

Q.1 The iconic Hagia Sophia is a UNESCO world heritage site, it is located in-

- (a) Turkey
- (b) Spain
- (c) Iran
- (d) Iraq

Answer: A

Option A is correct: Turkey's highest court convened to decide whether Istanbul's iconic Hagia Sophia museum can be turned into a mosque. The court's ruling is likely in two weeks. The 1,500-year-old structure, listed as a Unesco World Heritage site, was originally a cathedral before it was turned into a mosque.

Q.2 Consider the following statements:

- 1. 'Globba andersonii' is a species of plant mostly located in Teesta River Valley region.
- 2. It is commonly known as 'dancing ladies' and is critically endangered.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Statement 1 is correct: Recently, a team of researchers from Pune and Kerala have "rediscovered" a rare and critically endangered plant species called Globba andersonii. The species is restricted mainly to the Teesta River Valley region which includes the Sikkim Himalayas and Darjeeling hill ranges.

Statement 2 is correct: The plant commonly known as Dancing Ladies or Swan flower and classified as "critically endangered" and "narrowly endemic" was thought to have been extinct until its "re-collection", for the first time since 1875.

Q.3 Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)?

- 1. It is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the NATO allies and the Russian Federation.
- 2. The treaty calls for measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.
- 3. It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague.

Choose the correct option using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is not correct: It is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation. It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War) that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads.

Statement 2 is correct: It is the formal name of Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. The number of strategic nuclear missile launchers will be reduced by half.

Statement 3 is correct: It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification entered into force on 5 February 2011. New START replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT), which was due to expire in December 2012.

Q.4 With reference to the 'Accelerate Vigyan' scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It enables a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs and workshops across the country.

2. The scheme is launched by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).

3. Science and Engineering Research Board is the executive body under the Ministry of HRD.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: Recently, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), has launched a scheme called Accelerate Vigyan (AV) to strengthen scientific research mechanisms in the country.

Statement 2 is correct and 3 is not correct: It is launched by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB). Science and Engineering Research Board is a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology established by an Act of the Parliament of India in 2009.

Q.5 The World Bank's 'STARS' project recently seen in the news, it is related to which of the following areas:

(a) Health

(b) Education

(c) Crime Against Women

(d) Drug Eradication

Answer: B

Option A is correct: Recently, the World Bank has approved \$500 million STARS program to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states through Samagra Shiksha. STARS stands for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS). It will help in improving assessment systems, facilitating school-to-work transition, strengthening classroom instruction and remediation, decentralizing management and strengthening the governance. It will also support India's goal 'Education for All'. For this vision, the World Bank has earlier assisted with more than \$3 billion.

Q.6 With reference to the Seabed 2030 Project, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to bring together all available bathymetric data to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor.
2. The project was launched by International Seabed Authority in 2017.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: the project aims to bring together all available bathymetric data to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all. The project was launched at the UN Ocean Conference in 2017, and coordinates and oversees the sourcing and compilation of bathymetric data from different parts of the world's ocean.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a global initiative is a collaboration between Japan's non-profit Nippon Foundation and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO).

Q.7 Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary recently seen in the news, it is located in:

- (a) India
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Tibet

Answer: A

Option A is correct: Recently, Bhutan's foreign ministry issued a demarche to the Chinese embassy in New Delhi for the claims made by Beijing over Sakteng Wildlife sanctuary, situated in eastern Bhutan. Sakteng is a wildlife sanctuary located mostly in Trashigang District and just crossing the border into Samdrup Jongkhar District, Bhutan. It is listed as a tentative site in Bhutan's Tentative List for UNESCO inclusion.

Q.8 Eulophia obtuse, recently seen in the news, it is a:

- (a) Newly discovered Galaxy
- (b) Rare orchid species
- (c) Newly found Asteroid
- (d) Comet

Answer: B

Option B is correct: A rare orchid species named Eulophia obtusa — also known as ground orchid has been rediscovered in India after 118-year hiatus in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. In India, the species — listed as “critically endangered” in the IUCN Red List of endangered species — was last recorded in Pilibhit in 1902. The species was originally described from Uttarakhand in the 19th century.

Q.9 With reference to Border Road Organisation (BRO), consider the following statements:

1. It has the mandate of ensuring connectivity during both Peacetime and Wartime situation.
2. It undertakes projects in India only.
3. It is under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C

Statement 1 is correct: During the Peacetime, the role of BRO is- To Develop & Maintain the Operational Road Infrastructure of General Staff (GS) in the Border Areas; To Contribute to the Socio-Economic Development of the Border States.

During Wartime- To Develop & Maintain Roads to Keep Line of Control through in Original Sectors and Re-deployed Sectors; To Execute Additional Tasks as laid down by the Govt Contributing to the War Effort.

Statement 2 is not correct: Currently, the organisation maintains operations in twenty-one states, one UT (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), and neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

Statement 3 is correct: it is functioning under the control of the Ministry of Defence since 2015. It is staffed by officers and troops drawn from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Military Police and army personnel on extra regimental employment. Engineering Service and personnel from the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) form the parent cadre of the Border Roads Organisation.

