

Q.1 “Echo and Bifrost” terms were mentioned in the news, they are associated with:

- (a) Satellites for exploring exoplanets
- (b) Supercomputers
- (c) Undersea internet cables
- (d) Study of sea floor using LIDAR technology

[ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct: Facebook and Google are planning two undersea internet cables named “Echo and Bifrost” to connect the US to Singapore and Indonesia. Echo will run from Eureka, California to Singapore, with a stop-over in Guam, and thereto in Indonesia. Google is only investing in Echo, Facebook is investing in both cables. Need: The current COVID-19 pandemic across the globe has increased the need for reliable Internet access. And, this will provide vital new connections between the Asia-Pacific region and North America and increase the overall transpacific capacity by 70 per cent.

Q.2 Bandhavgarh National Park was seen in the news, it is located in?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Tamil Nadu

[ANS] a

[SOL] Option A is correct: Recently, Wildfire had spread across several zones in Bandhavgarh National Park. It is the most popular national park in India is located in the Vindhya Hills of the Umaria district in Madhya Pradesh. It was declared a national park in 1968. The name Bandhavgarh has been derived from the most prominent hillock of the area of Umaria. The area of Bandhavgarh is being flourished with a large biodiversity, the place which is also famed to grasp the highest density of tiger population in India.

Q.3 Global Gender Gap Report is released by which of the following organisations?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) World Health Organization (WHO)
- (c) United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
- (d) International Labour Organization (ILO)

[ANS] a

[SOL] Global Gender Gap Report released by World Economic Forum

- It is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.
- The Forum engages the foremost political, business, cultural and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Q.4 With reference to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), consider the following statements:

1. These schemes are 100% funded by the Union government and implemented by the respective state government machinery.
2. They are mainly formulated on the subjects in the Union List.
3. MGNREGA comes under the category of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: In India's development plan exercise we have two types of schemes i.e central sector and centrally sponsored scheme. Under Central sector schemes, it is 100% funded by the Union government and implemented by the Central Government machinery. Central sector schemes are mainly formulated on subjects from the Union List. Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) a certain percentage of the funding is borne by the States in the ratio of 50:50, 70:30, 75:25 or 90:10 and the implementation is by the State Governments.

Statement 2 is not correct: Centrally Sponsored Schemes are formulated in subjects from the State List to encourage States to prioritise in areas that require more attention.

Statement 3 is correct: The centrally sponsored schemes are divided into two categories – core of the core schemes and core schemes. MGNREGA or the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act falls under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes: Core of the core schemes.

Q.5 Consider the following statements:

1. The Central Information Commission was enacted under the provisions of CIC Act 2005.
2. The commission can order an inquiry into any matter only on filing an appeal under RTI.
3. The Chief Information Commissioner is appointed by the President with a warrant under her hand and seal.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005. It was constituted under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). Hence, it is not a constitutional body.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Commission can order an inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (suo- moto power). While inquiring, the commission has the power of the civil court in certain matters.

Statement 3 is not correct: The Commission consists of Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten information commissioners. They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Under Article 155 of the Constitution, the Comptroller and Audit General of India shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal. This means that the appointment letter bears the signature and seal of the President of India. The rest of the appointments don't require the signature of the President as he can delegate this to other authority. In that case the appointment letter will bear the signature of the respective authority.

Q.6 With reference to Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a regional organization comprising ten member states.
2. It was established through the Bangkok Declaration in 1997.
3. The BIMSTEC region has roughly half of the World's population.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: At the ministerial meet of the BIMSTEC, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, India reiterated to make it a stronger, vibrant and result-oriented grouping.

Statement 1 and 3 are not correct: BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. Members: India, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The BIMSTEC region is home to roughly 22 per cent of the global population with a combined GDP of over USD 2.7 trillion.

Statement 2 is correct: It was established through the Bangkok Declaration in 1997. It will focus on enhancing multilateral cooperation and engagement with countries from around the globe to collectively develop and strengthen the startup ecosystems.

Q.7 With reference to the Aditya-L1 mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first solar mission.
2. Under the mission, the study of the Sun's corona, solar emissions, solar winds and flares, and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) are to be conducted.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, researchers from the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital and the Royal Observatory of Belgium have developed CMEs Identification in Inner Solar Corona (CIISCO).

Option C is correct: Aditya-L1 First Indian mission to study the Sun. It was meant to observe only the solar corona. The outer layers of the Sun, extending to thousands of km above the disc (photosphere) is termed as the corona. A Satellite placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian

point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/ eclipses.

Q.8 Consider the following statements:

1. Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest film honour conferred for outstanding contribution to the development of Indian cinema.
2. It is a part of the National Films Awards ceremony.
3. It is presented annually by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Dadasaheb Phalke Award is the highest honour for an artist in Indian cinema. The Government of India started it in 1969 to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke, known as the 'Father of Indian Cinema'.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: It is presented annually at the National Films Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The recipients are honoured for their outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema.

Q.9 The term 'Twin deficit' often seen in the news related to economy, it is a

- (a) High Current Account Deficit and High Fiscal Deficit
- (b) High Budget Deficit and High Fiscal Deficit
- (c) High Capital Account Deficit and High Fiscal Deficit
- (d) High Current Account Deficit and High Revenue Deficit

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: According to the Reserve Bank of India, India's current account deficit narrowed to 0.2 percent of the GDP in the December quarter as against 0.4 per cent of GDP in the year-ago period.

Option A is correct: In simple terms, the current account measures the flow of goods, services, and investments into and out of the country. It represents a country's foreign transactions and, like the capital account, is a component of a country's Balance of Payments (BOP). The Current Account Deficit (CAD) is the shortfall between the money flowing in on exports, and the money flowing out on imports. Current Account Deficit and Fiscal Deficit (also known as "budget deficit" is a situation when a nation's expenditure exceeds its revenues) are together known as twin deficits and both often reinforce each other, i.e., a high fiscal deficit leads to higher CAD and vice versa.

Q.10 With reference to Neutrinos, consider the following statements:

1. These massless subatomic particles are the most abundant particles.
2. They do not carry any charge and do not interact with matter.
3. They can be detected in water or ice as they leave a flash of light when they interact.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Recently, Russian scientists have deployed Baikal-Gigaton Volume Detector (GVD) in the waters of Lake Baikal, Russia.

Statement 1 is not correct: Neutrinos are the smallest particles currently known and about a thousand trillion of them pass through a human body every second. Nearly massless subatomic particles, they are the second most abundant particles after photons (particles of light).

Statement 2 is correct: They do not carry a charge and subsequently do not interact with matter, hence are not easy to catch.

Statement 3 is correct: They can be detected in water or ice as they leave a flash of light or a line of bubbles when they interact. To capture these signs, large detectors and GVD have been designed to detect high-energy neutrinos that may have come from the Earth's core, or could have been produced during nuclear reactions in the Sun.

Q.11 With reference to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), consider the following statements:

1. It examines complaints and welfare measures regarding economically backward classes only.

2. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has urged the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to collect data on the population of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the country "as part of Census of India 2021 exercise".

Statement 1 is not correct: The NCBC has the authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is a constitutional body formed under Article 338B of the Constitution of India under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Q.12 With reference to Suez Canal, consider the following statements:

1. It is an artificial sea-level waterway linking the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea

2. Opened for international navigation in 1956, it was the focal point of the Arab-Israeli War.

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Recently, the cargo ship 'Ever Given' has been finally freed after spending almost a week stuck in the Suez Canal.

Statement 1 is correct: The Suez Canal is located in Egypt. It is an artificial sea-level waterway which was built between 1859 and 1869 and it links the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.

Statement 2 is not correct: The canal was opened for international navigation in 1869 and was nationalised in 1956 to pay for the construction of a dam on the Nile. It was the focal point of the Arab-Israeli War of 1973, with the Arab coalition led by Egypt and Syria.

Q.13 Hamja Folk Dance, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following tribes?

- (a) Bhil tribe
- (b) Rabha tribe
- (c) Adi tribe
- (d) Gond tribe

[ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct: Hamja Folk Dance is a traditional folk dance by the Rabha tribe of Assam, who have an agrarian culture and in shifting cultivation they work together sharing a common song and music. It helps them to finish the work easily, hence in this folk dance, they take agricultural implements. Rabha is a prominent tribe in Assam and is recognized as Scheduled Tribe (ST) by Indian Constitution.

Q.14 With reference to the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card holders, consider the following statements:

1. They have almost all the privileges of an Indian national except for the right to vote, government service and buying agricultural land.
2. Those below 20 years and above 50 years have to renew OCI cards along with the passport renewal.

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Government of India has notified that the People of Indian Origin (PIO) and the Indian diaspora having Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards are not required to carry their old, expired passports for travel to India, as required earlier.

Statement 1 is correct: The OCI card holders enjoy almost all the privileges of an Indian national except for the right to vote, government service and buying agricultural land.

Statement 2 is correct: Under the provisions of OCI cards, those below 20 years and above 50 years need to renew their OCI card every time they have their passport renewed.

Q.15 With reference to PM-KUSUM, consider the following statements:

1. It is a scheme for the rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The Prime Minister's Kisan Urja Suraksha Evum Utthan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme is for farmers. It provides for installation of solar pumps and grid-connected solar and other renewable power plants in the country.

