readily recognised by their dark blue loose apparel and their ample, peaked turbans festooned with quoits, insignia of the Khalsa and rosaries, all made of steel.

They are always armed and are usually seen mounted heavily laden with weapons such as swords, daggers, spears, rifles, shotguns and pistols.

The term ‘Nihang’ signifies the characteristic qualities of the clan — their freedom from fear of danger or death, readiness for action and non-attachment to worldly possessions.

Instead of saffron they hoist a blue Nishan Sahib (flag) atop their shrines. They use the slogans ‘chhardi kala’ (forever in high spirits)

**Q.6) Consider the following Statements regarding the Joint Parliamentary Committee**

1. There are twice as many Lok Sabha members as the Rajya Sabha that are decided by Parliament.
2. The proceedings and findings of the committee are always confidential.
3. The government can take the decision to withhold a document if it is considered prejudicial to the safety or interest of the State.



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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: The committee's members are decided by Parliament.

The number of members can vary. There are twice as many Lok Sabha members as the Rajya Sabha.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The proceedings and findings of the committee are confidential, except in matters of public interest.

Statement 3 is correct: The government can take the decision to withhold a document if it is considered prejudicial to the safety or interest of the State.

What is a JPC?

A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is set up to examine a particular bill presented before the Parliament, or for the purpose of investigating cases of financial irregularities in any government activity.

The JPC is an ad-hoc body.

It is set up for a given period of time and is aimed at addressing a specific issue.

Composition:

In order to set up a JPC, a motion is passed in one House and supported by the other House.

The committee's members are decided by Parliament.

The number of members can vary. There are twice as many Lok Sabha members as the Rajya Sabha.

Powers and Functions:

A JPC is authorised to collect evidence in oral or written form or demand documents in connection with the matter.

The proceedings and findings of the committee are confidential, except in matters of public interest.

The government can take the decision to withhold a document if it is considered prejudicial to the safety or interest of the State.

The Speaker has the final word in case of a dispute over calling for evidence.

The committee can invite interested parties for inquiry and summon people to appear before it.

The committee gets disbanded following the submission of its report to Parliament.

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are the possible challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion?**

1. Digital Exclusions.
2. Unfamiliarity With DBT.
3. Inadequate Rural Banking.
4. Unsuccessful Banking Correspondent Model.
5. Accountability Issue.

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

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- c) 1, 3 and 4

**d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

**Solution:** Challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion:

Digital Exclusions.

Unfamiliarity With DBT.

Breeding of Corruption.

Inadequate Rural Banking.

Unsuccessful Banking Correspondent Model.

Accountability Issue.

NITI Aayog and Mastercard have 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'.

**Q.8) Which of the following is/are the sub-schemes of "Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)"?**

1. Ocean Technology, Ocean Modelling and Advisory Services
2. Ocean Observation Network
3. Ocean Non-Living Resources

**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**

**Solution:** The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the umbrella scheme "Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)" of Ministry of Earth Sciences, for implementation during the period from 2021-26 at an overall cost of Rs. 2177 crore.

The scheme encompasses seven sub-schemes namely Ocean Technology, Ocean Modelling and Advisory Services (OMAS), Ocean Observation Network (OON), Ocean Non-Living Resources, Marine Living Resources and Ecology (MLRE), Coastal Research and Operation and Maintenance of Research Vessels.

These sub-schemes are being implemented by autonomous/attached institutes of the Ministry, viz. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai; Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad; National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, Center for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi; and National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai as well as involving other national institutes.

The O-SMART scheme objectives are: providing forecast and services based on the continuous observation of our oceans, development of technologies and exploratory surveys for sustainable harnessing of our oceanic resources (both living and non-living) and promotion of front-ranking research in ocean sciences.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**Q.9) With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), consider the following statements:**

1. The Union Cabinet has recently approved the extension for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY-Phase V) from December 2021 to March 2022.
2. The total outgo in terms of food-grains for PMGKAY Phase V is likely to be about 163 LMT.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** The Union Cabinet has approved the extension for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY-Phase V) for a period of another 4 months i.e. December 2021 till March 2022 @ 5 kg per person per month free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) [Antodaya Anna Yojana & Priority Households] including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

In the wake of COVID-19 in the country last year, the Government in March 2020 had announced the distribution of additional free-of-cost foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) to about 80 Crore National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries at the scale of 5 Kg per person per month under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY), over and above the regular monthly NFSA foodgrains.

Phase-I and Phase-II of this scheme was operational from April to June, 2020 and July to November, 2020 respectively. Phase-III of the scheme was operational from May to June, 2021. Phase-IV of the scheme is currently operational for July-November, 2021 months.

The PMGKAY scheme for Phase V from December 2021 till March, 2022 would entail an estimated additional food subsidy of Rs. 53344.52 Crore.

