

**NEXT IAS**

**TEST YOURSELF**

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**AUGUST, 2022**

1. Consider the following statements regarding International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):
  1. It is an outcome of a trilateral agreement signed between India, Tajikistan and Russia.
  2. The corridor combines road, rail and maritime routes.
  3. The agreement has a specific clause on bringing uniformity in tariffs and customs of member states.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 1 and 2 only
  - (c) 2 only
  - (d) 2 and 3 only
2. Consider the following statements regarding the Electoral Bonds:
  1. An Electoral Bond is like a promissory note.
  2. It can be purchased in cash or digitally through any commercial bank.
  3. All the Political Parties are eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds.Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 2 only
  - (d) 1,2 and 3
3. The Kessler Syndrome is related to which of the following?
  - (a) Space Debris
  - (b) Inflation
  - (c) Genetic Disorders
  - (d) International trade
4. With reference to the Representation of the People Act, 1951, consider the following statements:
  1. The Act provides for the allocation of seats for Lok Sabha and state assembly elections.
  2. A Schedule Caste candidate of one State cannot contest the Lok Sabha election from any other State.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
5. With reference to Jute Sector in India, consider the following statements:
  1. The Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI) has a mandate for the procurement of raw jute without any quantitative limit from the growers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP).
  2. At present, 50% of the foodgrains and 20% of sugar are required to be mandatorily packed in jute bags.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

6. India is signatory to which of the following conventions on efforts to control the spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction?
1. Biological Weapons Convention
  2. Chemical Weapons Convention
  3. Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 2 only
  - (d) 2 and 3 only
7. With reference to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), consider the following statements:
1. It is defined in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution.
  2. Goa and Arunachal Pradesh are the only states to have it.
  3. The Law Commission favoured its adoption throughout India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 1 only
  - (c) 2 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
8. Consider the following statements regarding District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs):
1. They are headed by the District Judges.
  2. DLSAs reduce the burden on courts by regulating Lok Adalats.
  3. DLSAs have been mandated to hold weekly meetings of undertrial review committees (UTRCs).
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
9. The 'Bhagoria festival' seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following states?
- (a) Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh
  - (b) Rajasthan and Gujarat
  - (c) Jharkhand and Bihar
  - (d) Madhya Pradesh and Odisha

10. With reference to the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), consider the following statements:
1. They were established as per the recommendations of the Shivaraman Committee to cater to the rural credit needs.
  2. The Prathama Grameen Bank was the first bank to be established under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.
  3. The equity of the Regional Rural Banks is wholly held by the Union Government.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 3 only
11. With reference to the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022, consider the following statements:
1. The Bill extends the jurisdiction of Indian courts and lays out penal provisions for crimes on the continent who are part of the Indian expedition.
  2. The Bill fulfils the obligations of India under the Madrid Protocol.
- 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
12. With reference to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:
1. It is an intergovernmental organisation established under the aegis of the United Nations.
  2. It has more than 80 members.
  3. Putting a country in the “grey list” involves a direct penal action against the country.
- 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
13. With reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), consider the following statements:
1. It is a statutory body established under the Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act.
  2. It is the nodal agency in India which coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries.
  3. CBI can suo motto take investigation only of offences in the Union Territories.
- 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

- 14.** 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
- 15.** With reference to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), consider the following statements:
1. It is legally binding on the member states.
  2. India is a signatory to this convention.
- 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
- 16.** With reference to Financial Inclusion Index, consider the following statements:
1. It is published annually by the State Bank of India (SBI) .
  2. It is responsive to ease of access, availability and usage of services, and quality of services.
  3. It has been constructed without any base year and reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 2 and 3 only
- 17.** Consider the following statements:
1. Blasphemy and hate speech have separate provisions in IPC.
  2. Destruction, damage to or defiling of a “place of worship” is a cognizable offence.
  3. If the state violates the right to religion of anyone, then he/she may move to the apex court in India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

- 18.** Which of the following international platforms are shared by India and Maldives?
1. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
  2. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
  3. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 2 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 19.** Consider the following statements:
1. As per the Paris Agreement's provisions, countries must 'update' their pledges every five years.
  2. India's updated pledges to combat climate change are sector-specific and binding in nature.
- 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
- 20.** With reference to Directorate of Enforcement (ED), consider the following statements:
1. The ED enforces the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) which is a criminal law.
  2. The ED works under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 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
- 21.** Consider the following statements regarding Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM):
1. It is a guided missile primarily designed to hit and destroy heavily armored military vehicles.
  2. HELINA is Anti-tank Guided Missile (ATGM) system mounted on the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
- 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
- 22.** Consider the following statements regarding the International Atomic Energy Agency:
1. It is also known as the world's "Atoms for Peace and Development"
  2. It is an autonomous and independently established organisation.
  3. It reports to both the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.
- 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

- 23.** Consider the following statements regarding Rare Earth Elements (REE):
1. Both light RE elements (LREE) and heavy RE elements (HREE) are abundantly found in India.
  2. India is a part of the USA-led Minerals Security Partnership (MSP).
  3. REEs are an essential part required for the manufacturing of batteries used in electric vehicles.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 3 only
- 24.** With reference to London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), consider the following statements:
1. It is a benchmark interest rate at which major global banks lend to one another in the international interbank market for short-term loans.
  2. It is calculated using the Waterfall Methodology.
  3. It has been subject to manipulation, scandal, and methodological critique.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 3 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 1 and 3  
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 25.** Consider the following statements regarding collegium system:
1. The provisions related to the collegium system are mentioned in Art 217 of the constitution.
  2. The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India.
  3. The government cannot seek clarification on the collegian's choice of selected judge.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 3 only
- 26.** Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion plant (OTEC) technology can be used for which of the following?
1. Air-conditioning systems.
  2. Chilled-soil agriculture.
  3. Seawater desalination.
  4. Hydrogen extraction
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only  
(c) 3 and 4 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

- 27.** Consider the following statements regarding Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act 2021:
1. It increases the gestational limit for legal abortion from 20 to 24 weeks of all the categories of women without requiring the medical advice of doctor.
  2. The Act decriminalises the action of “intentionally causing a miscarriage”.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
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
- 28.** The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act allows investigators to collect identifiable information from which of the following?
1. All categories of criminals and accused.
  2. Juveniles
  3. Persons detained under any preventive detention law
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 2 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 29.** Consider the following statements:
- 1.Repo Rate is the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank provides liquidity against the collateral of government and other approved securities.
  - 2.Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate is the penal rate at which banks can borrow, on an overnight basis, from the Reserve Bank by dipping into their Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) portfolio up to a predefined limit.
- 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
- 30.** Porcupine strategy recently seen in the news, it is related to which of the countries ?
- (a) Taiwan
  - (b) Australia
  - (c) Pakistan
  - (d) Israel



- 31.** Consider the following statements regarding the composition of NITI Aayog:
1. The Prime Minister of India is the Chairperson of the Council.
  2. The Governing Council of the NITI Aayog consists of the Cabinet ministers and secretaries.
  3. The Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Governing Council.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 32.** Peninsular Rock Agama recently seen in the news, it is related to
- (a) Sparrow
  - (b) Frog
  - (c) Lizard
  - (d) Butterfly
- 33.** With reference to Coral Reefs, consider the following statements:
1. Coral polyps live in a symbiotic relationship with algae.
  2. The temperature of the water should not be below 25°C.
  3. Corals can survive only under saline conditions.
- 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
- 34.** With reference to Chief Secretary (CS) of State, consider the following statements:
1. The appointment of CS is made in the name of the President of India.
  2. He has powers to transfer any officer of any rank without consulting the Chief Minister.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 35.** Consider the following statements regarding India-ASEAN Relations:
1. Delhi Dialogue is a mechanism hosted by India annually with ASEAN.
  2. India is a part of ASEAN's ADMM Plus, which is an annual meeting of Defence Ministers.
- 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

**36.** Which of the following issues are not taken up for redress under the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)?

1. Service delivery
2. Personal and family disputes
3. RTI matters

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**37.** With respect to the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), consider the following statements:

1. It aimed to oversee the financial regularities mainly in the banking sector.
2. It is an executive body constituted under the Executive Order by the Ministry of Finance.
3. The Finance Secretary is the Chairman of the FSDC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**38.** Which of the following are the key provisions of the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022?

1. Mandating the use of non-fossil sources.
2. Establishment of Carbon Markets
3. Bringing large residential buildings within the fold of the Energy Conservation regime
4. Increasing the members of the governing council of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**39.** The report 'Outbound Travel and Tourism - An Opportunity Untapped' was recently released by which of the following?

- (a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- (b) Nangia Andersen LLP in association with FICCI
- (c) United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- (d) World Association For Hospitality And Tourism Education and Training - AMFORHT.