Statement 2 is not correct: The scheme has been launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Q.16 ACT-Accelerator, sometimes seen in the news, is related to?

- (a) Development of Covid-19 tests and treatments
- (b) Curb noise pollution
- (c) Govern speed of the bike
- (d) Building the momentum of regional cooperation

[ANS] a

[SOL] • The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, is a groundbreaking global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

• It was launched at the end of April 2020.

Q.17 With reference to “Sankalp Se Siddhi” - Village & Digital Connect Drive, consider the following statements:

1. It is a 100-day drive to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in the village.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:

- It is a 100-day drive which was started on the 1st of this month.
- It aims to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in the villages.
- The visiting teams will also identify locations and shortlist potential Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for clustering as TRIFOOD, and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries-SFURTI units as larger enterprises.

Statement 2 is not correct:

- TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched “Sankalp Se Siddhi” - Village and Digital Connect Drive.

Q.18 Which of the following statement(s) is/are true regarding the Stand-Up India Scheme?

1. It was launched by the government to promote entrepreneurship among women, Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST).
2. Loans under the scheme are available for only greenfield projects.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The Stand Up India scheme was launched by the government to promote entrepreneurship among women, Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST).

- The scheme is anchored by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.

Statement 2 is correct: Loans under the scheme are available for only greenfield projects. It facilitates bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 Crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise.

Q.19 Consider the following statements:

1. OPEC was established at the Baghdad Conference.
2. India is a member nation of the OPEC+.
3. India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs.

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Government of India has asked the refiners to review their contracts for buying crude oil from Saudi Arabia and negotiate more favourable terms.

Statement 1 is correct: The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was created at the Baghdad Conference in September 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Statement 2 is correct: OPEC+ is a loosely affiliated entity consisting of 13 OPEC members and 10 of the world's major non-OPEC oil-exporting nations. India is not a member.

Statement 3 is correct: India is the world's third-largest consumer of oil and imports 85% of its oil needs and is often vulnerable to global supply and price shocks.

Q.20 Ingenuity Helicopter, recently seen in the news, is related to?

- (a) ISRO's Aditya L-1
- (b) Exercise Indradhush I
- (c) Exercise Red Flag
- (d) NASA's Mars Mission

[ANS] d

[SOL] Option D is correct: Ingenuity Mars Helicopter is a small, autonomous ultra-light aircraft that is carried to the surface of Mars attached to the belly of the Perseverance rover. The 1.8 kg rotorcraft cost NASA around USD 85 million to develop. It is expected to make its first flight attempt no earlier than 11th April 2021 on Mars.

Q.21 Consider the following statements:

1. Article 143 deals with the ordinance making power of the President.
2. An ordinance can be retrospective in nature.
3. The Parliament has to approve the ordinance within six weeks from its reassembly.

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

- (a) 1 and 2 only

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: The President of India has promulgated the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation And Conditions Of Service) Ordinance, 2021.

Statement 1 is not correct: Article 123 of the Constitution grants the President certain law making powers to promulgate Ordinances. Under the Constitution, the power to make laws rests with the legislature, however, in cases when Parliament is not in session and 'immediate action' is needed, the President can issue an ordinance.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct: Ordinances must be approved by Parliament within six weeks of reassembling or they shall cease to operate. An ordinance may have retrospective effect and may be modified to repeal any act of Parliament or even another ordinance. It may also amend or alter a tax law but never can be used to amend the Constitution.

Q.22 Recently, the DRDO has developed the Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard which of the following?

- (a) Naval ships
- (b) Nuclear establishments of India
- (c) Cyber infrastructure of Defence
- (d) Missiles infrastructure

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed three variants of a 'Chaff Rocket'.

Option A is correct: The DRDO's facility Defence Laboratory Jodhpur (DLJ) has indigenously developed three variants of this critical technology: Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium-Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR) and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR). The chaff system basically comprises multiple barrel launchers (Port and Starboard configuration), with each launcher possessing a built-in stabilization system against roll, pitch and yaw motions. It will protect naval ships against enemy missile attack. It is primarily a mechanism that when fired acts as a decoy to deflect the guiding mechanism of enemy missiles. The successful development of Advanced Chaff Technology is another step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Q.23 With reference to the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), consider the following statements:

1. It will provide the data entry and management for India's disease surveillance.
2. It can not be integrated with another ongoing surveillance program.
3. It is in sync with the National Digital Health Mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) None of these

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 and 3 are correct: India is the first country in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system. The new version of IHIP will house the data entry and

management for India's disease surveillance program. It is in sync with the National Digital Health Mission and fully compatible with the other digital information systems presently being used in India.

Statement 2 is not correct: It can easily be integrated with another ongoing surveillance program while having the feature of the addition of special surveillance modules.

Q.24 With reference to the Spices Board India, consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous body responsible for the export promotion of scheduled spices.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The Spices Board India was constituted in February 1987 under the Spices Board Act 1986. It is an autonomous body, responsible for the export promotion of the 52 scheduled spices and the development of Cardamom (small and large).

Statement 2 is not correct: It is one of the five Commodity Boards functioning under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Q.25 Consider the following statements:

1. Article 323A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative Tribunals with respect to conditions of service of persons appointed to public services.
2. The provision for Tribunals was added by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body set up to deal with problems such as resolving administrative or tax-related disputes. Article 323A empowers the parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for adjudicating the disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of a person appointed to public service of centre, states, local bodies, public corporations and other public authority.

Statement 2 is not correct: The provision for Tribunals was added by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act which added two new articles to the constitution.

Q.26 Consider the following statements:

1. Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) is the specially trained unit of CRPF.
2. It was originally established for coordinating Indian Army in anti-terror operations in Jammu & Kashmir.

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

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

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Recently, there have been incidents of security personnel getting killed and injured in encounters with Maoists in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh.

Statement 1 is correct: The elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) is a specially trained unit of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Statements 2 is not correct: It was established for operations in areas affected by the Maoists in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) state of Chattisgarh.

Q.27 Narikurava community, recently seen in the news, is an indigenous community from which of the following states?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Tamil Nadu

[ANS] d

[SOL] Option D is correct: The Narikuravar is an indigenous community from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. They have traditionally been hunters, but now make and sell beads and small beauty products at the margins of roads, often searching for business from place to place in hopes of finding new markets and customers.

Q.28 With reference to Pre-packs, related to economy, consider the following statements:

1. It is a resolution of the debt of a distressed company through a public bidding process.
2. It helps corporate debtors to enter into consensual restructuring with lenders.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: The central government promulgated an ordinance allowing the use of pre-packs as an insolvency resolution mechanism for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with defaults up to Rs. 1 crore, under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Statement 1 is correct: A pre-pack is the resolution of the debt of a distressed company through an agreement between secured creditors and investors instead of a public bidding process.

Statement 2 is correct: Pre-packs are largely aimed at providing MSMEs with an opportunity to restructure their liabilities and start with a clean slate while still providing adequate protections so that the system is not misused by firms to avoid making payments to creditors. Prepacks will help corporate debtors to enter into consensual restructuring with lenders and address the entire liability side of the company.

Q.29 With reference to the National Security Act (NSA), consider the following statements:

1. It has its historical roots in the Bengal Regulation III.
2. Under it, foreigners cannot be detained or expelled from India.
3. Data of cases under it is collected by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: A recent analysis of records shows that the National Security Act (NSA) has been invoked in Uttar Pradesh (UP) frequently.

Statement 1 is correct: The NSA has its roots in the colonial era. In 1818, Bengal Regulation III was enacted to empower the British government to arrest anyone for maintenance of public order without giving the person recourse to judicial proceedings.

Statement 2 is not correct: The act allows for preventive detention and empowers the government to detain foreigners and regulate their presence or expel them from India.

Statement 3 is not correct: The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which collects crime data in India, does not include cases under the NSA as no FIRs are registered.

Q.30 Wolf-Rayet, recently seen in the news, is a?

- (a) Asteroid
- (b) Planet
- (c) Star
- (d) Satellite

[ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct: Wolf-Rayet stars are one of the hottest kinds of stars. They are highly luminous objects (thousand times that of the Sun). They strip their outer hydrogen envelope which is associated with the fusion of Helium and other elements in the massive core.

Q.31 With reference to Lord Venkateswara Temple, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Tirumala hills and is also called a temple of seven hills.
2. It is constructed in Nagara Architecture style.

Select the correct answer using the code(s) given below.

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The Temple is dedicated to Lord Sri Venkateswara, an incarnation of Vishnu, who is believed to have appeared here to save mankind from the trials and troubles of Kali Yuga. The temple on Tirumala hills is also known as Tirupati Balaji temple. It is also called a temple of seven hills.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Temple is constructed in Dravidian architecture and is believed to be constructed over a period of time starting from 300 AD.

Q.32 With reference to Permanent Court of Arbitration, consider the following statements:

1. It is an international court established to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between States.
2. The decisions delivered by it are binding on all the parties in the dispute settlement.

3. It is headquartered in the Hague.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct: It was established in 1899 and has headquarters at the Hague in the Netherlands. It is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to serve the international community in the field of dispute resolution and to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between States. In real terms it is not a court, it is an organizer of arbitral tribunals to resolve conflicts between member states, international organizations, or private parties. All decisions delivered by it are called “awards” are binding on all the parties in the dispute and have to be carried out without delay.