The total outgo in terms of food-grains for PMGKAY Phase V is likely to be about 163 LMT.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.10) With reference to the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, consider the following statements:**

1. It seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India.

2. There is currently no regulation or ban on cryptocurrencies in India.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, listed for introduction in Parliament's Winter Session starting November 29, seeks to "create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India".

The Bill "seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India, however, it allows for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses".

There is currently no regulation or ban on cryptocurrencies in India; however, national responses to defining and regulating virtual currencies vary widely in jurisdictions around the world.

How are cryptocurrencies regulated in countries?

the regulatory and policy response can vary from complete openness of the kind seen in countries like El Salvador, which has approved bitcoin as legal tender, to a total clampdown like in China, which has imposed stringent regulations on both cryptocurrencies and service providers.

The United States and European Union have been proactive in trying to pin down the regulatory mandate, while discussions continue.

Countries such as India are somewhere in between — still in the process of figuring out the best way to regulate cryptos after some policy and regulatory experimentation.

Hence both statements are correct.

November 26

**Q.1) With reference to the Goods and Services tax, consider the following statements:**

1. The Government can rationalise the GST rate structure without losing revenues by rejigging the four major rates of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% with a three-rate framework of 8%, 15% and 30%, as per a National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) study.
2. National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) is an autonomous think tank backed by the Union Finance Ministry.

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

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

**Solution:** The Government can rationalise the GST rate structure without losing revenues by rejigging the four major rates of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% with a three-rate framework of 8%, 15% and 30%, as per a National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) study.

The findings of the NIPFP, an autonomous think tank backed by the Finance Ministry, assume significance as the GST Council has tasked a Group of Ministers, headed by Karnataka CM Basavaraj S. Bommai, to propose a rationalisation of tax rates and a possible merger of different tax slabs by December to shore up revenues.

Multiple rate changes since the introduction of the GST regime in July 2017 have brought the effective GST rate to 11.6% from the original revenue neutral rate of 15.5%, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman pointed out at the last Council meeting in September.

Merging the 12% and 18% GST rates into any tax rate lower than 18% may result in revenue loss. Our study proposes that the GST Council may consider a three-rate structure by adopting 8%, 15% and 30% for revenue neutrality.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.2) Which of the following constitutional amendment act provided reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)?**

- a) Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act 2019
- b) Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016
- c) Constitution (102nd Amendment) Act, 2018
- d) None of the above

**Solution:** The Union Government informed the Supreme Court that it had taken a “considered decision” to revisit the “criteria” for determining Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) to provide them reservation in terms of the provisions of the Explanation to Article 15 of the Constitution inserted by the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act 2019.

The Government, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, said it would take four weeks for the exercise.

The submission follows rounds of grilling from the court during past hearings to reveal the logic and study before zeroing in on the “exact figure” of ₹8 lakh as the annual income limit to identify the EWS.

The court was hearing a case filed by NEET aspirants challenging a July 29 notification announcing 27% quota to OBCs and 10% reservation to the EWS in the All India Quota (AIQ) category.

The Government assured the court that the NEET counselling would be deferred for four weeks till a decision was taken on the EWS quota.

The EWS quota was meant for persons who earned less than ₹8 lakh annually and did not benefit from any other existing reservation.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.3) With reference to the Community Kitchens Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. Union Government has constituted a "Group of Food Secretaries" from States along with Senior

officers of Central Govt to deliberate on the framework of the Community Kitchens Scheme.

2. The Food Secretary of Madhya Pradesh will be heading the Group.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Union Government has constituted a "Group of Food Secretaries" from States along with Senior officers of Central Govt to deliberate on the framework of the Community Kitchens Scheme.

The Group of Food Secretaries include Food Secretaries from 8 states of Kerala, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. The Food Secretary of Madhya Pradesh will be heading the Group.

While announcing the Constitution of 'Group of Secretaries' Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution affirmed that Community Kitchens scheme needs to be prepared- which is simple, transparent and in the benefit of people.

Community Kitchen will be of the community, run by the community & for the welfare of the community. it needs to be built on 4 pillars of Quality, Hygiene, Reliability & Spirit of Service. It will help us realize the goal that no one Sleeps Hungry.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.4) Recently seen in the news, ACROSS Scheme is implemented by which of the following?**

a) Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change

b) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

c) Ministry of Earth Sciences

d) Ministry of Finance

**Solution:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister gave its approval for the continuation of the umbrella scheme "Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)" along with its eight sub-schemes to the next finance cycle of five years i.e. 2021-2026 at an estimated cost of Rs.2,135 crore. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through its units namely the India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF); Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

ACROSS scheme pertains to the atmospheric science programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and addresses different aspects of weather and climate services. Each of these aspects is incorporated as eight sub-schemes under the umbrella scheme "ACROSS" and is implemented in an integrated manner through the aforesaid four institutes.

The scheme will provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecast, and services, thereby ensuring transfer of commensurate benefits to the various services like Public weather service, disaster management, Agrometeorological Services, Aviation Services, Environmental monitoring services, Hydro-meteorological services, climate services, tourism, pilgrimage, power generation, water management, Sports & adventure, etc.