40. Consider the following statements:
1. Bachat Lamp Yojana is a public-private partnership program.
  2. Eco Niwas Samhita is an Energy Conservation Building Code for the residential sector only.
- 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
41. AGM-88 HARM missile recently seen in the news, it is a
- (a) Air-to-surface missile
  - (b) Air to Air missile
  - (c) Anti Tank missile
  - (d) Thermobaric missile
42. With reference to Mangroves, consider the following statements:
1. Mangroves can store fresh water in their thick succulent leaves.
  2. Mangroves are viviparous.
- 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
43. Consider the following statements regarding Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act:
1. It extends the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution to the tribal areas.
  2. All the states with concerned tribal communities have notified and implemented PESA.
  3. The Forest Right Act does not apply in the areas covered under PESA.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
44. Consider the following statements regarding “the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women”:
1. It is an international treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.
  2. “Global Gender Gap Index” was initiated by the convention.
  3. India is a signatory to the Convention.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 3 only

45. With reference to Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), consider the following statements:
1. It is a pan India Central Sector Scheme launched in the year 2020.
  2. It provides a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects.
  3. All loans under this financing facility will have an interest subvention of 10% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crores.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 1 and 2 only
  - (c) 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
46. Consider the following statements regarding the office of Chief Minister (CM):
1. A person who is not a member of the state legislature can be appointed as CM for six months.
  2. The Chief Minister and other Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.
  3. The Governor allocates portfolios to the ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister.
- 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 only
47. With reference to Antarctica, consider the following statements:
1. It is covered by the Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.
  2. Ross Ice Shelf is situated in the western part of Antarctica.
- 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
48. Recently, the Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022 report was released by which organisation?
- (a) World Economic Forum
  - (b) World Bank
  - (c) International Labour Organisation
  - (d) International Monetary Fund
49. Consider the following statements:
1. All the planets in the solar system have exhibited evidence of plate tectonic theory.
  2. The continental drift and seafloor spreading theories were merged to develop the modern plate tectonic theory.
- Which of the statements given above is/are *incorrect*?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

50. Which of the following statements are **not correct** regarding G20?
- (a) The G20 was formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s.
  - (b) Its aim was to secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries.
  - (c) India will hold the G20 Presidency from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.
  - (d) India is recently made the permanent Troika country of the grouping.
51. Which of the following are Literary works of Aurobindo Ghose?
1. The Life Divine
  2. The Synthesis of Yoga
  3. Savitri
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below
- (a) 1 and 2 Only
  - (b) 2 and 3 Only
  - (c) 1 and 3 Only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
52. Consider the following statements regarding the recently passed Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022:
1. It provides a legal sanction to the police to take physical and biological samples of convicts as well as those accused of crimes.
  2. State Police departments are empowered to store, preserve and share the records for up to a period of 75 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
53. Consider the following statements regarding “Monsoon Trough”:
1. It is a low-pressure area that extends from heat low over Pakistan to the Head Bay of Bengal.
  2. When it is located to the south of its normal position, there is active rainfall over peninsular Indian regions.
- 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
54. Consider the following statements regarding Euthanasia:
1. Active Euthanasia refers to death by not providing essential, necessary and ordinary care or food and water.
  2. Passive Euthanasia refers to causing intentional death of a human being by direct intervention.
- 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

55. With reference to Union Territory of Puducherry, consider the following statements:
1. It comprises 3 districts only viz. Karaikal, Yanam Mahe.
  2. Karaikal is on the western coast of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
56. He was the first political leader in India to openly put forward in his newspaper Bande Mataram, the idea of complete independence for the country. In 1910, he withdrew from politics and went to Pondicherry in order to devote himself entirely to his inner spiritual life and work. He evolved a new method of spiritual practice, which he called Integral Yoga.
- He was
- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
  - (b) Aurobindo Ghose
  - (c) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
  - (d) Lala Lajpat Rai
57. Consider the following statements regarding a personality associated with India's freedom struggle:
1. She was a soldier in Rani Laxmibai's women's army, Durga Dal.
  2. She is known for putting her own life at risk to keep the queen out of harm's way.
  3. She is often presented as a representative of the Bundeli identity.
- The statements given above are related to which of the following?
- (a) Durgawati Devi
  - (b) Rani Chennamma
  - (c) Velu Nachiyar
  - (d) Jhalkari Bai
58. Consider the following statements:
1. Nagorno Karabakh region is surrounded by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iran.
  2. Armenia shares a border with the Caspian Sea.
- 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

59. With reference to the Fundamental Duties, consider the following statements:
1. They are incorporated during the beginning of the constitution.
  2. They are justiciable, the Fundamental Duties are non-justiciable.
  3. Fundamental duties help the Court in determining the constitutionality of the law.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3
60. With reference to the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), consider the following statements:
1. It is an apex body established under the Ministry of Science and Technology for research and industrial production related to biotechnology.
  2. Bt Cotton and Bt Brinjal are the only crops permitted for cultivation in India by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee.
- 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
61. With reference to Human Eye, consider the following statements:
1. The white part of the eyes is called Iris.
  2. Cornea contributes the majority of the eye's total focusing power.
- 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
62. Which of the following are the important features of a federal system?
1. Multiple levels of government
  2. Division of Power
  3. Written Constitution
  4. Independent Judiciary
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
63. Which of the following statements is **not correct** with reference to Ethanol?
- (a) It is an inorganic chemical compound.
  - (b) It is a simple alcohol with the chemical formula  $C_2H_6O$ .
  - (c) It is a volatile, flammable, colourless liquid.
  - (d) It can be produced from crops that have high starch content.

- 64.** With reference to the STEVE phenomenon, consider the following statements:
1. This phenomenon occurs mostly near to the polar region in the northern hemisphere.
  2. STEVE phenomenon is made of light and it is driven by the auroral system.
- Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 65.** Consider the following:
1. Ease of Doing Business
  2. World Development Report
  3. Global Economic Prospects
  4. Global Gender Gap Report
- Which of the following reports is/are released by the World Bank?
- (a) 2, 3 and 4 only
  - (b) 2 and 4 only
  - (c) 2 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3 only
- 66.** Consider the following statements:
1. India is party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 protocol.
  2. In India, there is no law to deal with refugees.
  3. The constitution of India protects the refugees' right to life with dignity.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 2 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 67.** Consider the following statements regarding West Nile virus
1. Birds are the main host of the virus.
  2. It cannot be spread from person to person through casual contact.
  3. There is no vaccine or medicine for this virus.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3



68. Consider the following statements:
1. There are nine coastal states in India.
  2. The nodal ministries for the coastal region are the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), and Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- 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
69. With reference to the Ganges river dolphins, consider the following statements:
1. They hunt by emitting ultrasonic sounds.
  2. These can only live in freshwater and are essentially blind.
  3. It is categorised as Critically Endangered under the IUCN red list.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 1 and 2 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
70. With reference to the Mandakini river, consider the following statements:
1. It originates from the hills of Khillora in district Satna of Madhya Pradesh.
  2. It is a tributary of the Godavari River.
  3. It is the lifeline of Chitrakoot and the surrounding area.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 1 and 2 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
71. Megalodon recently seen in the news ,it is related to
- (a) Butterfly
  - (b) Shark
  - (c) Frog
  - (d) Peacock
72. Consider the following statements regarding Web 3.0:
1. It combines older-generation web tools with cutting-edge technologies such as AI and blockchain.
  2. It establishes a new version of the Internet protocol incorporating token-based economics, transparency, and decentralization.
- 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

73. With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee, consider the following statements
1. It is Constituted by RBI under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934.
  2. It is Chaired by the Governor of RBI.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
74. Consider the following statements regarding India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway:
1. It is a highway in the making under India's Look East policy
  2. It will connect New Delhi, India with Mae Sot, Thailand.
  3. India has also proposed extending the highway to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 1 and 3 only
  - (c) 2 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
75. Consider the following statements:
1. Lingayat is a Hindu subcaste and the smallest community in Karnataka.
  2. The tradition of Lingayatism was founded by Basavanna in the 12th century.
- 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
76. With reference to the International Seabed Authority (ISA), consider the following statements:
1. It is an autonomous international organisation under the United Nations.
  2. All States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea are ipso facto members of ISA.
  3. It is empowered to allot ocean areas for exploitation of Polymetallic Nodules.
- 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
77. Which of the following statements regarding China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is **not correct**?
- (a) It is an infrastructure project that seeks to create economic and trade hubs with road and rail infrastructure.
  - (b) It is a part of China's larger Belt and Road Initiative.
  - (c) The corridor will link the capital cities of China-Pakistan.
  - (d) Both (a) and (c)

78. With reference to the Snailfish, consider the following statements:
1. The **Snailfish releases biofluorescence**, which allows it to glow in the water.
  2. Snailfish are the only polar fish reported to have **biofluorescence**.
- 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
79. With respect to aquaculture, which of the following statements is **not true**?
- (a) Fishery experts have dubbed the tilapia as “aquatic chicken” due to its quick growth and low maintenance cultivation.
  - (b) White spot disease is caused by the white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) and has a major socio-economic impact on shrimp farming in India.
  - (c) Neel Kranti Mission aims to improve the income status of fishers and fish farmers keeping in view the sustainability, bio-security and environmental concerns.
  - (d) Biofloc Fish Culture is the process of growing fish in existing water resources while being enclosed in a net cage which allows free flow of water.
80. The Chairman of public sector banks are selected by the
- (a) Banks Board Bureau
  - (b) Reserve Bank of India
  - (c) Union Ministry of Finance
  - (d) Management of the concerned bank
81. Consider the following statements regarding National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS):
1. It is conceptualized and managed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
  2. NAFIS assigns a unique 10-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN) to each person arrested for a crime.
- 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
82. With reference to Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), consider the following statements:
1. The UIDAI is a statutory authority under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
  2. Any individual, who is a resident of India, must enroll to obtain an Aadhaar number.
  3. The UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment as well as authentication.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 2 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3

- 83.** Which of the following are the prominent features of Cloudbursts?
1. Short spells of very heavy rainfall - 10 cm or more
  2. Confined geographical area - Roughly 10 km x 10-km
  3. Widespread destruction especially in hilly regions
  4. It mostly results in Flash floods
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 3 and 4 only
  - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 84.** With reference to Non-Fungible Token (NFT), consider the following statements
1. These are assets which are interchangeable and can be exchanged with another asset with the similar kind.
  2. These are divisible assets meaning the item can be broken down into any number of units as long as the value remains the same.
- Which of the following given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 85.** Inverted duty structure, recently in news, relates to:
- (a) It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.
  - (b) It comes up in a situation where import duties on input goods are higher than on finished goods.
  - (c) It is a specific form of duty structure that the government imposes in order to protect domestic producers by countering the negative impact of import subsidies.
  - (d) None of the above
- 86.** With reference to Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, consider the following statements:
1. They are the largest tunas.
  2. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies it as Vulnerable.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 Only
  - (b) 2 Only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- 87.** Consider the following statements regarding the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW):
1. It was adopted by the conference at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London.
  2. The Convention prescribes minimum standards relating to training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers.
  3. India is a signatory to the convention.
- 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
- 88.** With reference to Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP), consider the following statements:
1. It is a voluntary code issued under the Union Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers.
  2. It was made voluntary for six months from 1st January 2015.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 89.** Consider the following statements regarding India's recently launched Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus:
1. It is made up of novel downstream process technology.
  2. It is a Russian technology imported through India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme.
  3. Its refueling time is more compared to the Battery-operated Electric Vehicles.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 3 only
- 90.** Recently, Mithila Makhana has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag by the Union Government from which state?
- (a) Maharashtra
  - (b) Bihar
  - (c) Uttar Pradesh
  - (d) Himachal Pradesh
- 91.** The 'Headquarters Agreement' was recently in the news is related to which of the following?
- (a) Shifting the house proceedings to the New Parliament Building.
  - (b) Giving recognition to Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as an independent international organization.
  - (c) Merging of nationalised banks into large lenders.
  - (d) Shifting headquarters of large MNCs from tax haven countries.