Q.33 With reference to Opium Poppy, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a medicinal herb that produces a variety of alkaloids.
- 2. Under the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), India is not allowed to grow opium poppy.
- 3. The gum extraction process from opium needs skilled workers to extract the latex.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Central government has decided to rope in the private sector to commence production of concentrated poppy straw from India’s opium crop.

Statement 1 is correct: Opium poppy is a medicinal herb that produces a variety of alkaloids such as morphine, codeine, etc. and is best known as a pain reliever in modern medicine.

Statement 2 is not correct: Under the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), India is among the 12 countries in the world allowed to grow opium poppy for medicinal use.

Statement 3 is correct: India is the only nation allowed to extract gum opium, in which skilled workers manually extract the latex that contains 70% of the morphine synthesized by the plant by lancing its flower-bearing pod.

Q.34 With reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a statutory body under the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act.
- 2. It can take any case suo-moto in the Union Territories but not in states.
- 3. Superintendence of CBI rests with CVC in all the corruption and administrative cases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) has told the government that interim appointments to the post of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director cannot go on.

Statement 1 is not correct: CBI is the main investigation agency of the central government for cases relating to corruption and major criminal probes. It has its origin in Special Police Establishment set up in 1941 to probe bribery and corruption during World War II. Although the DSPE Act gives legal power to CBI, CBI is not a statutory body as the word 'CBI' is not mentioned in the DSPE act.

Statement 2 is not correct: It can begin a probe under certain circumstances if a state government makes a request and the Union government agrees to it if the Supreme Court or any High Court orders the CBI to take up such investigations. It can take a case suo-moto only in the Union Territories.

Statement 3 is not correct: Superintendence of CBI rests with CVC in corruption cases and with the Department of personnel and training in other matters. Presently it acts as an attached office under DOPT.

Q.35 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 Prime Minister, 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. It 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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has modified the guidelines pertaining to the transfer and posting of officials in the vigilance units of government organisations, restricting their tenure to three years at one place.

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 not correct: 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 not correct: 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.36 With reference to the Standard Model in physics, consider the following statements:

1. It is a theory of fundamental particles.
2. It lays out the rules for behaviour of subatomic particles under the influence of gravitational forces.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Recently published study of an international experiment called Muon $g-2$ (g minus two), hints at the possibility of new physics governing the laws of nature.

Statement 1 is correct: The Standard Model is the name given in the 1970s to a theory of fundamental particles and how they interact. All particle physics is based on this model.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is a rigorous theory that predicts the behaviour of the building blocks of the universe. It lays out the rules for how the subatomic particles behave under the influence of electromagnetic forces.

Q.37 Anamaya, recently seen in the news, is related to?

- (a) Rover of Aditya-L1
- (b) River Cleaning Fund
- (c) Education for Children
- (d) Tribal Health Collaborative

[ANS] d

[SOL] Option D is correct: Anamaya, Tribal Health Collaborative, is a multi-stakeholder initiative launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It will converge various government efforts to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities and will play a crucial role in achieving the ultimate goal of 'Health for All'.

Q.38 With reference to the African Swine Fever, consider the following statements:

1. It is a contagious hemorrhagic viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs.
2. It is the **only** virus with a double-stranded DNA genome.
3. It is also **called** Hog Cholera.

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: An outbreak of suspected African swine fever (ASF) has killed 276 domestic pigs in Lunglei district of Mizoram.

Statement 1 is correct: African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious hemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, which is responsible for serious economic and production losses.

Statement 2 is correct: According to the World Organisation for Animal Health, ASF is caused by a large DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family. African swine fever virus is the only virus with a double-stranded DNA genome known to be transmitted by arthropods.

Statement 3 is not correct: As of now, there is no approved vaccine against ASF unlike classical swine fever ('Hog Cholera') which is caused by a different virus. Classical Swine Fever (CSF) is one of the most important viral diseases of domestic pigs and wild boar. It is also called Hog Cholera.

Q.39 Which of the following organisations releases the World Economic Outlook report?

- (a) World Bank(WB)
- (b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (c) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- (d) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

[ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) releases the World Economic Outlook (WEO) 2021. It provides analysis and forecasts of economic developments and policies in its member countries. The WEO is released in April and September/October each year. The report projects the state of the global economy and highlights risks and uncertainty that threaten growth.

Q.40 With reference to Clean Ganga Fund, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to set up waste treatment plants and conservation of biotic diversity of the river Ganga.
2. Donations made to this Fund are exempt from Income Tax under Section 80-G.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Clean Ganga Fund was formed in 2014 for cleaning up of the Ganga, setting up waste treatment plants and conservation of biotic diversity of the river. It began as an initiative to harness the enthusiasm of people for Ganga and to bring them closer to the Ganga and inculcate a sense of ownership.

Statement 2 is correct: It is envisioned as a source of funds from private companies, individuals and institutions. Any donation made to the Clean Ganga Fund is exempt from Income Tax under Section 80-G.

Q.41 With reference to the International Monetary and Finance Committee (IMFC), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an advisory body under the ambit of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. It meets twice a year, during the Spring and Annual Meetings.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The International Monetary and Finance Committee (IMFC) is an advisory body without decision-making powers but helps in providing strategic direction to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It also considers proposals by the Executive Board to amend the Articles of Agreement and advises on any other matters that may be referred to it by the Board of Governors.

Statement 2 is correct: The IMFC usually meets twice a year, at the Bank-Fund Annual and Spring Meetings.

Q.42 With reference to Civil Defence Volunteers, consider the following statements:

1. These volunteers work under the command of the district magistrates.
2. A person who intends to apply for appointment to a Civil Defence Corps must have completed the age of 21 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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Recently, the role of the civil defence volunteers in the national capital has come under intense scrutiny from being lauded for their work during the pandemic to facing allegations of high-handedness.

Statements 1 correct: In Delhi, these are men and women who work under the command of the district magistrates. The overall command lies with the divisional commissioner, to which the DMs report. These volunteers are governed by the Civil Defence Act, 1968 which has undergone multiple amendments, with the latest being in 2010 when disaster management was added as one of their roles. **Statement 2 is not correct:** A person who intends to apply for appointment to a Civil Defence Corps must fulfill the following conditions: He/she shall be a citizen of India or Bhutan or of Nepal. He/she shall have completed the age of 18 years provided that this age limit may be relaxed at the discretion of the competent authority up to a maximum of 3 years for any branch or category of the Corps.

Q.43 NASA's Odyssey Mission, recently seen in the news, is related to?

- (a) Mars
- (b) Titan
- (c) Pluto
- (d) Sun

[ANS] a

[SOL] Option A is correct: NASA's Mars Odyssey spacecraft was launched 20 years ago on 7th April 2001. Currently, it is the oldest spacecraft still working at the Red Planet, Mars. It was sent to map the composition of the Martian surface, providing a window to the past so scientists could piece together how the planet evolved.

Q.44 With reference to BRICS, consider the following statements:

1. Its chairmanship is rotated biannually among the member nations in accordance with their acronyms.

2. The Fortaleza Declaration of the 2014 BRICS Summit signed the agreement establishing the New Development 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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Recently, India has virtually hosted a Meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

Statement 1 is not correct: The chairmanship of the group is rotated annually among the members, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S and its Leaders' Summit is held annually.

Statement 2 is correct: During the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014), the leaders signed the agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB).

Q.45 Consider the following statements:

- 1. Rohingya are the largest ethnic group belonging to the Rakhine province of Myanmar
- 2. India is signatory to the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.
- 3. Only illegal migrants not refugees are covered under the Foreigners Act, 1946.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: The Supreme Court refused to grant relief in a petition challenging the detention of Rohingyas in Jammu and their deportation to Myanmar without following law.

Statement 1 is correct: Rohingya are an ethnic group, representing the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar and predominantly live in the Western Myanmar province of Rakhine.

Statement 2 is not correct: India is not a party to the United Nations Refugee Convention, 1951 or its 1967 protocol. It acceded to various Human Rights treaties including the UNHCR and it is obliged to protect the rights of refugees.

Statement 3 is not correct: As per Indian law, there is no law to deal with the refugee, both illegal migrants & refugees categories of people are viewed as one and the same and are covered under the Foreigners Act, 1946.

Q.46 Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Bar-headed goose (Anser Indicus)?

- 1. They are generally found in the Siberian region and migrate to Indian subcontinent during the summer season.
- 2. These birds fly at very high altitude compared to normal birds.
- 3. They are capable of sustaining the high oxygen demands of flight in air.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Bar-headed geese are found in central China and Mongolia and they breed there. They start the migration to the Indian sub-continent during the winter and stay here till the end of the season.

Statement 2 is correct: They are one of the birds which can fly even at very high altitude. They come to India and return to their homes by crossing the Himalayan ranges.

Statement 3 is correct: Their ability to sustain the high oxygen demands of flight in the air that is exceedingly oxygen-thin is exceptional. The capacity of bar-headed geese to transport and consume oxygen at high rates in hypoxia distinguishes this species from similar lowland waterfowl.

Q.47 With reference to the Indian economy, 'Open Market Operations' are:

(a) Borrowing by scheduled banks from the RBI

(b) Lending by commercial banks to industry and trade

(c) Purchase and sale of government securities by the RBI

(d) None of the above

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: The Reserve Bank of India will conduct the open market purchase of government securities of ₹ 1 lakh crore under the G-sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 1.0) in FY22.