Q.10 With reference to the 'Golden birdwing' recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's largest Himalayan butterfly.
2. It is listed as Critically Endangered under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: A Himalayan butterfly named golden birdwing is now India's largest, a record the southern birdwing held for 88 years. With a wingspan of 194 mm, the female of the species is marginally larger than the southern birdwing (190 mm) that Brigadier William Harry Evans, a British military officer and lepidopterist, recorded in 1932.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is listed as Least Concern in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Q.11 Consider the following statements:

1. NATGRID is the integrated intelligence grid connecting databases of core security agencies of India.
2. It was proposed in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Indian Parliament in 2001.
3. It is exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Which of the given statements are correct?

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Statement 1 is correct: NATGRID is an ambitious counter terrorism programme. It collects and collates a host of information from government databases including- Tax and Bank account details, Credit card transactions, Visa and Immigration records, Itineraries of Rail and Air travel. The combined data from NATGRID will be made available to 10 Central Intelligence Agencies.

Statement 2 is not correct: It was first proposed in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Mumbai in 2008. NATGRID has developed application software for proof of technology (POT) which is yet to be fully rolled out. NATGRID's solution is planned to go live by 31.12.2020.

Statement 3 is correct: NATGRID is exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005 under sub-section (2) of Section 24.

Q.12 Assam keelback & Red Coral Kukri are the species of-

- (a) Exotic Plant Species
- (b) Species of Snake
- (c) Newly discovered fishes
- (d) None of the above

Answer: B

Option B is correct: The Assam keelback (*Herpetoreas pealii*) a snake species endemic to the region was rediscovered in 2018 by a team from Wildlife Institute of India (WII) near a reserve forest on the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border. It is a non-venomous snake named after Samuel Peal and the place where it was found.

Red Coral Kukri is a nocturnal non-venomous reptile feeding on insects and worms. It gets its name from its red orange colour and its teeth, which are shaped like Nepali "khukri" to break eggs. The snake was spotted in the Dudhwa National Park in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri.

Q.13 With reference to the draft of 'Aids to Navigation Bill, 2020', consider the following statements:

1. It is proposed to replace the colonial Lighthouse Act, 1927 to incorporate technological developments and India's International obligations in the field of Aids to Marine Navigation.
2. It also provides for identification and development of heritage lighthouses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Statement 1 is correct: Recently, the Ministry of Shipping has issued the draft of Aids to Navigation Bill, 2020 for suggestions from the stakeholders and the general public. The Bill is proposed to replace the colonial Lighthouse Act, 1927 to incorporate the best global practices, technological developments and India's International obligations in the field of Aids to Marine Navigation. It has provisions for empowering Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) with additional power and functions such as Vessel Traffic Service, Wreck flagging, training and certification, implementation of other obligations under International Conventions, where India is a signatory.

Statement 2 is correct: It also provides for identification and development of heritage lighthouses.

Q.14 With reference to the recently released study on Snakebite Mortality in India, consider the following statements:

1. It revealed that India recorded 1.2 million deaths caused by snakebite in the 20-year period from 2000 to 2019
2. The annual snakebite deaths were highest in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
3. The report is released by the World Health Organisation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: Recently, The Centre for Global Health Research (CGHR) in collaboration with Indian and U.K. partners conducted the study on Snakebite. The report revealed that India recorded 1.2 million deaths caused by snakebite in the 20-year period from 2000 to 2019 with an average of 58,000 deaths annually. Around 70% of these deaths occurred in low altitude, rural areas of eight States Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana), Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Statement 2 is correct: It indicated that snakebite deaths occurred mostly in rural areas (97%) which was more common in males (59%) than females (41%), and peaked at ages 15-29 years (25%). The annual snakebite deaths were highest in the States of Uttar Pradesh (8,700), Andhra Pradesh (5,200) and Bihar (4,500).

Statement 3 is not correct: Report is released by the Centre for Global Health Research (CGHR) in collaboration with Indian and U.K. partners.

Q.15 G4 virus is recently seen in the news, it is-

- (a) A zoonotic virus found in the birds.
- (b) An android vulnerability.
- (c) A malware used in the darknet for hacking
- (d) An influenza virus found in pigs.

Answer: D

Option D is correct: Recently, in a new research, scientists from China, which has the largest population of pigs in the world have identified a “recently emerged” strain of influenza virus that is infecting Chinese pigs and that has the potential of triggering a pandemic. Named G4, the swine flu strain has genes similar to those in the virus that caused the 2009 flu pandemic.

Q.16 Kihoto Hollohan Judgement of the Supreme Court is related to which of the following subjects?