**Q.5) Recently seen in the news, the Go Blue for AMR campaign is related to which of the following?**

a) Blue Economy

b) E-vehicles

c) Anti-Microbial Resistance

d) e-waste

**Solution:** Recently, the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has organized a workshop on the National Action Plan to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), while

celebrating World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW - November 18-24).

This year's theme of WAAW was "Spread awareness, stop resistance".

During WAAW an International Colour Campaign, 'Go Blue for AMR' campaign, was launched by the AMR tripartite organizations (World Health Organization, Food, and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the World organization for Animal Health) to help spread awareness about AMR.

The new Go Blue for AMR campaign, calls upon individuals, organizations, and communities to mark the week by going blue. This can involve illuminating prominent buildings/landmarks/monuments in light blue, or wearing blue in WAAW events, or adjusting social media profiles to blue.

**Q.6) With reference to GSAT-7 satellite, consider the following statements:**

1. It was launched for the Indian Navy to monitor the Indian Ocean Region and provide real-time data to all the Indian submarines, warships and aircraft.
2. It's also known as Rukmini.

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

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

**Solution:** Both statements are correct.

GSAT-7 also known as Rukmini is an advanced communication satellite built by ISRO. It was launched in 2013 for the Indian Navy to monitor the Indian Ocean Region and provide real-time data to all the Indian submarines, warships and aircraft.

**Q.7) Which of the following country has planned a dedicated Bitcoin city?**

- a) The USA

b) Mauritius

c) El Salvador

d) The UK

**Solution:** El Salvador, the only country to recognise Bitcoin as a legal tender, is planning to build an entire city based on the largest cryptocurrency Bitcoin.

**Q.8) With reference to National Family Health Survey, consider the following statements:**

1. India conducted the First Round of NFHS immediately after Independence.
2. It is released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is incorrect: First Round of NFHS conducted in 1992-93. Statement 2 is correct.

**Q.9) With reference to Shoonya Campaign, consider the following:**

1. It is an initiative to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry.
2. NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India's have launched the Shoonya Campaign.

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

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

**Solution:** Both the statements are correct

**Q.10) As per the think tank IDEA's "Global State of Democracy 2021", which country was added to its annual list of "backsliding" democracies?**

a) India

**b) USA**

c) Brazil

d) UK

**Solution:** The International think tank International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) released its report titled "Global State of Democracy 2021".

It added the United States to its annual list of "backsliding" democracies for the first time. It also stated that their data suggests that the backsliding episode began at least in 2019. As of 2021, the world will have 98 democracies, the lowest number in many years, some countries like India, the Philippines and the USA imposed measures that amount to democratic violations.

November 27

**Q.1) What is Omicron, recently seen in news?**

**a) A new variant of SARS-CoV-2**

- b) A new Cryptocurrency
- c) Satellite launched by NASA
- d) None of the above

**Solution:** The World Health Organization (WHO) classified a new variant of SARS-CoV-2, currently circulating in South Africa, as a ‘variant of concern’. It also named it Omicron.

The Network for Genomics Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA) had identified the variant. It had detected a group of related SARS-CoV-2 viruses, which belong to a lineage named B.1.1.529.

Early indications are that this variant is possibly even more transmissible than the highly infectious Delta variant, and that current vaccines may be less effective against it.

From what is known currently, B.1.1.529 has multiple spike protein mutations, and preliminary analysis suggests it is highly infectious.

B.1.1.529 has “very unusual constellations of mutations” — with 30 in the region that encodes the spike protein, which is responsible for the virus’s entry in human cells.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**Q.2) With reference to the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI), consider the following statements:**

1. It is prepared by the Vivekananda International Foundation.
2. Kerala, Goa, and Sikkim have the lowest percentage of population being multi-dimensionally poor at 0.71 per cent, 3.76 per cent and 3.82 per cent, respectively.
3. Bihar has the highest number of malnourished people.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only

**b) 2 and 3 only**

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

**Solution:** The first-ever Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) prepared by government think tank NITI Aayog has said that Bihar has the highest proportion of people, at 51.91 per cent of the state’s population, who are multidimensionally poor, followed by Jharkhand at 42.16 per cent and Uttar Pradesh at 37.79 per cent.

Bihar also has the highest number of malnourished people followed by Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

Kerala, Goa, and Sikkim have the lowest percentage of population being multidimensionally poor at 0.71 per cent, 3.76 per cent and 3.82 per cent, respectively.

This baseline report of the national MPI measure is based on the reference period of 2015-16 of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS).

Among the Union Territories (UTs), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (27.36 per cent), Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh (12.58), Daman & Diu (6.82 per cent) and Chandigarh (5.97 per cent), have emerged as the poorest UTs in India.

The proportion of poor in Puducherry at 1.72 per cent is the lowest among the Union Territories, followed by Lakshadweep at 1.82 per cent, Andaman & Nicobar Islands at 4.30 per cent and Delhi at 4.79 per cent.