Option C is correct: An open market operation (OMO) is an activity by a central bank to give (or take) liquidity in its currency to (or from) a bank or a group of banks. The OMOs are conducted by the RBI in the form of sale and purchase of Government Securities (G-Secs) to adjust liquidity in the market. If there is excess liquidity, then RBI undertakes sale of G-Secs and if there is liquidity crunch, then RBI conducts purchase of G-Secs.

Q.48 With reference to the Government Securities (G-Sec), consider the following statements:

1. They are tradable instruments issued by the Central Government only.

2. Treasury bills are one of the types of Government Securities.

3. These are free from the risk of default.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: The Reserve Bank of India will conduct the open market purchase of government securities of ₹ 1 lakh crore under the G-sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 1.0) in FY22.

Statement 1 is not correct: It is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. So, statement 1 is not correct.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year- presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more). G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

Q.49 Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth Seekers) was founded by?

- (a) Annie Beasant
- (b) Jyotirao Govindrao Phule
- (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: April 11 every year is celebrated as Jyotiba Phule Jayanti.

Option A is correct: Jyotirao Govindrao Phule along with his followers, formed the Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth Seekers) to attain equal rights for people from exploited castes. People from all religions and castes could become a part of this association which worked for the upliftment of the oppressed classes.

Q.50 Consider the following statement:

1. The Permanent Court of Arbitration is an organizer of arbitral tribunals to resolve international conflicts.
2. Its decisions are called “awards”.
3. Awards are not binding on parties and the parties can appeal against them.

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) has held that the case against two Italian marines will be closed only after Republic of Italy deposits with it Rs. 10 crore as compensation to victims.

Statement 1 is correct: The Permanent Court of Arbitration is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to serve the international community in the field of dispute resolution and to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between States. In real terms it is not a court, it is an organizer of arbitral tribunals to resolve conflicts between member states, international organizations, or private parties.

Statement 2 is correct: All decisions delivered by it are called “awards”.

Statement 3 is not correct: Awards are binding on all the parties in the dispute and have to be carried out without delay. The parties cannot appeal against them.

Q.51 SARTHAQ Scheme, recently seen in the news, is related to?

- (a) MSME Development
- (b) Rural Women Employment
- (c) Export Boosting
- (d) School Education

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ) has been released during a high-level meeting on the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Option D is correct: SARTHAQ is an indicative and suggestive implementation plan for school education and delineates the roadmap and way forward for the implementation of NEP 2020 for the next 10 years. It has been developed by the Department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Education through a consultative process with States/UTs and other stakeholders.

Q.52 With reference to the GATI initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
2. It aims to establish gender equality in the STEM fields.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The Gender Advancement through Transforming Institutions (GATI) initiative is a joint programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and the British Council.

Statement 2 is correct: It aims to establish a Gender Equality framework in order to counter the gender disparity in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEMM), among other aims.

Q.53 With reference to the Lilavati Awards, consider the following statements:

1. These are presented by the All India Council for Technical Education.
2. It recognises notable contributions by women in the field of applied mathematics.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The Lilavati Awards were instituted and are presented by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Statement 2 is correct: The awards are aimed to award the efforts taken in the field of women's development and create 'equality and fairness' for women in all spheres of their lives.

Q.54 Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) as well as the other Election Commissioners are provided with the security of tenure.
2. The Constitution of India has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.
3. The retiring election commissioners are not eligible for further appointment by the government.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Recently, the President appointed Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

Statement 1 is not correct: The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. They have a tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. The chief election commissioner is provided with security of tenure. He cannot be removed from his office except in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court. The Constitutional provision is silent about the procedure for removal of the two Election Commissioners. It only provides that they cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the CEC.

Statement 2 is correct: The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.

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

Q.55 With reference to the Shaphari Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a certification scheme for Shrimp aquaculture.
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has kicked off the Shaphari scheme to certify Shrimp hatcheries and farms that adopt good aquaculture practices.

Statement 1 is correct: The Shaphari Scheme is a certification scheme developed by the Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) to certify Shrimp aquaculture (hatcheries and farms).

Statement 2 is not correct: It has been launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Q.56 Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Chhattisgarh
- (d) Telangana

[ANS] a

[SOL] Option A is correct: The Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve is located in the Gondia and Bhandara districts in the North-Eastern Maharashtra. In 1970, the forest area of Nagzira was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary. It was notified as the 46th Tiger Reserve of India in December 2013.

Q.57 With respect to the e-SANTA portal, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide digital learning solutions to schools for tribal children.
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The term e-SANTA is coined for the web portal, meaning Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade-in Aquaculture. It is an electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and buyers. It will enable farmers to get a better price and the exporters to directly purchase quality products from the farmers enhancing traceability.

Statement 2 is correct: It has been launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Q.58 With reference to the Ganges River Dolphins, consider the following statements:

1. These are often referred to as blind dolphins, unlike the Indus river dolphins.
2. These are classified as 'Endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
3. Their fresh tissue samples can be transferred freely for research purposes without any permission.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, the detailed analysis of South Asian river dolphins has revealed that the Indus and Ganges River dolphins are not one, but two separate species.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Ganges and Indus River Dolphins are often referred to as blind dolphins because they live in naturally muddy rivers and over millions of years of evolution, have lost their eyesight and instead rely on a sophisticated sonar or echolocation system to navigate and catch prey.

Statement 2 is correct: The population of Ganges river dolphins is declining and is classified as 'Endangered' species under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

Statement 3 is not correct: Due to the protection status of Ganges Dolphin, one cannot transfer any tissue or sample to foreign countries without getting the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) permission from the Competent Authority of Government of India.

Q.59 In the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, British Army opened fire on the people protesting against which of the following acts?

- (a) Government of India Act
- (b) Rowlatt Act
- (c) Pitt's India Act
- (d) Criminal Tribes Act

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Prime Minister has paid tributes to the victims of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Option B is correct: The Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place on 13th April 1919, when troops of the British Indian Army, under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer, fired machine guns

into a crowd of unarmed protesters and pilgrims who had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar on the occasion of Baisakhi. They were protesting against the Rowlatt Act, 1919 under the leadership of Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr Satyapal. The authorized the government to imprison or confine, without a trial, any person associated with seditious activities.

Q.60 Consider the following statements:

1. The Bhakti movement preached the principle of monotheism.
2. Idol Worshipping started flourishing in this movement
3. This movement advocated salvation and could obtain deep devotion and faith in guru.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The movement has traditionally been considered as an influential social reformation in Hinduism and provided an individual-focused alternative path to spirituality regardless of one's caste of birth or gender. The bhakti reformers preached the principles of monotheism (oneness of God).

Statement 2 is not correct: They believed in freedom from the cycle of life and death. They advocated that salvation could be attained only by deep devotion and faith in God. They advocated the principle of Universal brotherhood and criticized idol worship.

Statement 3 is not correct: They stressed the singing of hymns with deep devotion. Arguing that all living beings, including humans, were god's children they strongly denounced the caste system which divided people according to their birth. They emphasized the self-surrender for obtaining the bliss and grace of God. Gurus could act as guides and preceptors.

Q.61 Consider the following statements:

1. Only Greater One-Horned Rhino are found in India.
2. It is classified as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In news: Recently, the ambitious Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV2020) has come to a close with the release of two rhinos in Assam's Manas National Park transported from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

Statement 1 is correct: Only the Greater One-Horned Rhino is found in India which is also known as the Indian rhino and is the largest of the rhino species.

Statement 2 is not correct: It has been classified as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List. It faces the threats of habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching (especially for their horns and hide, reducing population density and decreasing genetic diversity).

Q.62 Consider the following pairs:

Festival — State

Gudi Padwa — Karnataka

Ugadi — Maharashtra

Vishu — Kerala

Puthandu — Tamil Nadu

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: The Vice President of India greeted the people on festivals ‘Chaitra Sukladi, Gudi Padwa, Ugadi, Cheti Chand, Vaisakhi, Vishu, Puthandu, and Bohag Bihu’.

Pair 1 is not correctly matched: Gudi Padwa is primarily celebrated by the people in Maharashtra and Goa.

Pair 2 is not correctly matched: Ugadi, also known as Yugadi, is celebrated as New Year's Day by the people of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: The festival of Vishu heralds the beginning of the Malayalee New Year and the festival is celebrated in a big way in Kerala and the adjoining areas of Tamil Nadu.

Pair 4 is correctly matched: Puthandu is also known as Puthuvarudam or Tamil New Year and is the first day of the year on the Tamil calendar.

Q.63 Consider the following statements:

1. Hydrogen Sulphide is a yellowish colour, non flammable and poisonous gas.

2. It is produced by microbial breakdown of organic matter in the absence of oxygen.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

[ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct: Hydrogen Sulphide is a colourless chalcogen hydride gas with a characteristic foul odour. It is very poisonous, corrosive, and flammable. It dissolves in water and oil, and it may be released when these liquids are heated, depressurized, or agitated. Because it is heavier than air, it may settle in low spots. H₂S is the primary gas produced from the microbial breakdown of organic matter in the absence of oxygen, and this necessitates easy detection of its emission from sewers and swamps. It occurs naturally in crude petroleum, natural gas, volcanic gases, and hot springs.

Q.64 With reference to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body established by Article 338A of the Constitution.