- (a) Protecting minorities rights
- (b) Disqualification of legislators under Tenth Schedule
- (c) Criminalisation of Politics
- (d) Code of Conducts of Civil Servants

Answer: B

Option B is correct: Recently, the 28 Year Old ‘Kihoto Hollohan judgment’ has found its relevance in the case of ousted Rajasthan Dy. CM and some MLAs who were issued a notice under

the anti-defection law. The law covering the disqualification of legislators and the powers of the Speaker in deciding such matters became part of the statute book in 1985 when the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution was adopted. The SC under the Judgement said 'Judicial review cannot be available at a stage prior to the making of a decision by the Speaker/Chairman' and nor would interference be permissible at an interlocutory stage of the proceedings.

Q.17 With reference to the Afghanistan–Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement, consider the following statements:

1. It permits both countries to use each other's airports, railways, roads, and ports for transit trade along designated transit corridors.
 2. It also allows Afghanistan the right to import Indian goods across Pakistani territory.
- Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: The Afghanistan–Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (also known as APTTA) is a bilateral trade agreement signed in 2010 by Pakistan and Afghanistan. It allows for both countries to use each other's airports, railways, roads, and ports for transit trade along designated transit corridors.

Statement 2 is not correct: The signed Agreement permits Afghanistan trucks access to the Wagah border with India, where Afghan goods will be offloaded onto Indian trucks, but does not permit Indian goods to be loaded onto trucks for transit back to Afghanistan. It does not offer Afghanistan the right to import Indian goods across Pakistani territory.

Q.18 'Kris Gopalakrishnan Committee' was in the news recently, it is related to-

- (a) Reform in the defence procurement procedure
- (b) Usage of Non-personal data
- (c) Effective implementation of the economic packages
- (d) Ramping up the healthcare sector

Answer: B

Option B is correct: Recently, A government committee headed by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan has suggested that non-personal data generated in the country be allowed to be harnessed by various domestic companies and entities. It has also suggested setting up of a new authority which would be empowered to monitor the use and mining of such non-personal data. Non-personal data is any set of data which does not contain personally identifiable information. The report focuses on three types of non-personal data- Public non-personal data, owned by governments, Private non-personal data, owned by non-government players and derived from assets or processes privately-owned, and Community data which is the raw data of a group of people that may also be collected by private players.

Q.20 Vallarpadam Container Terminal is situated in which of the following state?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Andhra Pradesh

(d) Odisha

Answer: A

Option A is correct: The Kochi International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT), locally known as the Vallarpadam Terminal is located strategically on the Indian coastline. It is envisaged as the first trans-shipment port of India, managed by DP World. Trans-shipment Hub is the terminal at the port which handles containers, stores them temporarily and transfers them to other ships for the onward destination. It is best positioned Indian port with regard to proximity to International sea routes. Vallarpadam Terminal of Cochin Port is proposed to be developed as the most preferred gateway for South India and leading transshipment hub of South Asia.

Q.21 India imports Spike-LR (Long Range) Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) from-

(a) USA

(b) Russia

(c) Israel

(d) Japan

Answer: C

Option C is correct: The Army is set to place a repeat order for Spike-LR (Long Range) Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) from Israel as part of emergency procurement due to continuing tensions on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. Spike Long Range (LR) Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) system is a man-portable 4th Generation system with a range of up to 4km. It can engage targets in both Fire & Forget and Fire, Observe & Update mode, thus enhancing the operational flexibility and crew survivability. Dual-mode seeker of the system allows precise engagement both during day and night.

Q.22 With reference to the Asian Development Bank, consider the following statements:

1. It was established in the year 1966 with head office at Beijing.

2. It has more than 60 members, the US having the largest share in ADB followed by China.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Statement 1 is not correct: Recently, Election Commissioner Lavasa appointed VP of Asian Development Bank. Asian Development Bank (ADB) was established in the year 1966, with head office at Manila (Philippines).

Statement 2 is not correct: It has 67 members from the Asia Pacific region. This bank modelled on the lines of the world bank. Japan holds the largest share in ADB with 15.677%, followed by U.S.A (15.567%), China (6.473%), and India (5.812%).

Q.23 Itolizumab and Tocilizumab, recently seen in the news, they are-

(a) Drugs against severely ill COVID-19 patients

(b) Newly discovered species of plants

(c) Name of Drug resistant Bacterias

(d) Types of Fungi

Answer: A

Option A is correct: According to ICMR, there is yet no evidence from trials that itolizumab and tocilizumab, two drugs, one of which has been developed by Bengaluru-based Biocon Biologics, reduce death in severely ill coronavirus (COVID-19) patients. Both drugs are lab-cloned antibodies and work at thwarting or reducing a rush of chemicals called pro-inflammatory cytokines that are released by the immune system to counter the coronavirus attack on lung cells. Cytokines prime the immune system to send special cells to neutralise virus particles. However, a 'cytokine storm' that's manifested usually as an Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) ends up causing inflammation and aggravating lung damage and harm to other organs and is said to be responsible for killing a large fraction of the 3%-5% of COVID-19 patients that die.