**Methodology**

The MPI uses the globally accepted methodology developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The MPI has three equally weighted dimensions – health, education, and standard of living – which in turn are represented by 12 indicators such as nutrition, school attendance, years of schooling, drinking water, sanitation, housing, bank accounts among others, according to the report.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.



2. Indore has also been given the tag of India's first "Water Plus" city

3. Water Plus city is a certificate provided to a city for providing safe and adequate drinking water to all households in the city.

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

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Solution:** Madhya Pradesh's Indore has been given the title of India's cleanest city for the fifth consecutive year, as per the Swachh Survekshan 2021 – the annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns of the country.

Surat and Vijaywada were ranked second and third cleanest cities in the Swachh Survekshan 2021 list, whereas, in states, Chattisgarh was ranked on top for the third consecutive year, followed by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

The Swachh Survekshan Awards 2021 included the cleanest State honour for Chhattisgarh for the third time, in the category of States with more than 100 urban local bodies. Varanasi, won the award for the cleanest "Ganga city".

Along with all this, Indore has also been given the tag of India's first "water plus" city, which is a certificate provided to a city for maintaining cleanliness in rivers and drains under its administration. According to the guidelines of Swachh Bharat Mission, a city can be declared as Water Plus only after all wastewater released from households, commercial establishments, is treated to a satisfactory level before releasing the treated wastewater into the environment.

**Q.5) Consider the following statement:**

1. AUKUS is a trilateral security pact between Afghanistan, the United Kingdom and the United States

2. Under the pact, the US and the UK will help Afghanistan by providing support so they could

**Q.3) With reference to the exercise 'Dakshin Shakti', consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to establish the best coordination among the wings of the armed forces, space technology and artificial intelligence.

2. Intelligence operations were not part of this exercise.

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

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** Army chief General M M Naravane observed military exercise 'Dakshin Shakti' being held in Jaisalmer with the Army and the Air Force taking part in it.

The exercise began on November 20, 2021 in the deserts of Jaisalmer and will concluded on November 26, 2021.

T-72, T-90 as well as Vijayanta tanks of the Army and the IAF's Dhruv and Rudra helicopters, and the Jaguar fighter aircraft participated in the joint exercise.

The drill aims to establish the best coordination among the wings of the armed forces, space technology and artificial intelligence.

This manoeuvre differs from the others in several ways. This exercise also featured the Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, BSF, as well as local administration and police. Intelligence operations were also practised during this time.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to the Swachh Survekshan 2021:**

1. Indore has been given the title of India's cleanest city for the fifth consecutive year

rebuild their lives, find work, pursue education and integrate into their local communities

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

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

**d) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Solution:** Australia formally embarked on a hotly contested programme to equip its Navy with nuclear-powered submarines in a new defence alliance with Britain and the United States.

It is the first agreement on the technology to be publicly signed since the three countries announced in September the formation of a defence alliance, AUKUS, to confront strategic tensions in the Pacific where China-US rivalry is growing.

Under the AUKUS deal, Australia would obtain eight state-of-the-arts, nuclear-powered but conventionally armed submarines capable of stealthy, long-range missions

AUKUS is a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, announced on 15 September 2021 for the Indo-Pacific region. Under the pact, the US and the UK will help Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines

**Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to INS Vela:**

1. It is the first of the Indian Navy's six submarines under Project 75.
2. It is a Stealth Scorpene-Class Submarine.
3. It is a diesel-electric attack submarine of Kalvari-class.

**Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?**

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

d) None of the above

**Solution:** INS Vela is the fourth of the Indian Navy's six submarines under Project 75. It is a Scorpene-Class Submarine. It is a diesel-electric attack submarine of Kalvari-class.

**Q.7) The herb "Withania somnifera" is often seen in News as:**

**a) It is a widely used herb in traditional Indian Medicine.**

- b) It is an invasive species present in the Kole Wetlands in Kerala.
- c) Its extract is widely used in making pesticides.
- d) It is a herb that contains a dangerous amount of Iodine which can cause goitre, high thyroid-stimulating hormone levels, and hypothyroidism.

**Solution:** Withania somnifera, known commonly as ashwagandha is an annual evergreen shrub in the Solanaceae or nightshade family that grows in India, the Middle East, and parts of Africa. It is a very revered herb of the Indian Ayurvedic system of medicine as a Rasayana (tonic).

**Q.8) What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing "Goods and Services Tax (GST)"?**

1. It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India.
2. It will drastically reduce the 'Current Account Deficit of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves.
3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of the economy of India and will enable it to overtake China in the near future.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct as one of the objectives of implementing GST is to replace multiple indirect taxes with one single tax across the nation.

Statement 2 is incorrect GST has nothing to do with forex reserves as it is an indirect tax imposed on the goods and services within the country.

Statement 3 is incorrect as GST will not help India to overtake China as the GDP difference between the 2 countries is huge.