2. The Constitution (88th Amendment) Act bifurcated the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes into two separate entities.

3. The members are appointed by the Prime Minister on Council of Ministers advice.

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

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) is a constitutional body and was established by Article 338 of the Constitution.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003 inserted Article 338A which replaced the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the NCSC and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) in February 2004.

Statement 3 is not correct: NCSC consists of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and three other members which are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

Q.65 With reference to the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE), consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has the nodal responsibility of coordinating this mission.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: A team of scientists from the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been awarded for Excellence in Dissemination of agricultural practices and technologies from Lab to Farm by Agriculture. The group worked under the National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE).

Statement 1 is correct: National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). is a multi-pronged, cross-cutting mission across various sectors. It contributes to the sustainable development of the country by enhancing the understanding of climate change.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Ministry of Science and Technology has been given the nodal responsibility of coordinating this mission. However, the mission involves valuable cooperation of Indian Himalayan States, the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to achieve its goals.

Q.66 Recently, National Startup Advisory Council was seen in the news, it is chaired by which of the following ministers?

- (a) Minister for Commerce & Industry.
- (b) Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (c) Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- (d) Minister of Home Affairs

[ANS] a

[SOL] Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had constituted the 'National Startup Advisory Council to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.

Chairman: Minister for Commerce & Industry.

Convener of the Council: Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Ex-officio Members: Nominees of the concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations not below the rank of Joint Secretary

Q.67 With reference to Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), consider the following statements:

1.It was started by the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

2.Under the scheme, five kgs of wheat or rice and one kg of pulses per month will be given at a lower rate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

[ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 and 2 are not correct

The Department of Food & Public Distribution started the implementation of "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)" for a period of three months i.e. April, May and June 2020 and had been extended for five more months.

Under the scheme, five kgs of wheat or rice and one kg of pulses per month will be given free of cost to the poor.

It aimed to ensure sufficient foods for the poor and needy amid the coronavirus crisis.

Q.68 Ponzi Scheme, recently seen in the news, is related to?

(a) Tribal Upliftment

(b) STEM Development

(c) Fraudulent Investment

(d) Tourism Boost

[ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct. The Ponzi Scheme is a fraudulent investing scam promising high rates of return with little risk to investors. It involves unscrupulous investors taking advantage of unsuspecting individuals by promising them extraordinary returns in exchange for their money.

Q.69 Consider the following statements:

1. Hydrogen can be directly used as input for fuel cells to generate electricity.

2. Hydrogen generated from fossil fuels with carbon capture and storage options is called grey hydrogen.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: The Energy Forum (TEF) and the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, are organising a Hydrogen Roundtable titled “Hydrogen Economy- the Indian Dialogue-2021.

Statement 1 is correct. Hydrogen is considered the future of clean and sustainable energy.

It can be directly used as a fuel similar to natural gas or as input for fuel cells to generate electricity.

Statement 2 is not correct. Hydrogen produced from fossil fuels is called grey hydrogen, this constitutes the bulk of the hydrogen produced today. Hydrogen generated from fossil fuels with carbon capture and storage options is called blue hydrogen.

Q.70 With reference to the Raisina Dialogue, consider the following statements:

1. It is India’s premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics.
2. It is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Prime Minister of India has inaugurated the 6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue 2021.

Statement 1 is correct. The Raisina Dialogue is India’s premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. It was started in 2016.

Statement 2 is not correct. The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. This effort is supported by a number of institutions, organisations and individuals, who are committed to the mission of the conference

Q.71 With reference to the Regulations Review Authority, consider the following statements:

1. It is set up by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.
2. It has a validity of a period of one year, unless the tenure is extended.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct. The Regulations Review Authority is set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to review regulations, circulars, reporting systems based on the feedback from public, banks and financial institutions.

Statement 2 is correct. It will have validity for a period of one year from 1st May 2021, unless its tenure is extended by the RBI.

Q.72 With reference to the MIS-C, consider the following statements:

1. It is a hyperinflammatory condition in adults.
2. It's possible cause is delayed response to SARS-CoV-2 in the body.
3. It can be diagnosed by the RT-PCR test and the Rapid Antigen test.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Report shows that a significant number of young people with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) also develop neurological symptoms.

Statement 1 is not correct. It is a newly identified and rare but severe hyperinflammatory condition in children and adolescents.

Statement 2 is correct. MIS-C is a delayed response to the SARS-CoV-2 which in turn causes massive inflammation in the body and as a result damages organs. It can also be a result of the children's immune response making antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2.

Statement 3 is not correct. There is no single test to diagnose MIS-C. The diagnosis is based on symptoms as well as several blood tests to look for signs of inflammation in the body. Also, there is no singular treatment as well.

Q.73 Consider the following statements:

1. The Konyaks Tribes are one of the major Naga ethnic groups.
2. They are known as headhunters of North East India.
3. Aoleng is the biggest festival of the Konyaks Tribes.

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The Konyak are a Naga people and are recognised among other Naga by their tattoos, which they have all over their face and hand. The facial tattoos were earned for taking an enemy's head. They have the largest population among the Nagas.

Statement 2 is correct: They are known as headhunters of North East India. In the recent past, they were known as war loving and often attacked nearby villages of other tribes taking the heads of opposing warriors as trophies to hang in the Morong (a communal house).

Statement 3 is correct: Aoleng, a festival celebrated in the first week of April (1-6) to welcome the spring and also to invoke the Almighty's (Kahwang) blessing upon the land before seed-sowing, is the biggest festival of the Konyaks.

Q.74 With reference to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), consider the following statement:

1. It is a free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and four other partners.
2. It was formally launched in 2012 at the 21st ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.

3. It is the largest regional trading agreement accounting for almost two- third of the global GDP. Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Recently, Singapore has ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement becoming the first participating country to do so.

Statement 1 is not correct: RCEP was originally being negotiated between 16 countries — ASEAN members and countries with which they have free trade agreements (FTAs), namely Australia, China, Korea, Japan, New Zealand and India. **ASEAN Members:** Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

FTA Partners: Australia, People's Republic of China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand.

Statement 2 is correct: The RCEP negotiations were kick-started during the 21st Asean Summit in Cambodia in November 2012.

Statement 3 is not correct: It comprises about 30 percent of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and close to a third of the world's population.

Q.75 Transport 4 All Challenge, recently seen in the news, has been launched by?

- (a) Ministry of Rural Development
- (b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- (c) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
- (d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

[ANS] d

[SOL] Option D is correct. The Transport 4 All Challenge has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP). It aims to develop digital solutions that will make public transport safe, affordable, comfortable, and reliable for all and support the cities and start-ups all over the country to move towards digital transformation in urban mobility.

Q.76 With reference to Currency Manipulators, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a label given by the World Trade Organisation to countries engaged in unfair currency practices.
- 2. India has never been added to the list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Recently, India has been put on the US Treasury's Currency Manipulators Monitoring List along with 10 other countries for the April 2021 list.

Statement 1 is not correct. The US government gives this label to countries which it feels are engaging in unfair currency practices by intentionally devaluing their currency against the US Dollar.

Statement 2 is not correct. India has been put in the April 2021 list and earlier it was present in the December 2020 list as well.

Q.77 With reference to the Lingaraj Temple, consider the following statements:

1. It was built by King Jajati Keshari belonging to Soma Vansh.
2. The temple is one of the finest examples of Nagara style of temple architecture.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct. Lingaraj Temple is located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It was built during the 11th century AD by king Jajati Keshari of Soma Vansh, and has been described as one of the finest examples of purely Hindu temples in India. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Statement 2 is not correct. The temple is referred to as ‘Swayambhu’ (self-originated Shivling) and was built in the Kalinga School of Temple Architecture.

Q.78 With reference to the Disc-Footed Bats, consider the following statements:

1. These are stalactite cave dwelling bats.
2. They can be distinguished by their flattened heads and sticky disk-like pads in the thumbs.
3. Their natural habitat comprises Southern China, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct. Disc-Footed Bats (*Eudiscopus denticulus*) are bamboo-dwelling bats.

Statement 2 is correct. They can be distinguished by their flattened skull and adhesive pads which enable them to roost inside cramped spaces, clinging to smooth surfaces such as bamboo internodes.

Statement 3 is correct. Their natural habitat comprises Southern China, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar. It has been recorded in Meghalaya’s Lailad area near the Nongkhyllam Wildlife Sanctuary, about 1,000 km west of its nearest known habitat in Myanmar.

Q.79 Consider the following statements:

1. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act outlaws the recreational use of cannabis.
2. CBD oil extracted from the leaves and seeds of cannabis is legal in India.

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

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

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) have arrested two persons, including a Pakistani national, and seized 20.57 kg of heroin being smuggled in via Punjab.

Statement 1 is correct. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act) outlaws the recreational use of cannabis. Under the Act, the production, manufacture, possession, sale, purchase, transport, and use of cannabis is a punishable offence.

Statement 2 is correct. The NDPS Act, however, does not apply to the leaves and seeds of cannabis plants. In case the CBD is extracted from the leaves of the cannabis, then technically it is not illegal. CBD oil manufactured under a licence issued by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 can be legally used.

Q.80 Which of the following articles of the Constitution gives the Election Commission the power to supervise elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures?