- 92.** Consider the following statements regarding freedom fighters:
1. He was born in Wardha, Maharashtra.
  2. He was one of the founding members of the Ghadar Party.
  3. He was a professor at the National School of Agriculture in Chapingo, in Mexico.
  4. He was also revered as an agricultural scientist in Mexico.
- The statements given above are related to which of the following?
- (a) Anant Laxman Kanhere
  - (b) Narayan Meghaji Lokhande
  - (c) Mahadev Govind Ranade
  - (d) Pandurang Khankhoje
- 93.** With reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), consider the following statements:
1. It was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris in 1948.
  2. It was the first legal document to set out the fundamental human rights to be universally protected.
  3. It has been translated into over 500 languages.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 94.** With reference to the James Webb Telescope comparison with other Telescopes, consider the following statements:
1. Kepler was designed to be a wide and shallow survey telescope, while Webb is designed for narrow and deep.
  2. Webb is sensitive to wavelengths from visible light to mid-infrared, while Herschel was sensitive to the far-infrared wavelength.
- 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
- 95.** With reference to the DISHA scheme, consider the following statements:
1. It is a scheme by the Department of Justice.
  2. It is to be implemented during the period of 2021 to 2026.
  3. Its objective is to implement the Pan India Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 2 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3

96. With reference to the Indian Polity, which of the following statements is **not correct**?
- (a) The Governor can call for a trust vote if there are cases of disqualification of rebel MLAs.
  - (b) The Governor does not have to wait for the Speaker's decision in such cases.
  - (c) The rebel MLAs have the right to skip the floor test voting process in the House.
  - (d) None of the above
97. With reference to Lumpy Skin Disease, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?
1. It is a zoonotic bacterial illness that causes prolonged morbidity in cattle and buffaloes.
  2. It is confined to Africa only.
- 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
98. With reference to Bharatmala Pariyojana, consider the following statements:
1. It is a scheme under the Ministry of Shipping to provide better logistics efficiency.
  2. It will help in the creation of a Multi Modal Logistics Park and reduce choke points.
- 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
99. Thalassaemia is related to
- (a) Kidney
  - (b) Heart
  - (c) Brain
  - (d) Blood
100. Singapore convention recently in news is related to:
- (a) Protection of Industrial Property.
  - (b) Protection of children and their families against illegal adoptions abroad.
  - (c) An international treaty that aims to eliminate or restrict the use of persistent organic pollutants.
  - (d) A uniform framework for international settlement agreements resulting from mediation.
101. Consider the following statements regarding the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act:
1. All offenses listed in the Act are cognizable.
  2. The Act mandates the creation of Special Courts.
  3. The Act has the highest rate of conviction in India.
  4. It prescribes both minimum as well as maximum punishment.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 3 and 4 only
  - (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
  - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

- 102.** Consider the following statements regarding One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC):
1. It empowers all National Food Security Act (NFSA) migrant beneficiaries to access foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop.
  2. National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) portal and the eShram portal comes under the umbrella scheme ONORC.
- 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
- 103.** With reference to Geological Survey of India (GSI), consider the following statements:
1. It is an organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
  2. GSI is the prime provider of basic earth science information to the government 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
- 104.** She was the Naga spiritual and political leader who belonged to the Rongmei tribe (also known as Kabui). She led an armed uprising against the British in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam. Jawaharlal Nehru called her the “Daughter of the Hills” and gave her the title “Rani” or queen acknowledging her role in the struggle against the British. In 1972, she was awarded Tamara Patra by the Government of India for her contribution to the freedom movement.
- She was:
- (a) Sarojini Naidu  
(b) Rani Laxmibai  
(c) Aruna Asaf Ali  
(d) Rani Gaidinliu
- 105.** With reference to the Chief Economic Advisor, consider the following statements.
1. He is appointed by the President of India.
  2. The main role of CEA is to produce an Economic Survey.
  3. He is head of the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3



**106.** Consider the following statements regarding recently notified Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022:

1. The rules are based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
2. Environmental compensation will be imposed for the non-fulfillment of recycling targets.
3. The rules prohibit the disposal of batteries in landfills and their incineration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**107.** With reference to Kushiya River, consider the following statements:

1. The Kushiya River is a distributary river in Myanmar and India.
2. The waters of the Kushiya originate in the state of Nagaland.

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

**108.** Consider the following statements:

1. "Net Zero" is when a country's emissions are compensated by the absorption and removal of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from the atmosphere.
2. 'Getting India to Net Zero' report was recently released by NITI Aayog.
3. Panchamrit strategy envisages 'Net Zero' targets to be achieved by 2050 in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**109.** Seti River recently seen in the news, it is river of

- (a) India
- (b) Nepal
- (c) China
- (d) Bangladesh

**110.** Which of the following crop nutrients is/are covered under One Nation-One Fertilizer (ONOF) initiative ?

1. Urea
2. Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

- 111.** Recently India concluded “Exercise Vajra Prahar” with which of the following countries?
- (a) Russia
  - (b) United States of America
  - (c) South Korea
  - (d) Maldives
- 112.** Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) is a joint initiative of which of the following ?
- 1. Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)
  - 2. International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
  - 3. Arunachal Pradesh State Forest Department
- Select the correct answer using the code given below
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 113.** With reference to recent developments regarding Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program, consider the following statements:
- 1. It is a component of Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana.
  - 2. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process used to evaluate a person’s existing skill sets and knowledge .
- 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
- 114.** Which of the following are pillars of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)?
- 1. Basic savings bank accounts with overdraft facility of Rs. 50,000/- to every eligible adult
  - 2. Creation of Credit Guarantee Fund to provide banks some guarantee against defaults
  - 3. Insurance – Accident cover up to Rs. 1,00,000 and life cover of Rs. 30,000 on account opened between 15 Aug 2014 to 31 January 2015.
  - 4. Pension scheme for the Unorganized sector.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
  - (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
  - (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
  - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

- 115.** Artemis I Mission recently seen in the news ,it is related to which of the following?
- (a) Mercury
  - (b) Neptune
  - (c) Moon
  - (d) Jupiter
- 116.** Consider the following statements regarding the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):
1. It was set up on recommendation of the Tarapore Committee.
  2. It functions under the Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances.
  3. It must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government concerned before beginning to investigate a crime in a state.
- 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
- 117.** Which of the following were Set up for Empowerment of Denotified tribes (DNTs)?
1. Ayyangar Committee
  2. Kalelkar Committee
  3. Idade Commission
  4. Raja Chelliah Committee
  5. KV Kamath Committee
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 2 and 3 only
  - (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
  - (c) 1,3 and 4 only
  - (d) 1,2,3 and 4
- 118. Consider the following statements**
1. In the standalone mode the 5G network is supported by the 4G core infrastructure.
  2. In the non-standalone mode, the 5G network operates with dedicated equipment, and runs parallel to the existing 4G network,
- 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
- 119.** The jurisprudence of bail in post-independent India, is anchored on the bedrock of which of the following articles of the Constitution?
- (a) Article 15
  - (b) Article 21
  - (c) Article 28
  - (d) Article 36

- 120.** India Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) conducts thematic research in which of the following areas?
1. Growth, Employment and Macroeconomics (GEM)
  2. Trade, Investment and External Relations (TIER)
  3. Agriculture Policy, Sustainability and Innovation (APSI)
  4. Climate Change, Urbanisation and Sustainability (CCUS)
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
  - (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
  - (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
  - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 121.** Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant recently seen in the news, it is situated in which of the following countries?
- (a) Japan
  - (b) Ukraine
  - (c) Iran
  - (d) Pakistan
- 122.** Consider the following statements regarding the recent reforms in civil services:
1. Mission Karmayogi focuses on promoting ease of living and ease of doing business, by enhancing the citizen-government interface.
  2. The lateral entrants into the civil service will be offered a three-year contract, which the government can extend to five 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
- 123.** Which of the following statements regarding the Special Marriage Act, 1954 is **not correct**?
- (a) It deals with the inter-caste and inter-religion marriages in India.
  - (b) It is applicable for both Indian nationals residing in India or living abroad.
  - (c) It requires couples getting married under it to give a notice to the Marriage Officer 30 days before the date of marriage.
  - (d) Such a notice is then entered into the Marriage Notice Book and kept confidential.
- 124.** The word “Tardigrade” was recently seen in the news, refers to?
- (a) Invasive species in the Western Ghats
  - (b) Microscopic multicellular organism
  - (c) Special kind of Bamboo found in North-east India
  - (d) Species of Banana found in Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- 125.** With reference to Western Disturbance (WD), consider the following statements:
1. It is an extra-tropical storm that originates in the Mediterranean region.
  2. It is always the harbinger of good weather.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2 only
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2s

## Explanation

1. [ANS] c

[SOL] **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):**

- **Origin:**

- The legal framework for the INSTC is provided by a **trilateral agreement** signed by India, Iran and Russia at the **Euro-Asian Conference on Transport in 2000**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

- **Aim:**

- To **reduce the carriage cost** between India and Russia by about 30% and reduce the transit time from 40 days by more than half.
- The corridor is expected to consolidate the **emerging Eurasian Free Trade Area**.