It is a tax levied when a consumer buys a good or service. It is meant to be a single, comprehensive tax that will subsume all the other smaller indirect taxes on consumption like service tax, etc.

It is a single tax on the supply of goods and services, right from the manufacturer to the end consumer.

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Solution:** Statement 1 is incorrect: It is scheme by Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Statement 2 & 3 are correct

**Q.9) Tendulkar, Lakdawala committee is related to which of the following:**

a) Cricket reforms

**b) Poverty estimation**

c) Recruitment Policy and selection methods

d) Civil Service Reforms

**Solution:** Statement b is correct: Both the committees are related to poverty estimation in India

**Q.10) With reference to O-SMART scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a flagship scheme of Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.

2. It aims to develop technologies and exploratory surveys for the sustainable harnessing of oceanic resources

3. One of its sub-schemes is related to maintenance of research vessels.

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

a) 1 and 2 only

**b) 2 and 3 only**

**November 29**

**Q.1) With reference to India-Bangladesh economic ties, consider the following statements:**

1. Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia with a volume of over \$10 billion.
2. India is developing two Indian economic zones at Mirsarai and Mongla.

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

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

**Solution:** The India-Bangladesh CEO Forum will meet soon for the first time, even as the two countries work towards finalising a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to deepen trade and economic ties as partners rather than competitors, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

He congratulated Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the country's transition from a less-developed country to a developing nation status.

Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia with a volume of over \$10 billion.

India had sent over one crore COVID-19 vaccine doses to the country and has extended concessional credit lines of about \$8 billion, the highest for any single country.

A bilateral textile industry forum has also been constituted to facilitate cooperation in the textile sector.

India is also developing two Indian economic zones at Mirsarai and Mongla.

The Minister identified five focus areas that could strengthen bilateral economic ties: Technology, Connectivity, Entrepreneurship, Health and Tourism.

The two countries will be celebrating December 6 as Maitri Divas, to mark 50 years of Bangladesh's independence and its bilateral ties with India,

which was the first country to recognise its independence.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.2) With reference to the naming a virus, consider the following statements:**

1. The WHO has been using Greek letters to refer to the most widely prevalent coronavirus variants, which otherwise carry long scientific names.
2. Omicron is the newest variant of SARS-CoV-2.

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

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

**Solution:** In picking a name for the newest variant of SARS-CoV-2, Omicron, the World Health Organization (WHO) has skipped two letters of the Greek alphabet, one of which also happens to be a popular surname in China, shared even by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The WHO has been using Greek letters to refer to the most widely prevalent coronavirus variants, which otherwise carry long scientific names.

It had already used 12 letters of the Greek alphabet before the newest variant emerged in South Africa this week.

After Mu, the 12th named after a Greek letter, WHO selected the name Omicron, instead of Nu or Xi, the two letters between Mu and Omicron.

The WHO said Nu could have been confused with the word 'new' while Xi was not picked up following a convention.

XI is a common surname and WHO best practices for naming new diseases (developed in conjunction with FAO and OIE back in 2015) suggest avoiding 'causing offence to any cultural, social, national, regional, professional or ethnic groups'.

Since the scientific names are not easy to remember, the more prevalent variants started to

be named after the country from where they were first reported: 'UK variant', 'Indian variant', 'South African variant', or 'Brazilian variant'.

To remove the connection with specific countries, which was triggering name-calling and blame game, the WHO decided on a new naming system using Greek letters.

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.3) With reference to the Wage Rate Index (WRI), consider the following statements:**

1. The new series of WRI with base 2016=100 will replace the old series with base 1963-65=100.
2. It is being compiled and maintained by Union Ministry of Finance.

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

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

**Solution:** Expert Group unveils report on base revision of Wage Rate Index (WRI) to 2016=100 from base 1963-65=100.

The new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year 2016=100, is being compiled and maintained by Labour Bureau, an attached office of Ministry of Labour & Employment.

The new series of WRI with base 2016=100 will replace the old series with base 1963-65=100.

The New WRI Series with base 2016=100 would be compiled twice a year on point-to-point half yearly basis, as on 1st January and 1st July of every year.

Some of the major improvements made under the new series of WRI (2016=100) vis-à-vis old series (1963-65=100) are as under:

The weighting diagram in the new WRI series has been prepared from the results of the Occupational Wage Survey (Seventh) round.

A total of 37 industries have been covered in the new WRI basket (2016=100) as against 21 industries in the 1963-65=100 series.

The selected 37 industries in the new series are categorized as 30 industries from Manufacturing sector, 4 industries from Mining Sector and 3 industries from Plantation Sector as compared to 14 industries from Manufacturing sector, 4 industries from Mining Sector and 3 industries from Plantation Sector in the old series.

In the new WRI basket, the current wage data has been collected from 2881 units under 37 selected industries as against to 1256 units under 21 industries in the old series of WRI.

About 700 occupations have been covered under 37 selected industries in new series of WRI (2016=100).