Q.24 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267 is related to -

- (a) Impact of armed conflict on women and girls.
- (b) Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the nuclear program of Iran.
- (c) Crime against humanity, against Genocide
- (d) Combating terrorism in relation to Al Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

Answer: D

Option D is correct: Recently, The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group's leader Noor Wali Mehsud has been designated as a global terrorist by the UN for participating in the financing, planning and perpetrating acts on behalf of and in support of entities. The UN Security Council's 1267 ISIL and al-Qaida Sanctions Committee added Mehsud to the ISIL (Da'esh) and al-Qaida Sanctions List. Blacklisting by the Security Council entails that all states are required to freeze without delay the funds and other financial assets or economic resources, travel ban of designated individuals and entities.

Q.25 Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the 'Gynandromorphism phenomenon' recently seen in the news?

- 1. Under this, an organism has a mixture of both male and female external characters.
- 2. This is commonly observed in butterflies and dragonflies.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

Statement 1 is correct: Gynandromorphs are individual animals that have both genetically male and female tissues and often have observable male and female characteristics.

Statement 2 is correct: Recently, Researchers have spotted a very rare biological phenomenon – 'gynandromorphism' – in dragonflies of the Puzhakkal area of the Kole wetlands in Thrissur, Kerala. The individual had a mix of male and female external characters, ranging from almost entirely female to about equally divided. It is caused by an event in mitosis during early development. While the organism contains only a few cells, one of the dividing cells does not split its sex chromosomes typically.

Q.26 Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

1. The law permits a party to merge with or into another party provided that at least one-third of its legislators are in favour of the merger.
2. Constitutional courts cannot judicially review disqualification proceedings under the schedule until the Speaker or Chairman makes a final decision.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is not correct: The 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution popularly referred to as the 'Anti-Defection Law' was inserted by the 52nd Amendment (1985) to the Constitution. 'Defection' has been defined as, "To abandon a position or association, often to join an opposing group". It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House. Under the exception, the law allows a party to merge with or into another party provided that at **least two-thirds of its legislators** are in favour of the merger.

Statement 2 is correct: Constitutional courts cannot judicially review disqualification proceedings under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) of the Constitution until the Speaker or Chairman makes a final decision on merits. The judgment is significant in the case of the **ousted Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and the 18 MLAs**, who were issued a notice under the anti-defection law after the ruling Congress sought their disqualification and they have moved to Rajasthan Highcourt regarding defection.

Q.27 With reference to the Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency (RAISE) programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint initiative of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Microsoft Inc.
2. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) works under the administration of 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

Answer: D

Statement 1 is not correct: The Ministry of Power has launches Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency (RAISE) – a joint initiative of EESL and USAID's MAITREE programme. It aims to ensure cleaner and greener office spaces in the country. The Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE) is a part of the US-India bilateral Partnership between the Ministry of Power and USAID.

Statement 2 is not correct: Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the administration of Ministry of Power, is working towards mainstreaming energy efficiency. EESL aims to create market access for efficient and future-ready transformative solutions that create a win-win situation for every stakeholder.

Q.28 Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana is an initiative of which among the following Indian state/UT?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Odisha

Answer: B

Option B is correct: Recently the Delhi government has approved 'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana'. The scheme will help the eligible beneficiaries get ration delivered at home. Under the scheme, wheat, flour, rice and sugar-packed hygienically in bags will be delivered to the doorstep of people. Taking ration from a PDS shop will be optional.

Q.29 India's first public EV charging plaza located in which of the following state/UT?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) UP
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: C

Option C is correct: Recently, Union Power Minister R K Singh inaugurated India's first public EV (electric vehicle) charging plaza at Chelmsford Club in New Delhi. The plaza has been established by EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Ltd) in collaboration with NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council). It will host five chargers of different specifications.

Q.30 Manodarpan initiative is recently launched, it is related-

- (a) To address the issues of emotional & mental health of students.
- (b) To provide educational assistance to Divyang amidst pandemic.
- (c) To providing e-learning solutions and tackling the digital divide.
- (d) To providing employment opportunities through the portal.

Answer: A

Option A is correct: Recently, Human Resource and Development Ministry virtually launched the Manodarpan initiative under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. This initiative will provide psycho-social support to students, teachers and parents and address their issues related to mental health and emotional well being.

Q.31 Consider the following statements with regard to "Forest Rights Act 2006":

1. It deals with the rights of forest-dwelling communities over land and other resources.
2. Rights under the Act are confined to those who "primarily reside in forests" and who depend on forests and forest land for a livelihood.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Option C is correct: Both the statements are correct as the Act deals with the rights of forest-dwelling communities over land and other resources. Rights under the Act are confined to those who “primarily reside in forests” and who depend on forests and forest land for a livelihood. Further, either the claimant must be a member of the Scheduled Tribes scheduled in that area or must have been residing in the forest for 75 years.

Q.32 With reference to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, consider the following statements:

1. It is the world’s largest financier of AIDS, TB and malaria prevention, treatment and care programmes.

2. It is one of the implementing arms of the United Nation (UN).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (or simply the Global Fund) is an international financing organization that aims to “attract, leverage and invest additional resources to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria to support attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations.”