- (a) Article 325
- (b) Article 234
- (c) Article 324
- (d) Article 235

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, the elections in West Bengal and Assam have been marked by violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

Option C is correct. Article 324 of the Constitution gives the Election Commission (EC) the power to supervise elections to the Parliament and state legislatures. The EC of India is an autonomous constitutional body responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.

Q.81 Recently, RBI has set up a committee headed by Sudarshan Sen, it is related to which of the following?

- (a) Non-Banking Financial Company
- (b) Asset Reconstruction Companies
- (c) Cooperative Banks
- (d) Monetary Policy

[ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct: The RBI has set up a committee headed by Sudarshan Sen to undertake a comprehensive review of the working of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem. The committee will recommend suitable measures for enabling them to meet the growing requirements. Asset Reconstruction Company is a company which buys the bad loans (Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)) of banks or any other financial institution, to let them clear their books and resume lending.

Q.82 Thrissur Pooram Festival is celebrated in which of the following states?

- (a) Odisha

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct: It marks a celebration of **Kerala's cultural diversity** as Hindus, Christians, and Muslims participate together to enjoy the grandest temple festival held in the state. This colourful festival is celebrated in the month of Medam (April–May). It features processions of richly caparisoned elephants and performance of traditional music from various temples to the Vadakunnatha Temple located at Thrissur in Kerala.

Q.83 With reference to Wild Life Protection Act, 1972, consider the following statements:

1. It provides for the protection of only wild animals and birds .
2. It extends to all territory under the Indian government.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct but Statement 2 is correct

It is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted for the protection of plants and animal species. The Act provides for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants; and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto. It extends to all territory under the Indian government.

Q.84 Consider the following pairs:

Sea : Bordering Country

1. Adriatic Sea : Albania
2. Black Sea : Croatia
3. Caspian Sea : Kazakhstan
4. Mediterranean Sea : Morocco
5. Red Sea : Syria

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Pairs 1, 3 and 4 are correctly matched. The Adriatic Sea is positioned between the eastern coastline of Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro and Albania. The Caspian Sea is bordered by

Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Russia. The Mediterranean Sea has 21 countries sharing a border with it and Morocco is one of them.

Pairs 2 and 5 are not correctly matched. The Black Sea is bordered by Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania. The Red sea is bordered by Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti.

Q.85 Consider the following statements:

1. Pangolins are the only mammals wholly-covered in scales for protection from predators.
2. Indian Pangolin is protected under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct. Pangolins are the only mammals wholly-covered in scales, used to protect themselves from predators in the wild. These are solitary, primarily nocturnal animals and are easily recognized by their full armor of scales.

Statement 2 is not correct. Indian Pangolin is protected under Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Q.86 With reference to the World Press Freedom Index, consider the following statements:

1. It is published jointly by the United Nations and the International Labour Organization (ILO).
2. It is an indicator of the quality of journalism in each country or region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Recently, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has published the World Press Freedom Index 2021.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Reporters Without Borders (RSF) publishes the World Press Freedom Index 2021, which is an important advocacy tool based on the principle of emulation between states. It is a point of reference that is quoted by media throughout the world and is used by diplomats and international entities such as the United Nations and the World Bank.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Index ranks 180 countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists based on an evaluation of various criterias. However, it does not rank public policies even if governments obviously have a major impact on their country's ranking. Nor is it an indicator of the quality of journalism in each country or region.

Q.87 With reference to Shri Ramanujacharya, consider the following statements:

1. His philosophical foundations had an influence on the Bhakti movement in North India.

2. He was an adherent of Vishishtadvaita philosophy.
Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Shri Ramanujacharya was a great philosopher, saint, social reformer and proponent of Vedanta and universal brotherhood. His philosophical foundations for devotionalism had an influence on the Bhakti movement in South India.

Statement 2 is correct: He was a chief adherent of Vishishtadvaita philosophy. Vishishtadvaita, also known as trained non-dualism, is one of the major branches of Vedanta. It is a school of Vedanta philosophy that believes in all the diversity that underlies unity.

Q.88 With reference to Indian freedom struggle, consider the following events:

- 1. Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy
- 2. Quit India Movement launched
- 3. Second Round Table Conference

What is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Every year, 21st April is celebrated as the National Civil Services Day, dedicated to India's civil servants for their contribution and hard work in public administration.

Option C is correct: The Second Round Table Conference was held in 1931. Quit India Movement was launched in 1942 and the Mutiny of the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) started in February 1946.

Q.89 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

[ANS] a

[SOL] 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 3 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.

Q.90 With reference to Zero Hour of Parliamentary proceedings, consider the following statements:

1. It is a formal device mentioned under the Rules of Procedure.
2. It is the interregnum between the end of Question Hour and the beginning of the regular proceedings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: It was during the 1960s when several issues of national and international importance used to be raised by members of Parliament immediately after Question Hour. On one such occasion, a member raised an issue pertaining to policy announcements made by the ministers outside Parliament when Parliament was in session. This act triggered an idea among other members who called for another provision for discussing important matters in the House. Zero Hour doesn't find a mention in the Rules of Procedure and hence it's considered an informal procedure for the members of Parliament to raise matters of serious importance.

Statement 2 is correct: It is the time gap between the end of Question Hour and the beginning of the regular business of the House.

Q.91 With reference to the Council of the European Union, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It is the legislative institution of the European Union.
2. It became a formalised institution through the Treaty of Lisbon.

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct : It is not an EU's legislating institution, so it does not negotiate or adopt EU laws. Instead, it sets the EU's policy agenda, traditionally by adopting 'conclusions' during European Council meetings.

Statement 2 is correct: Established as an **informal summit** in 1975. It was formalised as an institution in 2009 upon the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon..

Q.92 Article 224A of the Indian Constitution deals with:

- (a) Appointment of acting Chief Justice in case of absence
- (b) Pay and salaries of High Court judges
- (c) Appointment of ad-hoc judges in High Courts
- (d) Transfer of a judge from one high court to another

[ANS] c

[SOL]

Option C is correct. Article 224A of the Constitution allows the Chief Justice of a High Court to appoint a person who has been a judge earlier to sit as a judge of the court with the prior consent of the President. It was inserted by the Constitution (Fifteenth Amendment) Act, 1963.

Q.93 Consider the following statements:

- 1. India is the largest importer of crude oil in the world.
- 2. India imports 80 per cent of its crude oil and natural gas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL]

In News: India's crude oil production and natural gas production has fallen by 5.2 per cent and 8.1 per cent respectively in the Financial Year (FY) 21.

Statement 1 is not correct. India is the third-largest energy and oil consumer in the world after China and the US.

Statement 2 is not correct. India's oil and gas import dependence is 77.1 per cent for April 2020-January 2021.

Q.94 With reference to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), consider the following statements:

- 1. It was jointly established by the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization.
- 2. India is a member of the commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL]

Statement 1 is not correct. Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an intergovernmental food standards body, set up in May 1963. It was established jointly by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), within the framework of the Joint Food Standards Programme.

Statement 2 is correct. Currently, it has 189 members (188 UN member countries and the European Union). India became a member in 1964 and Timor-Leste is the latest country to join it in 2018.

Q.95 With reference to Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote poverty reduction through building strong institutions.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL]

Statement 1 is correct :

It is the flagship program of Govt. of India for **promoting poverty reduction** through building strong institutions for the poor, particularly women and enabling these institutions to access a range of **financial services and livelihoods**.

Statement 2 is not correct

It was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) as a centrally sponsored programme in June 2011 as a restructured version of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY).

In November 2015, the program was renamed Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).

Q.96 'Blue Nature Alliance' was recently seen in the news, related to which of the following?

- (a) Reduction of GreenHouse Gases
- (b) Oceanic Trade
- (c) Ocean Conservation
- (d) Deep Exploration at Arctic Region

Answer: C

Explanation

Option C is correct: 'Blue Nature Alliance' is a **collaboration led by Conservation International**, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Global Environment Facility, Minderoo Foundation and the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation. It was launched on April 20, 2021. **Aim:** To protect

5% of the world ocean in five years. To protect and conserve the large areas of the ocean from damaging fishing practices, pollution, and climate change. **Target areas are** Antarctica, Seychelles, Canada, Palau, Western Indian Ocean, Fiji, Tristan da Cunha, an island in the South Atlantic Ocean.

Q.97 Recently, the #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge seen in the news, it was launched by which among the following ministries ?

- (a) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (c) Ministry of Communications
- (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Answer: B

Explanation

Option B is correct: The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology announced a #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge to accelerate the adoption of **Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)** in the Government. **Open-source software** requires **no licensing** and need not be bought. Its source code is open for everyone to download, examine, and improve upon if they can, with an acknowledgement to the original software coder or the company.

Q.98 With reference to the African Swine Fever, consider the following statements:

1. It is a contagious hemorrhagic viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs.
2. It is the only virus with a double-stranded DNA genome.
3. It is also called Hog Cholera.

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

Explanation

In News: Certain areas in four districts of Mizoram have been declared as epicentres of the African swine fever (ASF).

Statement 1 is correct: African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious hemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, which is responsible for serious economic and production losses.

Statement 2 is correct: According to the World Organisation for Animal Health, ASF is caused by a large DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family. African swine fever virus is the only virus with a double-stranded DNA genome known to be transmitted by arthropods.