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.4) With reference to the primary health care in urban areas, consider the following statements:**

1. The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$300 million loan to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas of 13 states.
2. Ayushman Bharat programme, launched in 2001, aims to improve access to comprehensive primary health care as a key strategy to achieve universal health coverage in India.

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

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

**Solution:** The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$300 million loan to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas of 13 states that will benefit over 256 million

urban dwellers including 51 million from slum areas.

The programme supports the Government of India's key health initiatives - Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) and Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PM-ASBY) - which has been renamed as Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)

Ayushman Bharat programme, launched in 2018, aims to improve access to comprehensive primary health care as a key strategy to achieve universal health coverage in India.

With the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic that put additional pressure on the country's health system, the government launched PM-ASBY later renamed as PM-ABHIM in October 2021 to adopt a long-term approach to system strengthening to prepare for future pandemics and other emergencies.

The programme will be implemented in urban areas across 13 states: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal.

The programme is supported by a \$2 million technical assistance grant from ADB's Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.5) To promote and attract tourism business, the Indian Railways launched Bharat Gaurav trains. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. Bharat Gaurav trains will be operated by private players and run on theme-based circuits
2. IRCTC will decide the route, the halts, the services provided, and the tariff
3. These trains cannot be used as an ordinary transport trains between an origin and destination

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

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

c) 1 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Solution:** Theme-based trains on the anvil

Service providers, who can be an individual, company, society, trust, joint venture or consortium, will be free to decide themes and circuits such as Guru Kripa trains for covering important places of Sikh culture or the Ramayana Express for places connected with Lord Ram.

Bharat Gaurav trains that will be operated by private players and run on theme-based circuits

According to the Bharat Gaurav policy, any operator or service provider, or virtually anyone, can lease trains from Indian Railways to run on a theme-based circuit as a special tourism package. The tenure of the arrangement is a minimum of two years and maximum of the codal life of the coach. The operator has the freedom to decide the route, the halts, the services provided, and, most importantly, the tariff.

The Bharat Gaurav operator will also have to propose a similar business model wherein it takes care of local transport, sightseeing, food, local stays, etc. along with operating the trains.

If the operator finds it feasible, then it can even purchase rakes from Indian Railway production units and run them. These trains cannot be used as ordinary transport trains between an origin and destination.

Indian Railways will provide staff to drive the trains, guards and also maintenance staff on board for the coaches. Other staff, like housekeeping and catering, etc, will be deployed by the operator.

**Q.6) 'Operation HAECHI--II', recently seen in news, refers to -**

- a) A global anti-drug operation launched by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- b) EU mission to rescue migrants stranded in the Mediterranean Sea
- c) Deployment of UN Peacekeeping Forces in Afghanistan
- d) Interpol's global operation to crackdown on cyber-enabled financial crime.

**Solution:** The operation codenamed ‘HAECHE-II’ was conducted by INTERPOL underlining the global threat of cyber-enabled financial crime.

It is the second such operation in a three-year project launched to tackle cyber-enabled financial crime.

Hence Option D is correct.

**Q.7) National Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index, is released by which of the following organization?**

- a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- b) Ministry of Labor and Employment
- c) Niti Aayog
- d) Institute for Human Development

**Solution:** Statement c is correct: NITI Aayog is the nodal Ministry for the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

**Q.8) With reference to Anaemia Mukh Bharat, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to reduce the prevalence of anaemia among children, adolescents and women in the reproductive age group of 15 – 49 years.
2. It is targeting a reduction rate of more than fifty per cent by 2022 under the programme.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct: Anaemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Programme was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to reduce the prevalence of anaemia among children, adolescents and women in the reproductive age group(15–49 years).

Statement 2 is incorrect: The programme aims to reduce the proportion of anaemia among children

to 40%, pregnant women to 32% and lactating women to 40% by 2022.

**Q.9) Which of the following organizations released The Global State of Democracy Report 2021?**

- a) Oxfam India
- b) Institute of Democratic Studies
- c) The Economist Intelligence Unit
- d) International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

**Solution:** The number of countries moving towards authoritarianism in 2020 was higher than that of countries going in the other direction, towards democracy, the Global State of Democracy Report, 2021 released by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International-IDEA) .

The report highlighted the case of Brazil and India as “some of the most worrying examples of backsliding. However, India remained in the category of a mid-level performing democracy as it has since 2000, the report showed.

The report aims to influence the global debate and analyses current trends and challenges to democracy, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

It offers specific policy recommendations to spark new and innovative thinking for policymakers, governments and civil society organizations supporting democracy.

**Q.10) As per the think tank IDEA’s “Global State of Democracy 2021”, which country was added to its annual list of “backsliding” democracies?**

- a) India
- b) USA
- c) Brazil
- d) UK

**Solution:** The International think tank International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) released its report titled “Global State of Democracy 2021”.

It added the United States to its annual list of “backsliding” democracies for the first time. It also stated that their data suggests that the backsliding episode began at least in 2019. As of 2021, the world will have 98 democracies, the lowest number in many years, some countries like India, the Philippines and the USA imposed measures that amount to democratic violations.