- **Connectivity & Length:**

- It is a **7,200-km multi-modal transport corridor** that combines **road, rail and maritime routes** connecting Russia and India via Central Asia and Iran. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.
- It links the Indian Ocean to the Caspian Sea via the Persian Gulf onwards into Russia and Northern Europe.
- It offers the **shortest connectivity route** between **India and Russia**. **Statement 3 is not correct. Differential tariffs and customs:**

- The issue of differential tariffs and customs in the region is a major challenge that India needs to overcome.

2. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** An Electoral Bond is like a promissory note that may be purchased by a person who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** One can purchase these bonds only digitally or through cheques. As of now, only SBI is authorised to issue the Electoral Bonds.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Only the Political Parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 (43 of 1951) and which secured not less than one percent of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, shall be eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds.

3. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Kessler Syndrome**

- This is an idea proposed by **NASA scientist Donald Kessler** in 1978.
- It states that if there was **too much space junk in orbit**, it could result in a **chain reaction** where more and more objects collide and create new space junk in the process, to the point where Earth's orbit becomes unusable.
  - It is also known as **"collisional cascading"**.
- This cascade of collisions first came to NASA's attention in the 1970s when **derelict Delta rockets** left in orbit began to explode creating shrapnel clouds.
- Kessler proposed it would take 30 to 40 years for such a threshold to be reached and today, some experts think we are already at critical mass in low-Earth orbit at about 560 to 620 miles (900 to 1,000 kilometres).

4. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Representation of the People Act, 1950 provided for the allocation of seats in and the delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of elections to the Lok Sabha and Legislatures of States. On the other hand, the Representation of the People

Act, 1951, deals with **the actual conduct of elections**, the qualifications and disqualifications of candidates, corrupt practices and other election offences.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** As per Section 4 of RPA 1951, a person who is a member of Schedule Caste in a particular State **can contest** election from any other State from **a seat reserved** for Scheduled Castes for Lok Sabha (House of People).

5. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI) was incorporated by the Government of India (GOI) in 1971 as a price support agency with a clear mandate for the procurement of raw jute without any quantitative limit from the growers at the Minimum Support price (MSP) declared in each year by the GOI based on the recommendations made by Commission for Agricultural Cost & Prices (CACAP).

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister has approved reservation norms for mandatory use of jute in packaging for the Jute Year 2021 -22 (1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022). The Mandatory packaging norms approved for Jute Year 2021-22 provide for **100% reservation of the foodgrains** and 20% of sugar to be compulsorily packed in jute bags.

6. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Weapons Of Mass Destruction (WMD) Bill was passed by voice vote in Rajya Sabha.

**India** is signatory to both, Biological Weapons Convention of 1972, and Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993, but is **not signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty**, which is another international arrangement to fight the growth of WMDs.

7. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 44 of the Indian Constitution defines a Uniform Civil Code. Article 44 says, 'The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India.' The article is a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

**Statements 2 and 3 are not correct:** Goa has a common family law, thus being the only Indian state to have a uniform civil code and the 1954 Special Marriage Act allows any citizen to marry outside the realm of any special religious personal law. The Law Commission (2018) was against the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code, stating that it is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage.

8. [ANS] d

[SOL] **National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA):**

- It was formed in 1995 under the authority of the **Legal Services Authorities Act 1987**.
- Its purpose is to **provide free legal services** to eligible candidates and to **organize Lok Adalats** for the **speedy resolution of cases**.
- **District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs):**
  - There are a total **676 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs)** in the country.
  - DLSAs are **headed by the District Judges** who acts as **Chairman of the authority**. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
  - Various **legal aid** and **awareness programmes** are run by NALSA through DLSAs and **State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)**.
  - The DLSAs also contribute towards **reducing the burden on courts** by **regulating Lok Adalats** conducted by NALSA. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.

- DLSAs have been mandated to hold weekly meetings of undertrial review committees (UTRCs) to discuss progress, review additional cases and to discuss further action including filing of bails in high courts and the Supreme Court, if required. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

9. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct.** The Bhagoria festival, also known as the Bhagoria Haat festival, is celebrated by the tribal people (Bhil, Bhilala, Pateliya, etc.) of the Indian states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. It has an agricultural significance attached to it as it coincides with the end of harvesting of crops. People celebrate it to mark the completion of harvesting. Also, this festival provides an opportunity for thousands of tribal men and women to choose a life partner of their own choice.

10. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, as part of reforms to make Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) financially sustainable, the government has asked them to move towards digitisation.

- Statement 1 is not correct: Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were set up as government-sponsored, regional based rural lending institutions under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. The RRBs were established as per the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee to cater to the rural credit needs of the farming and other rural communities.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Prathama Grameen Bank was the first bank to be established on 02nd October 1975. The Syndicate Bank became the first commercial bank to sponsor the Prathama Grameen Bank RRB
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** The equity of the Regional Rural Banks is held by the stakeholders in a fixed proportion. This proportion is 50:35:15, distributed as:
  - Central Government – 50%
  - Sponsor Bank – 35%
  - State Government – 15%

11. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Parliament passed the **Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022.**

**Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022**

● **About:**

- It is the **first domestic legislation** with regard to Antarctica in India.
- Applicable to **Indian citizens as well as foreign citizens.**

● **Objective:**

- To demilitarise Antarctica; use of Antarctica for peaceful purposes; promote international scientific cooperation in Antarctica.
- The Bill seeks to give effect to the **Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, and the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.**

● **Key Features:**

- Prohibit Indian expedition to Antarctica **without a permit or written authorisation** of another party to Antarctic Treaty.
- **Extend jurisdiction of Indian courts to Antarctica** and lays out penal provisions for crimes on the continent by Indian citizens, and foreign citizens who are part of Indian expeditions.
- The act directs the creation of a **fund called the Antarctic fund** that will be used



for protecting the Antarctic environment.

- The Bill also establishes a ‘**Committee on Antarctic Governance and Environmental Protection.**’
- **Prohibits mining, dredging and activities** that threaten the pristine conditions of the continent.

12. [ANS] d

[SOL] **All the statements are correct:** All the statements are not correct. It is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris. It has 37 members currently and India is also a member. Its objectives are to set standards and promote effective

- implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. Putting a country in “grey list” does not involve a direct legal or penal action but involves increased scrutiny from watchdogs, regulators and financial institutions. There are only two countries on the FATF's blacklist - North Korea and Iran.

13. [ANS] b

[SOL] **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

The establishment was set up in 1941 to probe bribery and corruption during World War II. CBI was set up by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1963 after the Santhanam committee recommendation. Presently it acts as an attached office under DOPT. Although the DSPE Act gives legal power to CBI, CBI is not a statutory body as:

- Word ‘CBI’ is not mentioned in the DSPE act.
- The executive order of MHA did not mention CBI to be constituted under the DSPE Act.

**Statement 2 & 3 is correct:** It is the nodal agency in India which coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries. CBI can suo-moto take up investigation of offences only in the Union Territories. The Central Government can authorize CBI to investigate a crime in a State but only with the consent of the concerned State Government. The Supreme Court and High Courts, however, can order CBI to investigate a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the State.

14. [ANS] a

[SOL] **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.



15. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Option c is correct:** Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international legally binding agreement aimed at ensuring “that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival”. India is a signatory to this convention and has also ratified it in 1976. It has three appendices: Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade-in specimens of these species are permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Appendix II provides a lower level of protection. Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling.

16. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News:** The Reserve Bank of India’s Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) has improved to 56.4 in March 2022 vis-à-vis 53.9 in March 2021, with **growth witnessed across all the sub-indices.**

**Statement is not correct: Financial inclusion index is published annually in July by the Reserve Bank of India.**

**Statements 2 and 3 are correct: The RBI developed the composite financial inclusion index to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country by including details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector.**

- The index comprises three parameters including access, usage and quality.
  - It comprises three broad parameters -- access with 35% weightage, usage with 45% weightage and quality with 20% weightage. It incorporates details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector.
- The Index is **responsive to ease of access, availability and usage of services, and quality of services.**
- The **index captures information on various aspects** of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- The index has been constructed without any base year and reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion.

17. [ANS] b

[SOL] There isn’t formal legislation against blasphemy.

- The closest equivalent to a blasphemy law is the section in IPC relating to Hate speech. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is often argued that **Section 295A is not a section for blasphemy but a section against Hate Speech.**
- **Sections 295 and 295A of the IPC:**
  - Involves **imprisonment** in the case, which involves destruction, damage to or defiling of a “**place of worship**”, or “**any object held sacred**”. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - It is a **cognizable offence**, which means that the police are authorised to arrest accused persons without the need of a judicially sanctioned warrant.
- This law was added only in **1927.**
- **Constitutional Rights:**
  - The word secular in the preamble of the Constitution, makes it very clear that India is a **secular country and is not biased towards any particular religion.**
  - If the state abridged an Indian of his right to religion then he may move to the apex court under **Article 32. Hence statement 3 is correct.**

18. [ANS] a

[SOL] Option 1 is correct.

- Both India and Maldives are founding members of the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**, the **South Asian Economic Union** and signatories to the **South Asia Free Trade Agreement**.
- They have consistently supported each other in multilateral areas such as the **UN**, the **Commonwealth**, the **NAM**, and the **SAARC**.
- **Option 2 is incorrect.**
- China, Russia and four Central Asian states — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan — were the founding members of the **SCO**, while India and Pakistan joined the grouping in 2017 in its first round of expansion.
- **Option 3 is incorrect.**
- ASEAN is an intergovernmental organization of ten Southeast Asian countries:
- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

19. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, India updated its **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)**.