Statement 2 is not correct: The Global Fund was formed as an independent, non-profit foundation under Swiss law and hosted by the World Health Organization in January 2002. In January 2009, the organization became an administratively autonomous organization, terminating its administrative services agreement with the World Health Organization. It is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases.

Q.33 With reference to the Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative for the empowering of potters’ community in the remotest of locations in the country.

2. It is launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

3. The KVIC is an executive body formed under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Which of the statement given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Statement 1 is correct: Recently, the Union Home Minister distributed 100 electric potter wheels to 100 trained artisans under Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC) for the empowerment of the potters’ community in the remotest of locations in the country.

Statement 2 is correct: It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC)

Statement 3 is not correct: The KVIC is a statutory body formed in April 1957 under the ‘Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956’. It is an apex organisation under the Ministry of

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, with regard to khadi and village industries within India. It seeks to plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries in the rural areas.

Q.34 Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the Kashmiri Saffron recently seen in the news?

1. The Saffron flowers cultivation is done throughout the year in the Karewa region of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It is referred to as 'bahukam' in ancient Sanskrit literature.
3. It is a Geographical Indication (GI) tag certified product.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is not correct: Recently, the J&K administration issued the certificate of geographical indication (GI) registration for saffron grown in the Kashmir Valley. The cultivation of saffron flowers is not done throughout the year. In Jammu and Kashmir, saffron is normally sown in August and till the 15th of September. The flowers are plucked in October and November. During harvesting or plucking of flowers, the atmosphere must not be hot.

Statement 2 is correct: Saffron cultivation is believed to have been introduced in Kashmir by Central Asian immigrants around the 1st Century BCE. In ancient Sanskrit literature, saffron is referred to as 'bahukam'. The saffron available in Kashmir is of three types — 'Lachha Saffron', with stigmas just separated from the flowers and dried without further processing; 'Mongra Saffron', in which stigmas are detached from the flower, dried in the sun and processed traditionally; and 'Guchhi Saffron', which is the same as Lachha, except that the latter's dried stigmas are packed loosely in air-tight containers while the former has stigmas joined together in a bundle tied with a cloth thread.

Statement 3 is correct: Recently, it has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.

Q.35 'Dare to Dream 2.0' challenge is an initiative of which of the following organisations?

- (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- (c) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- (d) Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

Answer: B

Option B is correct: Recently, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched its innovation contest 'Dare to Dream 2.0'. The contest has been launched on the 5th death anniversary of former President and noted scientist Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. It aims to promote the Indian innovators and startups for innovations in defence and aerospace technologies through an open challenge to promote the innovators and startups of the country.

It aligns with the call of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' given by the Prime Minister. An expert committee will decide the winners after due evaluation and the award money is up to ₹10 lakh for startup and ₹5 lakh for the individual category.

Q.36 'Operation Breathing Space' is the news recently, it is -

- (a) A mission between Indian and Israel to develop rapid diagnostic tests for Covid-19.
- (b) An initiative of ICMR to create awareness among the public related to COVID-19.
- (c) A mission launched by IAF to provide essential medicines to the Maldives to treat COVID-19.
- (d) An initiative to facilitate the fast and easy trial of the COVID-19 related vaccines in India.

Answer: A

Option A is correct: Recently, an Israeli team, led by a "high ranking" research and development (R&D) defence official, arrived in Delhi with a multi-pronged mission. The mission has been named as "Operation Breathing Space". The Israeli team will work with Indian authorities on the COVID-19 response. It will have four different kinds of rapid tests, which will be jointly developed after trials on Indian COVID-19 patients. The primary focus will be on developing a test kit which will give results in around 30 seconds, in order to improve testing speed. The tests that the Israeli teams will be conducting trials for including an audio test, a breath test, thermal testing, and a polyamine test which seeks to isolate proteins related to COVID-19.

Q.37 With reference to the National Transit Pass System (NTPS), consider the following statements:

- 1. It will replace the manual paper-based transit system by an online transit system enabling ease of movement of timber, bamboo and other minor forest produce.
- 2. In this, people can apply and receive e-Passes for the transit of forest produce from mobile applications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Statement 1 is correct: Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has virtually launched the piloting of the National Transit Pass System (NTPS). NTPS will replace manual paper-based transit systems by an online transit system enabling ease of movement of timber, bamboo and other minor forest produce.

Statement 2 is correct: In this regard, people can apply and receive e-Passes for the transit of forest produce from the mobile application without physically going to forest department offices. The pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Telangana, and by this Diwali, it will be operational in pan India.

Q.38 With reference to the 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan', consider the following statements:

- 1. The initiative will boost employment and livelihood opportunities for street vendors in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak.
- 2. The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for this campaign.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is not correct: Recently, the Prime Minister launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers returning to villages, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. The government is injecting a Rs 50,000 crore worth project to be implemented in a mission mode campaign in 125 days in 116 Districts of 6 States that will generate employment to migrants.