**November 30**

**Q.1) Consider the following statements with regards to Norovirus:**

1. It is a group of viruses that leads to gastrointestinal illness.
2. Norovirus is resistant to many disinfectants and can heat up to 60°C.
3. The virus can also survive many common hand sanitizers.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Solution:** Norovirus is a group of viruses that leads to gastrointestinal illness. It is a very contagious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea.

Norovirus is resistant to heat with some of the norovirus capable of withstanding temperatures up to 60 degree Celsius. They are also found to survive freezing low temperatures.

Norovirus are resistant to many disinfectants. Hand sanitizers aren't as effective against Norovirus as some of these viruses can also survive many common hand sanitizers.

**Q.2) 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue is the dialogue between two countries' defence and external affairs ministries. India does not hold such talks with which of the following nations?**

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

**Solution:** The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) which met under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the long-pending deal for the manufacture of 6.71 lakh AK-203 assault rifles in India, according to a defence source.

Another deal likely to make progress is for Iгла-S Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) systems. The Ka-226T utility helicopter deal is unlikely to be cleared, according to official sources.

'2+2 talks' is a term adopted in foreign diplomacy that implies a dialogue between two countries' defence and external affairs ministries. India holds such talks with Japan and Australia as well but at the foreign secretary and defence secretary level. It is only with the US that India holds ministerial-level talks.

2+2 Ministerial is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries.

India holds '2+2 talks' with Australia, Japan and the USA.

**Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to the Namda Craft:**

1. It is a traditional craft of the state of Maharashtra
2. Namda is a fabric made of cotton and silk which is woven together with the use of a special loom

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

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

**d) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Solution:** Union Minister of State, launched a pilot project to revive and promote traditional 'Namda' craft in Jammu and Kashmir and said that efforts are afoot to increase the carpet export from ₹600 crore to ₹6,000 crore.

The objective of these projects is to boost and preserve the traditional Namda craft of Kashmir and upskill the local weavers and artisans of the UT to enhance their productivity through RPL assessment and certification

Namda is a rug made of sheep wool through felting technique instead of normal weaving process. Due to low availability of raw material,

lack of skilled manpower and marketing techniques, the export of this craft has declined almost 100 per cent between 1998 and 2008.

The Namda project will be an industry-based training programme with beneficiaries involved in Namda Crafts Production who will contribute towards preserving and reviving the rich heritage associated with the unique craft in Kashmir.

It was observed that the heritage and traditional skill clusters required skilled artisans from villages to meet the demand for traditional crafts in Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir. This initiative aims at industry and market linkage, encouraging micro-entrepreneurship.

**Q.4) With reference to the RIC grouping, consider the following statements:**

1. The grouping was founded under the leadership of India.
2. All members of the grouping are nuclear powers.
3. India has never assumed the chairmanship of the grouping.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is incorrect: RIC (Russia-India-China) grouping was founded in the late 1990s under the leadership of Yevgeny Primakov, a Russian politician, as a counterbalance to the Western alliance.

Statement 2 is correct: All three countries are nuclear powers.

Statement 3 is incorrect: India took over the chairmanship of RIC after the last meeting of the three foreign ministers in Russia in 2020.

**Q.5) With reference to India's first National MPI (multidimensional poverty index), consider the following statements:**

1. The index uses the globally accepted and robust methodology developed for Global MPI.
2. Health dimension is given the maximum weightage as compared to dimensions in the index.
3. Index is based on the Findings of the fifth National Family Health Survey.

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

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

**Solution:** Statement 1 is correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: Health, education and standard of living, all three dimensions are given equal weightage in the index.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Index is based on the findings of fourth National family Health Survey.

**Q.6) Project SWADESH was seen in news. The project is related to which of the following?**

- a) Humanitarian and Rescue mission of Indian Army in Myanmar.
- b) Indigenization of semiconductor chips.
- c) Unique brain initiative to help researchers for managing brain disorders.**
- d) ISRO 2019s mission to Mars and Jupiter.

**Solution:** SWADESH is a unique brain initiative focussing on certified neuroimaging, neurochemical, neuropsychological data and analytics that are made accessible to researchers for managing brain disorders. It is also the first large-scale multimodal neuroimaging database designed specifically for the Indian population with big-data architecture and analytics for various disease categories under one platform. Source: SWADESH, World's First Multimodal

Brain Imaging Data and Analytics, Developed at DBT-National Brain Research Centre, Haryana

**Q.7) With reference to the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), consider the following statements:**

1. One in two women who go to a private hospital undergoes a Caesarean section (C-section).
2. When the rates rise towards 10% across a population, the number of maternal and newborn deaths decreases.

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

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

**Solution:** One in two women who go to a private hospital undergoes a Caesarean section (C-section), according to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data.