- **Updation of the pledge:**
- As per the Paris Agreement's provisions, countries must 'update' their pledges **every five years** to make higher commitments to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Updated pledge:**
- India now stands committed to **reducing the emissions intensity** of its GDP by **45 percent** by **2030** from its 2005 levels, as per the updated NDC.
- The country will also target about **50 percent of cumulative electric power installed capacity** from **non-fossil fuel-based energy** resources by 2030.
- To further a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, '**LIFE**' '**Lifestyle for Environment**' as a **key to combating climate change**" has been added to India's NDC.
- **No sector-specific mitigation:**
- India will not be bound to any sector-specific mitigation obligation or action. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The Indian delegation at the **UN's mid-year climate change conference (SB 56)** held in **Bonn** in **June 2022** was opposed to the **imposition of binding targets** for any sector, fuel or greenhouse gas.
- This was done **to avoid specific demands being placed** on its coal sector, or on **emissions of GHGs** such as **methane**.

20. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah) marked **25 years of ceasefire** with the Government of India (GoI).

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Directorate of Enforcement enforces the following laws: -

- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (**FEMA**) - A **Civil Law**, with officers empowered to conduct investigations into suspected contraventions of the Foreign Exchange Laws and Regulations, adjudicate contraventions, and impose penalties on those adjudged to have contravened the law.
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (**PMLA**) - A **Criminal Law**, with the officers empowered to conduct investigations to trace assets derived out of the proceeds of crime, to provisionally attach/ confiscate the same, and to arrest and prosecute the offenders found to be involved in Money Laundering.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** is a specialized financial investigation agency under the **Department**

of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

21. [ANS] a

[SOL] Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM)

- **About:**
  - It is a guided missile primarily designed to **hit and destroy heavily armored military vehicles. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - ATGMs range in size from **shoulder-launched weapons**, which can be transported by a single soldier, to **larger tripod-mounted weapons**, which require a squad or team to transport and fire, to vehicle and aircraft-mounted missile systems.
- **HELINA & ATGM:**
  - **HELINA (Helicopter based NAG)** is a third-generation fire and forget class **Anti-tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** system mounted on the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - **More about HELINA:**
    - The system has **all weather day and night capability** and can defeat battle tanks with conventional armour as well as explosive reactive armour.
    - **The HELINA missile** can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode.

22. [ANS] d

[SOL] International Atomic Energy Agency

- Popularly known as the world's "**Atoms for Peace and Development**" organisation, the IAEA is the **international centre for cooperation** in the nuclear field. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It was **established on 29th July 1957** as an **autonomous organisation**, at the height of the Cold War (1945-1991) between the **US and the Soviet Union**.
- Post World War II (1945), the world got divided into two power blocs dominated by two superpowers, the **Soviet Union and the US**.
- The two superpowers were primarily engaged in an ideological war between the capitalistic ideals of the **West versus the communist ideals of the East**.
- It came to an end after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991.
- **Though established independently** of the UN through its own international treaty, the agency **reports to both the UN General Assembly and the Security Council. Hence statements 2 and 3 are correct.**
- It works with the **member states and multiple partners** worldwide to promote the **safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies**.

23. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is incorrect.

- Some REEs are available in India — such as **Lanthanum, Cerium, Neodymium, Praseodymium and Samarium**, etc.
- India has the world's fifth-largest reserves of rare earth elements, nearly twice as much as Australia
- Others such as Dysprosium, Terbium, and Europium, which are classified as HREEs, are **not available** in Indian deposits in extractable quantities.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**

- Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) is a US-led partnership initiative that **aims to bolster critical mineral supply chains**.
- The new grouping is aimed at **catalysing investment** from **governments** and the **private sector** to develop **strategic opportunities**.
- **The US and 10 partners** — Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the

Republic of Korea (South Korea), Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the European Commission — have come together to form the MSP. - India is not the part of MSP

**Statement 3 is correct.**

- **Electric vehicles:**
- Minerals like Cobalt, Nickel, and Lithium are required for batteries used in **electric vehicles**.

**24. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] LIBOR** rose for the fourth straight session, rising roughly 2.5 basis points to 2.83229%, the highest since November 2008.

**Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct: LIBOR** is a **benchmark interest rate** at which major global banks lend to one another in the **international interbank market for short-term loans**.

- **It serves as a globally accepted key benchmark interest rate** that indicates **borrowing costs between banks**.
- **Administered by**
- **the Intercontinental Exchange**, which asks major global banks how much they would charge other banks for short-term loans.
- The rate is calculated using the **Waterfall Methodology**, a standardised, transaction-based, data-driven, layered method.
- It has been subject to manipulation, scandal, and methodological critique, making it less credible today as a benchmark rate.
- It is being replaced by the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) on June 30, 2023, with phase-out of its use beginning after 2021.

**25. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] Collegium System**

- It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through **judgments of the Supreme Court**, and **not by an Act of Parliament** or by a provision of the Constitution. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The Supreme Court collegium is **headed by the Chief Justice of India** and comprises **four other senior-most judges** of the court. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **A High Court collegium** is led by **its Chief Justice and four other senior-most judges** of that court.
- Names recommended for appointment by a High Court collegium reaches the government only after approval by the CJI and the Supreme Court collegium.
- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system, and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.

**Role of Government in Judicial Appointment**

- The government's role is limited.
- It can only get an inquiry conducted by the Home Ministry if a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a High Court or the Supreme Court. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- It can also raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices.
- But if the collegium reiterates the same names, the government is bound, under Constitution Bench judgments, to appoint them as judges.

**26. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] Ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC)** is a form of energy conversion that **makes use of the temperature differential** between the **warm surface waters** of the oceans, **heated by solar radiation**, and the **deeper cold waters**

- OTECs are used to **generate power** in a **conventional heat engine**.  
Beyond the production of clean power, the OTEC process also provides several useful by-products.
- The delivery of cool water to the surface has been used in **air-conditioning systems** and in **chilled-soil agriculture** (which allows for the cultivation of temperate-zone plants in tropical environments). **Hence options 1 and 2 are correct.**
- Open-cycle and hybrid processes have been used in **seawater desalination**, and OTEC infrastructure allows access to **trace elements present in deep-ocean seawater**. **Hence option 3 is correct.**
- In addition, **hydrogen can be extracted** from water through **electrolysis** for use in fuel cells. **Hence option 4 is correct.**

27. [ANS] d

[SOL] Salient features of the “Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021”:

- **Abortions before 20 weeks of pregnancy:**
  - Terminating a pregnancy up to 20 weeks will only require the medical advice of one doctor. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- **Abortions upto or beyond 24 of pregnancy:**
  - Abortion is legal for women in certain circumstances **up to 24 weeks**.
  - It would include:
    - survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women (like differently-abled women, minors) etc.
  - Opinion of 2 providers is required for termination of pregnancy of 20-24 weeks of gestation.
  - A **state-level medical board** will be set up to decide:
    - if pregnancy may be terminated beyond 20 months till 24 months.
    - Such a decision can be taken by the medical board only after
      - due consideration and
      - ensuring that the procedure would be safe for the woman.
      - The time frame available to the Medical Board is 3 days.
  - **The upper gestation limit does not apply** in cases of **substantial foetal abnormalities** diagnosed by the **Medical Board**.
- **Increase in Gestational limit only in certain cases:**
  - It enhances the **gestational limit for legal abortion from 20 to 24 weeks** only for specific categories of women.
  - A woman who does not fall into these categories would not be able to seek an abortion beyond 20 weeks.
- **Intentionally causing a miscarriage:**
  - Section 312 of the Indian Penal Code holds intentionally causing a miscarriage as a criminal offence. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

28. [ANS] d

[SOL] The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act:

- The Act **replaces** the similar **colonial-era Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920**.
- The new law allows **investigators** to collect certain **identifiable information** of convicts and other persons for purposes of **identification and investigation in criminal matters**.
- The new law provides a legal sanction to the police to take physical and biological samples of **convicts as well as those accused of crimes**. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
- **Records of juveniles:**
  - The Act **does not** explicitly bar **taking measurements of juveniles**. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
- The provisions of the (Special Act) **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015** regarding the destruction



- of records of conviction under the Act, shall apply.
  - The Act also seeks to apply to persons detained under any preventive detention law. **Hence option 3 is correct.**
29. [ANS] c  
[SOL] In News : Recently, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India **hiked the policy repo rate** by 50 basis points to 5.4 per cent, a three-year high owing to inflation concern.
- Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Repo Rate:** The interest rate at which the Reserve Bank provides liquidity under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) to all LAF participants against the collateral of government and other approved securities.
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate:** The penal rate at which banks can borrow, on an overnight basis, from the Reserve Bank by dipping into their Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) portfolio up to a predefined limit (2 per cent). This provides a safety valve against unanticipated liquidity shocks to the banking system. The MSF rate is placed at 25 basis points above the policy repo rate.
30. [ANS] a  
[SOL] In News : Recently, **China** launched aggressive and unprecedented military exercises near **Taiwan** in response to **US** House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the island that China claims as part of its territory.
- It was adopted by Taiwan in 2017 when Lee Hsi-Ming, then-chief of the Taiwanese military forces, referred to it as the "Overall Defence Concept" (ODC).
31. [ANS] a  
[SOL] Composition of NITI Aayog:
- **Chairperson:** Prime Minister of India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - **The Governing Council** consists of the Chief Ministers of all the States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories in India. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
  - The NITI Aayog's governing council is the premier body tasked with evolving a shared vision of national priorities and strategies with the involvement of the States and Union Territories.
  - It presents a platform to discuss **inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues.**
  - **Chief Executive Officer:**
  - The CEO will be appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
  - He will be in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
32. [ANS] c  
[SOL] Peninsular Rock Agama (*Psammophilus dorsalis*)
- It is a type of garden lizard that has a **strong presence in southern India.**
  - It is a **large animal, strikingly** coloured in orange and black.
  - They **do not generate their own body heat**, so they need to seek warmth from external **sources like a warm rock or a sunny spot on the wall.**
  - They are important in ecology from different aspects — they can indicate **which parts of the city are warming, and their numbers show how the food web is changing.**
33. [ANS] c  
[SOL] Recently, an **annual long-term monitoring** report by the Australian Institute of

Marine Science (AIMS) was released on the Great Barrier Reef's recovery and vulnerability to climate threats.