Statement 2 is correct: The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for this campaign and the campaign will be implemented in close coordination with the State Governments.

Q.39 With reference to the Central Vigilance Commission(CVC), consider the following statements:

1. It consists of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and not more than two vigilance commissioners.
2. They are appointed by the President at the recommendation of the PM, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Leader of Opposition of the Lok Sabha.
3. The office terms of the members are five years or sixty-four years of age, whichever is earlier.
4. The Central Vigilance Commission is a constitutional body.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A

In News- Recently, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has amended the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on adoption of “Integrity Pact” in government organisations for procurement activities.

Statement 1 is correct: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government. It is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (chairperson) and not more than two vigilance commissioners.

Statement 2 is correct: They are appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the prime minister as its head, the Union minister of home affairs and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Statement 3 is incorrect: They hold office for a term of four years or until they attain the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier. After their tenure, they are not eligible for further employment under the Central or a state government.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The CVC was set up by the Government in February 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam. In 2003, the Parliament enacted CVC Act conferring statutory status on the CVC. The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.

Q.40 Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the Budapest Convention of 2004?

1. It is an international treaty seeking to address the problem of illegal trade in armaments across the nations.

2. India is a signatory to this convention.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: D

Statement 1 is not correct: The Budapest Convention is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations. It serves as a guideline for any country developing comprehensive national legislation against Cybercrime and as a framework for international cooperation between State Parties to this treaty.

Statement 2 is not correct: India did not participate in the negotiation of the Convention. India's is concerned due to data sharing with foreign law enforcement agencies as it infringes on national sovereignty.

Q.41 Vidya Vardahi scheme recently seen in the news is an initiative of which of the following states/UT?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Jammu & Kashmir
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Odisha

Answer: C

Option C is correct: The closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted Andhra Pradesh government to explore ways to reach out students confined to their homes. The department of education has proposed the "Vidya Varadhi" scheme under which mobile classrooms equipped with audio-visual gadgets will reach pockets where students have no access to computers and Internet connectivity.

Q.42 With reference to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), consider the following statements:

- 1. India is one of the founding member states of the bank.
- 2. India is the second-largest shareholder in AIIB.
- 3. AIIB has more than 80 member nations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: D

Statement 1 is correct: The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is an international financial institution proposed by China. It has officially approved 57 nations as prospective founding members, with Sweden, Israel, South Africa, Azerbaijan, Iceland, Portugal and Poland the latest to be included. Countries accepted as AIIB founding members include China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Myanmar, the Philippines, Pakistan, Britain, Australia, Brazil, France, Germany and Spain.

Statement 2 is correct: China is the largest shareholder with 26.61 % voting shares in the bank followed by India (7.6%), Russia (6.01%) and Germany (4.2 %). The regional members hold 75% of the total voting power in the Bank.

Statement 3 is correct: AIIB has now grown to 102 approved members overall around the world.

Q.43 Consider the following pairs :

Navigation system	—	Country
1. GPS	—	USA
2. GLONASS	—	European Union
3. NavIC	—	India
4. Galileo	—	Russia

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: A

Option A is correct: Recently, China has recently completed its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System constellation. It is the fourth global satellite navigation system in the world. Other Satellite Navigation Systems are- 1. GPS- Initiated in 1978 and achieved global coverage in 1995. Owned by the United States government and operated by the United States Air Force. 2. GLONASS- Russia's Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) is operated by Roscosmos, a state corporation responsible for the space flight and cosmonautics program for the Russian Federation. 3. GALILEO- The European Space Agency's Galileo system, initiated in 2005 and projected to provide global coverage by 2020 with 30 satellites. 4. NAVIC- The NAVIC or NAVigation with Indian Constellation is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system developed by ISRO. It consists of a constellation of 7 navigational satellites. 3 of the satellites will be placed in the Geostationary orbit (GEO) and the remaining 4 in the Geosynchronous orbit (GSO).

Q.44 Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) recently seen in the news?

- 1. It is an international initiative to bring together different countries in order to maintain supply chain systems of vaccines.
- 2. It is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is not correct: The eVIN is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country. This is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It aims to provide real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country.

Statement 2 is correct: Technological innovation is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Q.45 Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the 'Positive Pay' mechanism:

1. It is a fraud-prevention system offered by most commercial banks to companies to protect them against forged, altered and counterfeit checks.
2. It allows an account holder to electronically upload the details of the high-value cheque through the bank's net banking system.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

Statement 1 is correct: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to introduce a mechanism of 'Positive Pay' for all cheques of value Rs 50,000 and above. This will cover approximately 20 percent and 80 percent of total cheques by volume and value, respectively. Positive Pay is a fraud detection tool adopted by banks to protect customers against forged, altered or counterfeit cheques.

Statement 2 is correct: The introduction of Positive Pay means that an added layer of security has been provided to the instrument. While issuing a high-value cheque, one can upload its details (such as front and back images) to the bank. Customers will need to put in a cheque number, issuance date, payee name, account number, amount payable along with an image of the front and reverse side of the instrument on the Positive Pay system.