The increasing trend in private medical facilities, which have seen a rise in such operations from 40.9% to 47.4%, has led to a jump in pan-India numbers — from 17.2% in 2014-2015 to 21.5% in 2019-2020, according to NFHS-5. This means that one in five women who go to any medical facility, private or public, undergoes a C-section.

When medically justified, a C-section can effectively prevent maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity. According to the World Health Organization, the ideal rate is between 10% and 15%.

When the rates rise towards 10% across a population, the number of maternal and newborn deaths decreases. When the rate goes above 10%, there is no evidence that mortality rates improve.

There are many States and Union Territories where private hospitals conduct seven or eight out of 10 deliveries through C-section. These include West Bengal (82.7%), Jammu and Kashmir (82.1%), Tamil Nadu (81.5%), Andaman and Nicobar (79.2%) and Assam (70.6%).

Hence both statements are correct.

**Q.8) With reference to the Parliament, consider the following statements:**

1. The presiding officer of each House can direct an member of Parliament to withdraw from the legislative chamber for grossly disorderly conduct.
2. In 2001 a new rule, 374A, empowers the Speaker to automatically suspend an MP for a maximum of five days for disrupting the business of the House.
3. The first instance of suspension of member of Parliament occurred in 2001.

**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

**Solution:** In the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Prahlad Joshi sought the approval of the House for suspending 12 Rajya Sabha MPs for the remainder of the session.

The presiding officer of each House can direct an MP to withdraw from the legislative chamber for grossly disorderly conduct. The MP then has to remain absent from the proceedings of the House for the remainder of the day. The presiding officers can also “name” an MP for “persistently and wilfully obstructing the business” of the House. In such a case, usually, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister moves a motion for suspending the offending MP from the service of the House. The suspension can last until the end of the session. Hence statement 1 is correct.

In 2001, the Lok Sabha rule was amended to give the Speaker one additional power. A new rule, 374A, empowers the Speaker to automatically suspend an MP for a maximum of five days for disrupting the business of the House. Hence statement 2 is correct.

In 2015, Speaker Sumitra Mahajan used this rule for suspending 25 Congress MPs.

The first instance occurred in 1963. A few Lok Sabha MPs first interrupted President Sarvapalli

Radhakrishnan and then walked out while he was delivering the joint address to both Houses. Lok Sabha ended in reprimanding these MPs. In 1989, 63 MPs were suspended from Lok Sabha on the discussion of the Thakar Commission report. More recently in 2010, 7 MPs were suspended from Rajya Sabha for snatching the women's reservation bill from the minister. Since then, MPs have raised slogans, used pepper spray in the House and displayed placards. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

**Q.9) With reference to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21), consider the following statements:**

1. Nearly four in 10 women undergo sterilisation to avoid pregnancy.
2. The States with the highest increase in female sterilisation were Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution:** Less than one in 10 men use condoms in India, while nearly four in 10 women undergo sterilisation to avoid pregnancy, according to the latest National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21), which also shows that female sterilisation continues to be on the rise.

Only 9.5% of men used condoms but 37.9% of women underwent sterilisation, according to the NFHS.

Though condom use in urban India is better than rural parts, the overall trend is vastly similar — 7.6% men in rural India and 13.6% men in urban India use condoms, while 38.7% women in rural India and 36.3% in urban India underwent sterilisation.

Female sterilisation has gone up for the entire country from 36% in NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 37.9% in NFHS-5.

The States with the highest increase in female sterilisation were Bihar (14.1% points to 34.8%), Goa (13.6% points to 29.9%) and Madhya Pradesh (9.7% points to 51.9%) .

The State with the highest condom use was Uttarakhand (25.6%) and the Union Territory Chandigarh (31.1%). The silver lining, however, is that use of condoms has gone up between the two surveys — from 5.6% to 9.5%.

Female sterilisation is also the preferred choice of contraception over methods such as pills (5.1%), injectables (0.6%) and intra-uterine devices (IUD) and post-partum intra-uterine devices (2.1%).

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Q.10) With reference to the Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) in India, consider the following statements:**

1. As a share of total health expenditure, the OOPE has come down to 48.8% in 2017-18 from 64.2% in 2013-14.
2. Government Health Expenditure has increased from 1.15% in 2013-14 to 1.35% in 2017-18.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

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

One of the factors attributing to this decline is the increase in utilisation and reduction in cost of services in Government health facilities. If we

compare NHA 2014-15 and 2017-18, there has been a decline in OOPE for Government hospitals to the tune of 50%.

The NHA estimates for 2017-18 clearly showed that there had been an increase in the share of Government health expenditure in the total GDP of the country.

It has increased from 1.15% in 2013-14 to 1.35% in 2017-18. Additionally, the share of Government Health Expenditure in total health expenditure has also increased over time.

In 2017-18, the share of Government expenditure was 40.8%, which is much higher than 28.6% in 2013-14.

The report further indicates that in per capita terms, the Government health expenditure has increased from ₹1,042 to ₹1,753 between 2013-14 to 2017-18.

Hence both statements are correct.