Statement 3 is not correct: As of now, there is no approved vaccine against ASF unlike classical swine fever ('Hog Cholera') which is caused by a different virus. Classical Swine Fever (CSF) is one of the most important viral diseases of domestic pigs and wild boar. It is also called Hog Cholera.

Q.99 'Leaders' Summit on Climate' was recently held, it was hosted by:

- (a) European Union
- (b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- (c) African Union
- (d) United State of America

Answer: D

Explanation:

Option D is correct: Leaders' Summit on Climate was hosted by US President Joe Biden recently. This is seen as a key milestone on the road to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November 2021 in Glasgow. Both India and the United States have set ambitious 2030 targets for climate action and clean energy. It was announced that the U.S. would cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 50%-52% by 2030 relative to 2005 levels. The U.S. would double its annual financing commitments to developing countries by 2024, including a tripling of its adaptation finance by 2024. The emissions targets which are part of the Paris Agreement on climate are non-binding.

Q.100 Consider the following statements:

1. Brucellosis is a zoonotic viral disease of cattles.
2. It is also called as Mediterranean fever.

Which 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: B

Explanation:

In News: The Kerala government launched preventive measures after a few cases of **brucellosis, a zoonotic infection**, was detected in animals.

Option B is correct: Brucellosis is a bacterial disease caused by various Brucella species, which mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs. It is also called Malta fever or Mediterranean fever. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that person-to-person transmission of brucellosis is "extremely rare". A zoonotic disease is a disease that spreads between animals and people.

Q.101 With reference to Disaster Management Act, 2005, consider the following statements:

1. It covers only natural disasters.
2. The act does not contain any provisions for financial mechanisms.

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

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

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 and 2 are not correct:** The Disaster Management Act was enacted by the Parliament of India on December 23, 2005. It **covers all man-made and natural disasters** which are beyond the coping capacity of a community. It also provides powers to the government to act against anyone not abiding by government orders and regulations. The Act **contains the provisions for financial mechanisms** such as the creation of funds for emergency response, the National Disaster Mitigation Fund and similar funds at the state and district levels.

Q.102 Recently, the Kowloon peninsula was seen in the news, it is part of which among the following countries?

- (a) Hong Kong
- (b) South Korea
- (c) North Korea
- (d) Japan

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct:** The Kowloon Peninsula is a part of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, southeastern China. It constitutes the Chinese mainland portion of the Hong Kong region and is located north of Hong Kong Island and east of the mouth of the Pearl (Zhu) River Delta.

Q.103 With reference to Nitric oxide, which of the following statements is / are correct?

1. It is a natural nano molecule produced by the human body.
2. It is known to have an antimicrobial effect.

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **Both the statements are correct:** Recently, a Multinational collaboration announced that a nitric oxide nasal spray can be an effective treatment against SARS-CoV-2.

It is a natural nano molecule produced by the human body. It is known to have a broad antimicrobial effect against bacteria, fungi, helminths, protozoa and viruses.

Q.104 With reference to the SVAMITVA Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
2. It provides the record of rights and issues Property Cards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** Every year, the National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated on 24th April.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. It was launched on the National Panchayati Raj Day in 2020. Central welfare schemes at the state level fall into two broad categories namely, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (fully funded by the Union) and the Central Sector Schemes (jointly funded by the Centre and states).

Statement 2 is correct: The scheme aims to provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners in rural areas and issuance of Property Cards, also known as Title Deeds.

Q.105 The disorder called "Harlequin Ichthyosis" affects which of the following organs of the human body?

- (a) Brain
- (b) Heart
- (c) Skin
- (d) Limbs

[ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct:

Harlequin Ichthyosis is a rare genetic skin disorder which is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern. A newborn infant is covered with plates of thick skin that crack and split apart. The thick plates can pull at and distort facial features and can restrict breathing and eating. Autosomal Recessive Pattern occurs when an individual inherits an abnormal gene from each parent, who carry one copy of the mutated gene.

Q.106 With reference to Snow Leopard, consider the following statements:

1. These are distributed in the cold high mountains of China, Pakistan and India only.
2. They are protected under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL]

Statement 1 is not correct. Snow Leopards can be found in the cold high mountains of 12 countries including China, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia & Mongolia.

Statement 2 is correct. They are protected under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and have been classified as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red list.

Q.107 Consider the following statements:

1. Unicorn Black Hole is the largest black hole discovered so far in the Milky Way galaxy.
2. The phenomenon of tidal distortion helps in indicating black holes' presence.

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

- (a) 1 only

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

[ANS] a

[SOL]

Statement 1 is not correct. The Unicorn Black Hole is possibly the smallest-known black hole in the Milky Way galaxy and the closest to the solar system. It is located about 1,500 light years (the distance light travels in a year, 9.5 trillion km) from Earth.

Statement 2 is correct. Black holes are electromagnetically dark so they are difficult to find. However, tidal distortion on the companion star of a black hole helps in indicating its presence.

Q.108 Which of the following languages was used primarily by Jains for spreading their teachings?

- (a) Pali
- (b) Sanskrit
- (c) Prakrit
- (d) Dravidian

[ANS]

c

[SOL]

In News: Recently, the Prime Minister of India has paid tribute to Lord Mahavira on the occasion of his birth anniversary, Mahavira Jayanti.

Option C is correct. Prakrit was used primarily by Lord Mahavira himself and later by others in Jainism because it was easy for ordinary people to understand as Sanskrit was tougher and not understood by many. Later on Jain scholars produced literature in Sanskrit and Tamil as well.

Q.109 The 'Deep Time' experiment that aimed to test how people respond to losing their sense of time and space was held recently in which country?

- (a) Germany
- (b) USA
- (c) France
- (d) UK

[ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct: Scientists at the Human Adaption Institute leading the 1.2 million-euro (US\$1.5 million) "Deep Time" Project. Under the Project, Eight men and seven women lived for 40 days in the dark, damp depths of the Lombrives cave in the Pyrenees southwestern France. There was no sunlight inside, the temperature was 10 degrees Celsius (50 F) and the relative humidity stood at 100 percent. The cave dwellers had no contact with the outside world, no updates on the pandemic nor any communications with friends or family.

The project aimed to test how people respond to losing their sense of time and space.

Q.110 Consider the following statements:

1. Chad is a landlocked country bordered by Libya in the north and Sudan in the east.
2. It is part of the Sahel region of Africa.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **Both the statements are correct:** Recently, Chad's longest serving president Idriss Deby died of injuries sustained during clashes with the rebel group FACT (Front for Change and Concord in Chad) on the frontlines. Chad is a landlocked country in north-central Africa. Bordered by Libya to the north, the Central African Republic to the south, Cameroon to the south-west, Nigeria to the southwest, Sudan to the east and Niger to the west. It is the fifth largest country on the African continent. It is part of the Sahel region of Africa. Sahel region is a semi-arid region of western and north-central Africa extending from Senegal eastward to Sudan.

Q.111 The term 'Twin deficit' often seen in the news related to economy, it is a

- (a) High Current Account Deficit and High Fiscal Deficit
- (b) High Budget Deficit and High Fiscal Deficit
- (c) High Capital Account Deficit and High Fiscal Deficit
- (d) High Current Account Deficit and High Revenue Deficit

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct:** In simple terms, the current account measures the flow of goods, services, and investments into and out of the country. It represents a country's foreign transactions and, like the capital account, is a component of a country's Balance of Payments (BOP). The Current Account Deficit (CAD) is the shortfall between the money flowing in on exports, and the money flowing out on imports. Current Account Deficit and Fiscal Deficit (also known as "**budget deficit**") is a situation when a nation's expenditure exceeds its revenues) are together known as **twin deficits** and both often reinforce each other, i.e., a high fiscal deficit leads to higher CAD and vice versa.

Q.112 Recently, Project DANTAK was in the news, it is associated with which among the following countries?

- A. Bhutan
- B. China
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Nepal

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct:** Project DANTAK was established on April 24, 1961, as a result of the visionary leadership of His Majesty the Third King and then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru. Identifying the utmost importance of connectivity in spurring the socio-economic development and growth of Bhutan, DANTAK was tasked with constructing the pioneering motorable roads in the Kingdom.

Q.113 Which of the following statements is / are correct regarding the Trends in world military expenditure, 2020 report, released by SIPRI organisation?

1. The global military expenditure rose by 10 percent compared to 2019 real term expenditure.
2. India is the third-largest military spender in the world.
3. The top three spenders together accounted for 62 per cent of global military expenditure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Recently, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute published the latest data on **military expenditure**.

Statement 1 is not correct: The total “**global military expenditure rose to \$1981 billion** last year, an increase of 2.6 per cent in real terms **from 2019**. This was the biggest year-on-year rise in the military burden since the global financial and economic crisis in 2009.

Statement 2 is correct: India was the **third-largest military spender** in the world in 2020 While India’s spending since 2019 grew by 2.1 per cent. India accounted for **3.7** per cent of the globe’s share.

Statement 3 is not correct: The five biggest spenders in 2020, which together accounted for 62 per cent of global military expenditure, were the **United States, China, India, Russia and the United Kingdom**.

Note: SIPRI is an **independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament**. It was established in 1966 at **Stockholm (Sweden)**.

Q.114 E-2025 Initiative, recently in the news, is related to which of the following diseases?