Q.46 Loya Jirga recently seen in the news, it is related to-

- (a) Afghanistan Peace Summit
- (b) Israel- UAE Peace Agreement
- (c) Israel- Palestinian Peace Process
- (d) India-China LAC stand off

Answer: A

Option A is correct: Indian and Afghan officials in Delhi and Kabul discussed the outcome of the Loya Jirga, or grand assembly, in Afghanistan that advised the release of 400 Taliban militants convicted of serious crimes. The two sides discussed the likelihood of intra-Afghan negotiations in Doha, Qatar, as well as the hopes for a permanent ceasefire. The Loya Jirga has been convened after the Afghanistan President refused to release the Taliban prisoners which threatened the derailment of intra-Afghan talks. A Loya Jirga is a special type of jirga, or legal assembly, in Pashtunwali, the traditional code of laws of the Pashtun people.

Q.47 With reference to the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), consider the following statements:

1. Under this, every Indian citizen will have unique health IDs, digitised health records with identifiers for doctors and health facilities.
2. The initiative is implemented by respective states under the National Health Mission.

Which of the statements given is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of National Digital Health Mission on August 15, 2020 during his speech on India's 74th Independence Day. With the launch of the historic mission, every Indian will soon have a digital health account. Under the National Digital Health Mission, every Indian will get a Health ID card that will work as a health account comprising information regarding the person's past medical conditions, treatment and diagnosis.

Statement 2 is not correct: The National Health Authority (NHA), which runs the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, would be designing and implementing the NDHM.

Q.48 With reference to the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO), consider the following statements:

1. It will permit end-users to interact with academia and industry for fostering innovation and indigenisation in defence sector.
2. It is a two--tiered organisation having Naval Technology Acceleration Council and Technology Development Acceleration Cell.

Which of the statements given is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: Recently, Defence Minister launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO). The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence.

Statement 2 is not correct: A three-tiered organisation-

- Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC)- It will bring together the twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and provide apex level directives.
- A working group under the N-TAC will implement the projects.
- A Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC)- It has been created for induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame

Q.49 Papum Reserve Forest (RF) was in the news recently, it is located in which of the following state?

- (a) Assam
(b) Meghalaya
(c) Arunachal Pradesh
(d) Tripura

Answer: C

Option C is correct: Recently, a study based on satellite data has flagged a high rate of deforestation in a major hornbill habitat in Arunachal Pradesh. According to the Global Forest Watch 2020 report, Arunachal Pradesh lost 1,110 sq.km. of the primary forest from 2002-2019. Papum Reserve Forest (RF) is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in Arunachal

Pradesh. It is located between two IBAs, Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary to the east and Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary to the west. Papum Reserve Forest forms part of the Eastern Himalayas Endemic Bird Area. A large part of the site is covered by Sub-tropical Dry Evergreen and Semi-evergreen Forests, while the higher areas are under Subtropical Broadleaf Hill Forest cover.

Q.50 Abraham Accords recently seen in the news is related to

- (a) Afghanistan Peace Summit
- (b) Israel- UAE Peace Agreement
- (c) Israel- Palestinian Peace Process
- (d) UN Treaty on Peace and Disarmament

Answer: B

Option B is correct: Recently, the Israel-United Arab Emirates Peace Agreement or the Abraham Accord was decided by the UAE and Israel. If the agreement is signed then UAE will be the third Arab country to sign a peace agreement with Israel after Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994). It will also be the first Persian Gulf country to sign an accord with Israel. The deal states that UAE would recognise the state of Israel and establish formal diplomatic relations with it, while Israel would halt its controversial plan to annex swathes of the Palestinian West Bank.

Q.51 Which of the following statement(s) is/are **not correct** with respect to the Election Commission of India?

- 1. The Commission has the power to disqualify a candidate who has failed to lodge an account of his election expenses.
 - 2. The members hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
 - 3. The retired election commissioners are barred from further appointment under the Constitution.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

Statement 1 is correct: Under the Constitution, the Commission also has advisory jurisdiction in the matter of post election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures. Further, the cases of persons found guilty of corrupt practices at elections which come before the Supreme Court and High Courts are also referred to the Commission for its opinion on the question as to whether such person shall be disqualified. The Commission has the power to disqualify a candidate who has failed to lodge an account of his election expenses within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. The Commission has also the power for removing or reducing the period of such disqualification as also other disqualification under the law.

Statement 2 is not correct: The office is held by them for a term of 6 years or until they attain 65 years, whichever happens first. They can also be removed or can resign at any time before the expiry of their term.

Statement 3 is not correct: The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

Q.52 With reference to the Gorumara National Park, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the Eastern Himalayas' submontane Terai belt in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It is located on the flood plains of the Murti River and Raidak River.
3. The park is rich in large herbivores including Indian Rhinoceros and Indian gaur.

Which of the statements given is/are not correct?

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

Answer: A

Statement 1 is not correct: Recently, Indian bison killed for aphrodisiac in Gorumara National Park. The park is located in the Eastern Himalayas' submontane Terai belt. This region has rolling forests and riverine grasslands and is known as the Dooars in West Bengal.

Statement 2 is correct: The park is located on the floodplains of the Murti River and Raidak River. The major river of the park is the Jaldhaka River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra river system. In this regard, Gorumara is a significant watershed area between the Ganges and Brahmaputra river systems.

Statement 3 is correct: The park is rich in large herbivores including Indian rhinoceros, gaur, Asian elephant, sloth bear, chital, and sambar deer. Small herbivores include barking deer, hog deer and wild boar.

Q.53 Which of the following statement(s) is/are **correct** with respect to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)?

1. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second-largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations.
2. Its headquarters is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
3. India is a member of the OIC.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second-largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states.

Statement 2 is correct: It is headquartered in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Statement 3 is not correct: India is not a member of the OIC. However, for the first time in five decades, the United Arab Emirates invited the foreign minister of India Sushma Swaraj to attend the inaugural plenary 46th meeting of OIC foreign ministers held in Abu Dhabi overruling strong objections by Pakistan.

Q.54 Mulgaonkar Principles was in the news related to which of the following subjects?

- (a) Defection in the politics
- (b) Child abuse
- (c) Contempt of Court
- (d) Trafficking of Women

Answer: C

Option C is correct: Recently, in the criticism against the Supreme Court's ruling that held advocate Prashant Bhushan guilty of contempt of court, his counsel has invoked the 'Mulgaonkar principles', urging the court to show restraint. S Mulgaonkar v Unknown (1978) is a case that led to a landmark ruling on the subject of contempt of court. In the verdict which had a 2:1 majority, the court held Mulgaonkar, then editor of The Indian Express, not guilty of contempt although the same Bench had initiated the proceedings. Justices P Kailasam and Krishna Iyer formed the majority going against then Chief Justice of India M H Beg. Justice Iyer's counsel of caution in exercising the contempt jurisdiction came to be called the Mulgaonkar principles.

Q.55 With reference to Swachh Survekshan 2020 report, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by NITI Aayog.
2. Indore was ranked number one among the cities with over 1 lakh population, and is the cleanest city in the overall category this year.
3. The Quality Council of India (QCI) is in charge of evaluating the performance of the participating cities.

Which of the statements given is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is not correct: Recently, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry released the Swachh Survekshan 2020 report. This was the fifth edition of the Swachh Survekshan. The survey of sanitation in over 4,000 cities was carried out earlier this year over 28 days. The survey became the world's largest sanitation survey, with 1.8 crore citizens giving their feedback.

Statement 2 is correct: For the fourth year in a row, Indore has been ranked the cleanest city in the country. Among the cities with over 1 lakh population, Indore was ranked number one, followed by Surat, Navi Mumbai, Ambikapur, Mysore, Vijayawada, Ahmedabad, New Delhi, Chandrapur and Khargone.

Statement 3 is correct: The Quality Council of India (QCI) is in charge of evaluating the performance of the participating cities. This is an autonomous accreditation body which was set up by the Government of India in 1997 for quality assurance in all fields, including governance.

Q.56 'Operation Breathing Space' is the news recently, it is -

- (a) A mission between Indian and Israel to develop rapid diagnostic tests for Covid-19.
- (b) An initiative of ICMR to create awareness among the public related to COVID-19.
- (c) A mission launched by IAF to provide essential medicines to the Maldives to treat COVID-19.
- (d) An initiative to facilitate the fast and easy trial of the COVID-19 related vaccines in India.

Answer: A

Option A is correct: Recently, an Israeli team, led by a "high ranking" research and development (R&D) defence official, arrived in Delhi with a multi-pronged mission. The mission has been named as "Operation Breathing Space". The Israeli team will work with Indian authorities on the COVID-19 response. It will have four different kinds of rapid tests, which will be jointly developed after trials on Indian COVID-19 patients. The primary focus will be on developing a test kit which will give results in around 30 seconds, in order to improve testing speed. The tests that the Israeli

teams will be conducting trials for including an audio test, a breath test, thermal testing, and a polyamine test which seeks to isolate proteins related to COVID-19.

Q.57 With reference to Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Consider the following statements:

1. Under this scheme, the funds are released in the form of grants-in-aid directly to the district authorities.
2. The funds released under the scheme are lapsable if not spent in a particular year.
3. The implementation and monitoring of the scheme are done by the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: MPLADS is a centrally-sponsored plan scheme fully funded by the government of India. Under this scheme, the funds are released in the form of grants in aids directly to the district authorities. Under the scheme, each MP has the choice to suggest to the District Collector for works to the tune of Rs.5 Crores per annum to be taken up in his/her constituency.

Statement 2 is not correct: The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable. This means that if the funds for a particular is not spent in that year, it will be carried forward.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme has issued the guidelines on MPLADS Scheme including implementation and monitoring of the scheme. The Department has initiated all necessary steps to ensure that the scheme is successfully implemented in the field.