- (a) Tuberculosis
- (b) AIDS
- (c) Hepatitis
- (d) Malaria

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) has released the report titled “Zeroing in on Malaria Elimination”, prior to World Malaria Day (25th April).

Option D is correct: The report brings out progress made through the E-2025 Initiative of the WHO, which has identified 25 countries with the potential to eradicate Malaria by 2025. The WHO and its partners will provide specialised support and technical guidance to them to enable them to achieve the target. Countries are expected to participate in elimination forums, conduct surveillance assessments, audit their elimination programmes annually and share malaria case data periodically.

Q.115 With reference to the Ways and Means Advances (WMA), consider the following statements:

1. These are temporary loan facilities given by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. The Government can avail immediate cash from RBI and has to return the amount within 90 days.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to continue with the existing interim Ways and Means Advances (WMA) Scheme limit of Rs. 51,560 crore up to 30th September 2021, given the prevalence of Covid-19.

Statement 1 is correct. WMA are temporary loan facilities to the Central and State Governments, given by the RBI. It was introduced in 1997 with the objective to meet mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government.

Statement 2 is correct. Under it, the government can avail of immediate cash from the RBI and has to return the amount within 90 days. Interest is charged at the existing repo rate (rate at which RBI lends short-term money to banks). Upon exceeding 90 days, the WMA would be treated as an overdraft (the interest rate on overdrafts is 2 percentage points more than the repo rate).

Q.116 With reference to the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. It provides a short term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure.
3. The fund is monitored by the Management Information System (MIS) platform.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

[ANS] C

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Union Cabinet in July 2020 has approved a new pan India Central Sector Scheme called Agriculture Infrastructure Fund. Central Sector Schemes are the schemes that are entirely and directly funded and executed by the central government. Centrally Sponsored Schemes on the other hand are schemes that are implemented by state governments.

Statement 2 is not correct: The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. The duration of the Scheme shall

be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years)

Statement 3 is correct: It is managed and monitored through an online Management Information System (MIS) platform.

Q.117 'Large Area Certification' Scheme is the unique initiative of Government of India

- (a) To integrate regular market with the common e-portal
- (b) To promote organic farming
- (c) To allot 16 digit unique tag to each agricultural land
- (d) To promote crop diversification

[ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct: The Government of India has certified 14,491 ha of such an area under Car Nicobar and Nancowry group of islands in UT of A&N Islands. This area becomes the first large contiguous territory to be conferred with organic certification under the 'Large Area Certification' (LAC) scheme of the PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee System) certification programme. Under LAC, each village in the area is considered as one cluster/group. All farmers with their farmland and livestock need to adhere to the standard requirements and on being verified get certified in mass without the need to go under conversion period. Certification is renewed on annual basis through verification by a process of peer appraisals as per the process of PGS-India. The LAC is a quick certification programme under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.

Q.118 Recently, Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) as a trilateral approach to trade was mooted by Japan, it is initially among which of the following nations?

- (a) India and USA
- (b) Australia and USA
- (c) India and Australia
- (d) India, Australia and the USA

[ANS] C

[SOL] Option C is correct: Trade ministers of India, Japan and Australia formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in a move to counter China's dominance of the supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region. It will focus on sharing best practices on supply chain resilience and holding investment promotion events and buyer-seller matching events to provide opportunities for stakeholders to explore the possibility of diversification of their supply chains.

Q.119 With reference to the National Human Rights Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. Retired Chief Justice of India is appointed as its chairperson.
3. It lies in conformity with the Paris Principles, 1991.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The National Human Rights Commission was established on 12th October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993 after amending the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a unique institution because it is one of the few National Human Rights Institutes (NHRIs) in the world whose Chairperson is the former Chief Justice of the country.

Statement 3 is correct: It is in conformity with the Paris Principles. The first international workshop on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights held in October 1991 gave these principles.

Q.120 Consider the following sentences:

1. The consumption of oxygen decreases in case of a diseased lung.
 2. Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) is used to commercially produce oxygen on a massive scale.
- Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Centre has invoked the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005 and has ordered the States to make available all Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO), including the existing stock with private plants, to the Government.

Statement 1 is not correct: Human lungs consume 5-6 milliliters (ml) of oxygen per minute and the whole body consumes around 250ml/min. This consumption increases upto four times in case of a diseased lung.

Statement 2 is not correct: Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) is used to produce oxygen on a medium scale. These have tiny capacity, like 20 to 200 cylinders a day and can be used in 50-100 bedded hospitals. The Air Separation Units (ASU) are used to commercially produce oxygen on a large scale.

Q.121 With reference to the Cycle Threshold (Ct) Value mentioned in RT-PCR test, consider the following statements:

1. It tells about the viral load present in the lungs.
2. It is inversely correlated with viral load.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL]

Statement 1 is not correct: The Cycle Threshold (Ct) value emerges during the Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) Test. It is the number of cycles at which fluorescence of the PCR product is detectable over and above the background signal. It tells about the viral load in the throat and not in the lungs.

Statement 2 is correct: It is inversely correlated with viral load, meaning lower the Ct value, the higher the viral load, because the virus has been spotted after fewer cycles.

Q.122 Itolizumab, sometimes seen in the news, is a drug used for which of the following diseases?

- (a) Ebola
- (b) Harlequin Ichthyosis
- (c) Psoriasis
- (d) Hepatitis B

[ANS] c

[SOL]

Option C is correct: Itolizumab is an existing safe and effective drug used for psoriasis, which is a chronic skin disease involving unregulated growth of skin cells that develop into red patches mostly on knees and elbows, but also on some other parts of the body. It has been approved as a novel biologic therapy for restricted emergency use in the treatments for Covid-19.

Q.123 With reference to the Python-5 Missile, consider the following statements

1. It is an Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) added to the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas.
2. It has been indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

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

[ANS] a

[SOL]

Statement 1 is correct: Python-5 is an Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) which has been added to Tejas to increase its air-to-air weapons capability. Tejas is India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft.

Statement 2 is not correct: It has not been indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and is manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems (Israel).

Q.124 Project 'Pyrasol' recently seen in the news, aims to?

- (a) Responsible disposal of stubble
- (b) Mitigate forest fires
- (c) Increase fly ash use in building materials
- (d) Transform organic waste into biochar

[ANS] d

[SOL]

Option D is correct: As a part of Indo-German Project 'Pyrasol', the foundation stone of the Integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot was laid in Chennai. It aims to transform urban organic waste into biochar and energy in smart cities.

Q.125 With reference to the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements:

- 1.It has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits.
- 2.It covers the entire India and about 5500 sq. km beyond its borders.
- 3.It will have full global coverage by the middle of 2022.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT) conducts a webinar on "NavIC — Opportunities for the Telecom Industry". NavIC is also called Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

Statement 1 is correct: Presently, it consists of 7 active satellites located at a distance of approximately 36,000 Km. 3 satellites are in Geostationary Orbit (GEO). 4 satellites are in inclined Geosynchronous Orbit (GSO).

Statement 2 and 3 are not correct: It has been designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary. The IRNSS System is expected to provide a position accuracy of better than 20 m in the primary service area.

Q.126 With reference to PM Kisan, consider the following statements?

- 1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- 2. It covers all farmer families irrespective of the size of their landholdings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

[ANS] b

[SOL]

Statement 1 is not correct: PM Kisan is a central sector scheme and is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Central Sector Schemes are entirely and directly funded and executed by the central government. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented by state governments with some help from the central government.

Statement 2 is correct: The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs). It covers all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their landholdings.

Q.127 MACS 1407, recently seen in the news, is a variety of?

- (a) Cotton
- (b) Wheat
- (c) Soybean
- (d) Rice

[ANS] c

[SOL]

Option C is correct: MACS 1407 is a newly developed high-yielding, pest-resistant, low water and fertiliser requiring soybean variety. It is resistant to major insects and pests like girdle beetle, leaf miner, white fly and defoliators. It is suitable for rain-fed conditions of north-east India and for Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh as well.

Q.128 With reference to the Financial Stability and Development Council, consider the following statements:

- 1.It is a statutory council under the Ministry of Finance.
- 2.It coordinates India's international interface with financial sector bodies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL]

Statement 1 is not correct: It is a non-statutory apex council under the Ministry of Finance constituted by the Executive Order in 2010.

Statement 2 is correct: It aims to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism of maintaining financial and macroeconomic stability. It coordinates India's international interface with financial sector bodies such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and Financial Stability Board (FSB).

Q.129 With reference to Palladium, consider the following statements:

- 1.It is a critical component in catalytic converters.
- 2.The majority of the world's palladium comes from CARICOM countries.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL]

Statement 1 is correct and 2 is not correct: Palladium is a chemical element with the symbol Pd and atomic number 46. Its key commercial use is as a critical component in catalytic converters - a part of a car's exhaust system that controls emissions - found mainly in petrol and hybrid vehicles. The majority of the world's palladium comes from Russia and South Africa.

Q.130 Recently, World's oldest water was found in:

- (a) Australia
- (b) Russia
- (c) Brazil
- (d) Canada

[ANS] d

[SOL]

Option D is correct: It was found in Canada. In 2019, geologist and earth sciences professor Dr. Barbara Sherwood Lollar of the University of Toronto received the top science prize of the Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering worth \$1 million for discovering the world's oldest water. It was found at a depth of 2.4 kilometers in Kidd Creek Mine. The water is highly saline, which is ten times saltier than seawater.