**Statement 1 is correct:** A coral reef is an underwater ecosystem characterized by reef-building corals. Reefs are formed of colonies of coral polyps held together by calcium carbonate. The coral polyps live in an endosymbiotic relationship with algae. Algae provides up to 90 percent of the coral's energy.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The temperature of the water should not be below 20°C. The most favorable temperature for the growth of the coral reefs is between 23°C to 25°C. The temperature should not exceed 35°C.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Corals can survive only under saline conditions with an average salinity between 27% to 40%.

34. [ANS] d

[SOL] According to the Home Ministry data, **only three** Indian Police Service (IPS) officers have **offered themselves to be available** for Central deputation.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Chief Secretary (CS) is the senior-most position in the civil services of the states and union territories of India. The position is a cadre post for the Indian Administrative Services (IAS). The appointee for the office is approved by the state Chief minister. The appointment is made in the name of the **Governor of the State**. There is no fixed tenure imposed on the office but the term can be extended for 6 months.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** In his capacity, the CS is a member of the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA). He is equivalent in rank to a Secretary to Government of India. The Chief Secretary is in charge of overall Law and Order of the State. He has powers to transfer any officer of any rank **after consulting** the Chief Minister. His signature in all Government Orders passing any law in the state is necessary.

35. [ANS] c

[SOL] ASEAN - India Relations

● **Delhi Dialogue:**

- The 'Delhi Dialogue' (DD) mechanism is hosted by **India annually**. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.

- It is traditionally **inaugurated jointly by India and ASEAN** at the Foreign Minister's level.

- It serves as the **main Track 1.5 mechanism** for our engagement.

- The DD-mechanism allows the participation of **think tanks, academics and prominent civil society persons** from both India and the ASEAN region.

- In addition to government representatives, with the objective of **contributing ideas and perspectives** to furthering the India-ASEAN strategic partnership.

- The XIIth edition of the Delhi Dialogue was held in June, 2022.

● **ADMM-Plus.**

- The ADMM Plus is an annual **meeting of Defence Ministers** of 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries and **eight dialogue partner countries - Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States**. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.

36. [ANS] b

[SOL] The government is working on to develop a "technology solution", where grievances published in newspapers and on social media platforms can be suo motu registered on the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) for action by the authorities concerned.

**Option b is correct:** CPGRAMS is an online **platform available to the citizens 24x7** to

- lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.
- It is a **single portal connected to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States.**

**Issues which are not taken up for redress:**

- Sub Judice cases or any matter concerning judgement given by any court.
- Personal and family disputes.
- RTI matters.
- Anything that impacts upon territorial integrity of the country or friendly relations with other countries.
- Suggestions.

**37. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] Option B is correct:** The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was constituted in December 2010. The FSDC was set up to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development. An apex-level FSDC is not a statutory body.

The membership of the FSDC is- The Finance Minister is the Chairman of the FSDC.

Members of FSDC include Heads of the Financial Sector Regulators listed below:

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA)
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- Other members are Finance Secretary, Chief Economics Advisor and Secretary of the Department of Financial Services.

**38. [ANS] d**

**[SOL]** Recently, The Lok Sabha passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

- The Bill seeks to amend the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- Key provisions of the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill:**
- The bill seeks to mandate the **use of non-fossil sources**, including **Green hydrogen, green ammonia, biomass, and Ethanol** for energy and feedstock; **Hence option 1 is correct.**
- Establish **Carbon Markets**; **Hence option 2 is correct.**
- Bring **large residential buildings** within the fold of the Energy Conservation regime; **Hence option 3 is correct.**
- Enhance the scope of the **Energy Conservation Building Code**;
- Amend **penalty provisions**;
- Increase members in the governing council of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**; **Hence option 4 is correct.**
- Empower the **State Electricity Regulatory Commissions** to make regulations for smooth discharge of its functions
- To put in place **enabling provisions** to make the use of **clean energy**, including green hydrogen, mandatory and to establish carbon markets.

**39. [ANS] b**

**[SOL]** Recently, The report titled '**Outbound Travel and Tourism - An Opportunity Untapped**' was released by **Nangia Andersen LLP** in association with **FICCI**.

**More about the report & its highlights**

- About:**
- The report highlights the **up-and-coming Indian travel market** and
- It outlines a **framework** for creating a more **value for money experience** for Indian



tourists and travellers.

- **Potential:**

- Indian outbound tourism is going to surpass USD 42 billion by 2024.
- **Europe** sees 20 percent of the travellers from India's outbound traffic.
- 10 percent travel to **Australia** and **New Zealand**, while the rest of the traffic is towards **Southeast Asia**.

40. [ANS] c

[SOL] India has added significant photovoltaic capacity over the past decade, achieving over **50 GW by 2022**.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bachat Lamp Yojana (BLY) is a public-private partnership program composed of BEE, Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) and private investors to accelerate market transformation in energy efficient lighting. The objective of the scheme is to provide Energy Efficient Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) at the same cost i.e. Rs.15, as of Incandescent Bulbs. The project has been approved by the United Nations under the global carbon credit scheme called as Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The government launched Eco-Niwas Samhita in 2018, which is the Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R), to push for energy efficiency in the residential sector. The code aims for promoting design and construction of homes including apartments and townships to give the benefits of energy efficiency to the occupants.

41. [ANS] a

[SOL] The United States has supplied some “anti-radiation missiles” to Ukraine, which could be fired from some Ukrainian Air Force aircraft.

- The acronym ‘HARM’ in the AGM-88 HARM **air-to-surface missile** stands for High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile.
- It is a tactical weapon fired from fighter aircraft, and has the capability to detect and home into radiation emitted by hostile radar stations that have surface-to-air detection capabilities.

42. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, NASA has highlighted the **loss of mangrove cover** on Katchal island, a part of India's Nicobar archipelago.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Store Freshwater: Mangroves, like desert plants, store fresh water in thick succulent leaves. A waxy coating on the leaves seals in the water and minimizes evaporation.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Mangroves are **viviparous**. Their seeds germinate while still attached to the parent tree. Once germinated, the seedling grows into a propagule.

The mature propagule then drops into the water and gets transported to a different spot, eventually taking root in a solid ground.

43. [ANS] a

[SOL] **About Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996**

- **Background:**

- The **73rd and the 74th Amendments** to the Indian Constitution passed in **1992** took the **three-tier Panchayati Raj governance structure** to **rural and urban parts of the country**
- However, **scheduled areas**, predominantly inhabited by the **tribal population**, were **exempted** from the new amendments.
- Thus Parliament enacted special legislation called **Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) in 1996**.

- **Objectives:**

- To **extend the provisions of Part IX** of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the

- Scheduled Areas with **certain modifications**. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- To provide **self-rule** for the bulk of the tribal population.
- To have **village governance** with **participatory democracy** and to make the Gram Sabha a nucleus of all activities.
- To evolve a **suitable administrative framework** consistent with traditional practices.
- To **safeguard and preserve** the **traditions and customs** of tribal communities.
- **Applicability:**
- It is now applicable in the **Fifth Schedule areas**, which deals with the **administration of the districts** dominated by the **tribal communities**.
- It is in force in 10 states of the country.
- **Six States** namely Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Telangana have notified PESA Rules.
- The **remaining four States** namely Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha should also frame PESA Rules and **start implementing them soon**. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
- **In conflict with other legislations:**
- After enacting PESA, the Union Government brought **several other legislations** and included many provisions of PESA into these laws, shadowing its purpose and significance.
- For instance, the **Land Acquisition Act, 2013** empowered Gram Sabhas immensely.
- Similarly, **the Forest Right Act, 2006** has provisions of PESA and now when people need to protect their rights and resources, they look up to these laws. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

44. [ANS] c

[SOL] **The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women:**

- It is an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the **United Nations General Assembly**. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- It is described as an international bill of rights for women.
- **India is a signatory** to the Convention for Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- The convention obliges states to **take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women** in political and public life and, in particular, to ensure that women are as eligible as men **to contest elections to all public bodies**.
- They have the right to participate in contributing to **government policy and its implementation**.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Global Gender Gap Index is published by World Economic Forum (WEF).

45. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) is a pan India **Central Sector Scheme** launched in the year 2020.

- It aims to 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.
- **Duration:** Extended to 13 years (FY2020 to FY2032).
- **Intended beneficiaries:** Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Group (SHG), Farmers, Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, Aggregation Infrastructure Providers and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored PPP Project.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Rs.1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to eligible beneficiaries.

- All loans under this financing facility will have an interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crores.

46. [ANS] d

[SOL] Chief Minister

- **Statement 1 is correct:**
  - A person who is **not a member of the state legislature** can be appointed as Chief Minister **for six months**, within which time, he should be elected to the state legislature, failing which he ceases to be the Chief Minister.
- **Statement 2 is correct:**
  - CM and other Ministers shall hold office during the **pleasure of the Governor**.
  - CM **cannot be dismissed by the governor** as long as he enjoys the **majority** support in the legislative assembly.
  - The State Legislative Assembly **can also remove him** by passing a **no-confidence vote against him**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:**
  - The Governor **allocates portfolios** to the ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister.

47. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, satellite imagery showed the Antarctic ice shelf is **crumbling faster** than thought. **Statement 1 is correct:** Antarctica is covered by the Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Atlantic Ocean.



Image Courtesy: [Britannica](#)

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Ross Ice Shelf is situated in the **southern part** of Antarctica.

48. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022 report was released by the

- International Labour Organisation.
- It is a specialised agency of the United Nations.
- It is the only tripartite U.N. agency since 1919.
- The unique tripartite structure brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
- Aim: To promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.
- History: Established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations.
- Became the first affiliated specialised agency of the United Nations in 1946.
- India is a founder member of the ILO.
- Headquarter: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969:
  - For improving peace among classes
  - Pursuing decent work and justice for workers
  - Providing technical assistance to other developing nations

49. [ANS] b

[SOL] The most commonly accepted theory in place attributes **continent formation** to the **movement of tectonic plates**.

- Earth is uncommon among the planets and also from our moon that its **outer surface is divided into rigid slabs**, which were called **tectonic plates** by Wegener in his theory.
- While their surfaces exhibit **evidence of recent deformation**, neither planet has a surface divided into plates.
- None of the other planets in our solar system have continents. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- As the technology advanced, making it possible for **deeper exploration**, the **theories of continental drift and seafloor spreading** got positive scientific data in support.
- The two theories were merged to develop the modern plate tectonic theory. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

50. [ANS] d

[SOL] Know about G20

- The G20 was formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular. **Hence statement (a) is correct.**
- Its aim was to secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries. **Hence statement (b) is correct.**
- **As stated by the official G20 Website:**
  - “On the advice of the G7 Finance Ministers, the G20 **Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors** began holding meetings to discuss the response to the global financial crisis that occurred,”
- **Presidency of G20 & Troika:**
  - India will hold the **G20 Presidency** from 1 **December 2022** to 30 **November 2023**. **Hence statement (c) is correct.**
  - The presidency of the G20 **rotates** every year among members.
  - The country holding the presidency, together with the previous and next presidency-holder, forms the ‘**Troika**’ to ensure continuity of the G20 agenda.
  - **Italy, Indonesia, and India** are the **Troika countries** right now. **Hence statement (d) is incorrect.**

51. [ANS] d

[SOL] Option d is correct: He was popularly known as yogi **Rishi Aurobindo**.

- **A revolutionary, nationalist, poet, educationist and philosopher.**
- He was also a journalist and his first philosophical magazine called Arya was published in 1914.
- Among his many writings are The Life Divine, The Synthesis of Yoga and Savitri.

52. [ANS] a

[SOL] Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

- **About:**
  - The Act **replaces** the similar **colonial-era Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920**.
  - The new law allows **investigators** to collect certain **identifiable information** of convicts and other persons for purposes of **identification and investigation in criminal matters**.
- **Key provisions:**
  - **Legal sanction of data collection:**
    - The new law provides a legal sanction to the police to take **physical and biological samples of convicts** as well as those **accused** of crimes. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
    - It empowers police to collect:
      - Fingerprints
      - Palm prints and footprints
      - Photos
      - Iris and retina scans
      - Analysis of physical and biological samples
      - Behavioural attributes
      - Signature and handwriting
  - **Role of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB):**
    - The law also empowers the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** to **store, preserve, share** with any law enforcement agency and **destroy** the record of measurements at the national level.
    - The records can be stored **up to a period of 75 years**. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

53. [ANS] c

[SOL] Monsoon Trough:

- Monsoon Trough is an **elongated low-pressure area** that extends from heat low over Pakistan to the Head Bay of Bengal. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- This is one of the semi-permanent features of monsoon circulation.
- Monsoon trough may be a characteristic of the east-west orientation of Himalayan ranges and the north-south orientation of Khasi-Jaintia Hills.
- The monsoon trough's **location, oscillation, and duration** over a specific location, all directly affect the rainfall activity over the regions exactly to the south of its position.
- That is, when it is **located to the south of its normal position**, there is active or **vigorous rainfall over most parts of central, peninsular India** regions. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- When it **shifts to the north of its normal position** or lays along the **Himalayan foothills**, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and the northeastern states benefit.

54. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statements 1 and 2 are not correct: Euthanasia

- **Greek words:** The term Euthanasia comes from two Ancient Greek words: 'Eu' means 'Good', and 'thantos' means 'death', so Euthanasia means good death.
- **Two types:** Euthanasia can be also divided into two types according to means of death.
- **Active Euthanasia:** It is also known as 'Positive Euthanasia' or 'Aggressive Euthanasia'. It



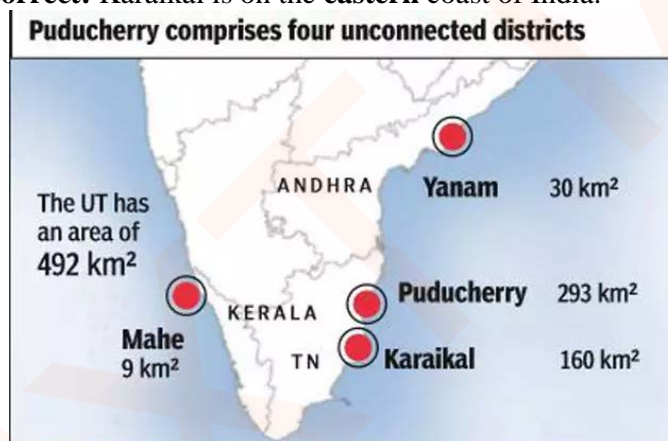
refers to causing intentional death of a human being by direct intervention. It is a direct action performed to end useless life and a meaningless existence.

- For example, by giving lethal doses of a drug or by giving a lethal injection. Active euthanasia is usually a quicker means of causing death and all forms of active euthanasia are illegal.
- **Passive Euthanasia:** It is also known as 'Negative Euthanasia' or 'Non-Aggressive Euthanasia'. It is intentionally causing death by not providing essential, necessary and ordinary care or food and water.
- It implies discontinuing, withdrawing or removing artificial life support systems.
- Passive euthanasia is usually slower and more uncomfortable than active. Most forms of voluntary, passive and some instances of non-voluntary, passive euthanasia are legal.

55. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Union Territory of Puducherry consists of **four small** unconnected districts: Puducherry district (293 km<sup>2</sup>), Karaikal district (161 km<sup>2</sup>) and Yanam district (20 km<sup>2</sup>) on the Bay of Bengal and Mahé district (9 km<sup>2</sup>) on the Laccadive Sea, covering a total area of 483 km<sup>2</sup>.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Karaikal is on the **eastern** coast of India.



56. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Option b is correct:** August 15, 2022 marks the **150th birth anniversary** of Sri Aurobindo.

**Sri Aurobindo**

- **About:**
  - Popularly known as yogi **Rishi Aurobindo**.
  - He was a **revolutionary, nationalist, poet, educationist and philosopher**.
  - **Birth:** Born on August 15, 1872, in Calcutta.
  - **Early life and Education:** At the **age of seven** he was taken to England for education.
- **Roles played as a**
  - **Service officer and professor:**
    - In 1893 returned to India and worked in the Princely State of Baroda in the service of the Maharaja and as a professor at Baroda College.
  - **Revolutionary:**
    - In 1906, he quit the job in **Baroda and went to Calcutta**.
    - Became one of the **leaders of the Nationalist movement** and took a leading role in secret preparations for an **uprising against the British Government in India**.
    - He was the **first political leader in India** to openly put forward the idea of **complete independence** for the country in his **newspaper Bande Mataram**.
    - Aurobindo's pragmatic strategies to get rid of British rule marked him as "**the Prophet of**

**Indian Nationalism”.**

- **Yogi**
- In 1910 he withdrew from politics and went to Pondicherry in order to devote himself entirely to his inner spiritual life and work.
- He evolved a new method of spiritual practice, which he called **Integral Yoga** and founded the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926
- **Literary works:**
- The Life Divine, The Synthesis of Yoga and Savitri.
- He wrote a series on **Bankim Chandra’s Vande Mataram**, attributing divine nationhood to “**Mother India**” and depicting the independence struggle as the sacred cause of freedom.
- In 1943, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize for literature and then again in 1950 for the Nobel Peace Prize.

57. [ANS] d

[SOL] Jhalkari Bai

- **Jhalkari Bai & Rani Laxmibai:**
- Jhalkari Bai was a soldier in Rani Laxmibai’s women’s army, **Durga Dal**.
- She rose to become one of the **queen’s most trusted advisers**.
- She is known for putting her own life at risk to keep the queen out of harm’s way.
- **Legacy:**
- To date, the story of her valour is recalled **by the people of Bundelkhand**, and she is often presented as a representative of **Bundeli identity**.
- According to the Ministry of Culture’s Amrit Mahotsav website, “Many **Dalit communities** of the region look up to her as an **incarnation of God** and also celebrate Jhalkaribai Jayanti every year in her honour.”

58. [ANS] d

- [SOL] Recently, a **flare-up began between Azerbaijan and Armenia** after Azerbaijan claimed that it had captured the territory in Karabakh in a retaliatory campaign.
- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Nagorno-Karabakh region is a mountainous land-locked region in the South Caucasus. It is a forested region and geographically lies within the boundary of Azerbaijan. South Caucasus or Transcaucasia is a region on the southern Caucasus Mountains on the border of Eastern Europe and Western Asia. It roughly comprises of the modern countries of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.



- **Statement 2 is not correct:** Armenia is a landlocked country and does not share a border with the Caspian Sea.

59. [ANS] c

[SOL] Fundamental Duties

- **Incorporation of Fundamental Duties:**
  - When the Constitution was adopted in the year 1949, there were no provisions regarding **Fundamental Duties to the Citizens** though there was a **Part III for Fundamental Rights**. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
  - The Fundamental Duties of citizens were added to the Constitution by the **42nd Amendment in 1976**, upon the recommendations of **the Swaran Singh Committee** that was constituted by the Government.
    - The Committee suggested that steps needed to be taken to ensure that the individual did not overlook his duties while in the exercise of his Fundamental Rights.
  - The fundamental duties were incorporated in **Part IV-A of the Constitution**.
  - The concept of Fundamental duties was taken from the former **USSR**.
  - It **helps the Court** in determining the **constitutionality of the law**. Hence **statement 3 is correct**.
- **Article 51(A) describes 11 fundamental duties.**
  - 10 came with the 42nd Amendment;
  - 11th was added by the 86th Amendment in 2002
- **Fundamental Rights are justiciable, the Fundamental Duties are non-justiciable.** Hence **statement 2 is correct**.
  - It means that the violation of fundamental duties, i.e. the non-performance of these duties by citizens is not punishable.
  - These duties are not enforceable by law. However, a court may take them into account while adjudicating on a matter.



60. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). As per Rules, 1989, it is responsible for the appraisal of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle. The committee is also responsible for the appraisal of proposals relating to the release of genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Currently, the only GM crops permitted for cultivation in India is Bt Cotton. But several cases of cultivation of illegal GM crops (Brinjal, Soyabean etc) have been reported from across states in the last few months. A GM crop has a gene artificially inserted into it from another species to give it some desired properties like – pest resistance, herbicide tolerance, drought resistance etc.

61. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, researchers from Hyderabad have 3D-printed an artificial cornea and transplanted it into a rabbit's eye.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The white part of the eyes is called **Sclera**.

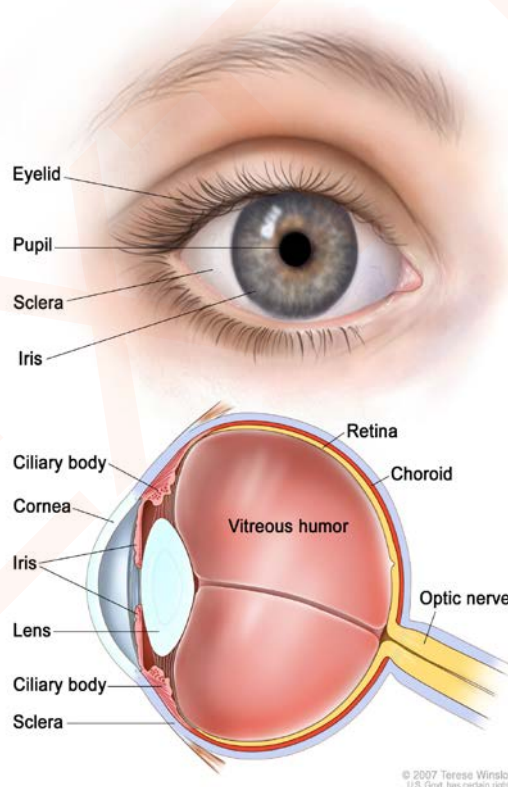


Image Courtesy: [Cornea](#)

**Statement 2 is correct:** Cornea acts as the eye's outermost lens. It functions like a window that controls and focuses the entry of light into the eye. It contributes between 65-75 percent of the eye's total focusing power.

62. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Prime Minister of India voiced the need for **healthy competition** among state governments.

**Four important features of a federal system:**

- **Multiple levels of government:** Federalism, by its very definition, requires multiple levels of government functioning within their defined territory. **Statement 1 is correct**
- **Division of Power:** The power is divided by the division of subjects between the entities so that the chances of conflict are reduced to a minimum. **Statement 2 is correct**
- **Written Constitution:** It ensures there is clarity in the respective division of power. Again, a rigid constitution ensures that this division of power is not easily disturbed. **Statement 3 is correct**
- **Independent Judiciary:** It acts as a dispute resolution mechanism between the different levels of government. **Statement 4 is correct**

**63. [ANS] a**

[SOL] Recently, the Prime Minister of India announced that India has achieved its target of blending 10% sugarcane-extracted ethanol in petrol, ahead of schedule.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Ethanol is an organic chemical compound.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is simple alcohol with the chemical formula  $C_2H_6O$ .

**Statement 3 is correct:** It is a volatile, flammable, colourless liquid with a characteristic wine-like odour and pungent taste.

**Statement 4 is correct:** Ethanol can be produced from crops that have high starch content like sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc.

**64. [ANS] b**

[SOL] STEVE first appeared in the sky in 2017 and has been appearing often since.

- There is evidence to support the claim that the phenomenon has been visible in the sky since 1705
- It is a **rare, mysterious, glowing purple arc** that runs **east to west** and occurs closer to the **equator**.

**How is it different from Aurora Borealis?**

- Disturbances in the Earth's magnetosphere due to solar wind cause Auroras.
- These disturbances occur because of **enhancements in the speed of the solar wind from coronal holes and coronal mass ejections**. "
- While the skylights, **STEVE and the Auroras** might seem similar, they are **nothing alike**.
- To begin with, the **STEVE phenomenon** is closer to the equator than the **Auroras**.
- STEVE is different from the usual aurora, but it is made of light and it is driven by the auroral system.

**65. [ANS] d**

[SOL] **Option D is correct:** The World Bank Group is an international partnership comprising 189 countries and five constituent institutions that works towards eradicating poverty and creating prosperity. It traces its origin to the Bretton Woods Conference, officially known as the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference. Its major reports and publications are Ease of Doing Business, World Development Report and Global Economic Prospects. The Global Gender Gap Report is released by the World Economic Forum.

**66. [ANS] c**

[SOL]**India's Refugee Policy:**

- India's approach towards refugees is **customary and a dynamic** one having regard to **prevailing socio-political conditions**.
- Though India is not a party to **1951 convention** or **1967 protocol** it acceded to various Human Rights treaties including the UNHCR and it is obliged to protect the rights of refugees. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**

- **As per Indian law, there is no law to deal with refugees. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Both illegal migrants & refugee categories of people are viewed as one and the same and are covered under the Foreigners Act, 1946.
- The constitution of India protects **the refugees' right to life with dignity** that includes
- Right against solitary confinement and custodial violence,
- Right to medical assistance and shelter. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

67. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the New York City Health Department announced that the West Nile virus had been detected in two people, one in Brooklyn and another in Queens, as well as in a record number of infected mosquitoes throughout the city.

What is West Nile Virus?

- It is a mosquito-borne, single-stranded RNA virus.
- It is a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae.
- It is commonly found in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia.
- Transmission : Culex species of mosquitoes act as the principal vectors for transmission.
- It is transmitted by infected mosquitoes between and among humans and animals, including birds, which are the reservoir host of the virus.
- It can also spread through blood transfusion, from an infected mother to her child, or through exposure to the virus in laboratories.
- It is not known to spread by contact with infected humans or animals.
- To date, no human-to-human transmission of WNV through casual contact has been documented.
- Impact :It can cause neurological disease and death in people.
- Detection of WNV
- The virus was first isolated in a woman in the West Nile district of Uganda in 1937.
- It was identified in birds (crows and columbiformes like doves and pigeons) in the Nile delta region in 1953.
- Before 1997, WNV was not considered pathogenic for birds, but then, a more virulent strain caused the death in Israel of different bird species, presenting signs of encephalitis and paralysis.
- Preventive measures
- This vector-borne disease can be prevented by protecting one-self from mosquito bites.
- Other steps are wearing clothing that acts as a barrier to exposure to bites, reducing breeding sites, covering water storage containers, eliminating puddles and drainage of places where water accumulates, eliminating unusable containers where water pools, and controlling garbage in yards and gardens.

68. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India tabled a report in Parliament on whether steps taken by the Union Environment Ministry to conserve India's coastal ecosystems have been successful.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Coastal regions of India provide home to 13.36% of the people of the country and thus place tremendous pressure on the resources along the coast. There are nine coastal states in the country, namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The nodal institutions at the national level, **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), and Ministry of Earth Sciences** along with various stakeholder ministries and other key scientific and research

bodies all over India has been entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the coast and the fragile coastal resources and ensuring their sustainable use.

69. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** Dolphins are one of the oldest creatures in the world along with some species of turtles, crocodiles and sharks.

- The Ganges river dolphin was officially discovered in 1801.
- It is a mammal primarily found in the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers and their tributaries in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- The Ganges river dolphin can only live in freshwater and is essentially blind.
- They hunt by emitting ultrasonic sounds, which bounces off of fish and other prey, enabling them to “see” an image in their mind.
- They are frequently found alone or in small groups, and generally a mother and calf travel together.
- The species does not have a crystalline eye lens, rendering it effectively blind. Navigation and hunting are carried out using echolocation. The body is a brownish colour and stocky in the middle.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Ganges River Dolphin is listed as Endangered by IUCN.

70. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 and 3 are correct:** The river is also called Paisuani in Government records and Survey of India map.

- The river Mandakini originates from the **hills of Khillora** near Pindra village, Majhagawan in district Satna (Madhya Pradesh) and travels 39km, before reaching Sati **Anusuiya Ashram site**. In these 35 km, it is a seasonal stream flowing only in monsoon.
- Sati Anusuiya is a perennial reach of Mandakini River where a large number of small and big springs feed to the river
- The river is the lifeline of Chitrakoot and the surrounding area, with almost 70 per cent of Chitrakoot residents relying on the **river for drinking and household purposes**.
- Chitrakoot is famous for its association with the Hindu epic, the Ramayana. Hundreds of people visit the town on a full moon, new moon and Diwali nights and bathe in the river.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It flows into the Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh’s Karwi tehsil in Chitrakoot district.

71. [ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** Research suggests, ancient **Megalodon** sharks could eat a whale in a few bites.

- **Scientific Name :** Otodus megalodon
- It is an **extinct species of mackerel shark** which used to **exist millions of years ago**.
- It roamed the oceans an **estimated 23 million to 2.6 million years ago**.
- It was the **largest shark** to ever **swim through Earth's oceans**.

72. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Web 3.0:**

- It is becoming increasingly essential for developing nations to iteratively build innovative solutions on top of existing digital infrastructure.
- Web 3.0 combines **older-generation web tools** with **cutting-edge technologies** such as **AI and blockchain**, as well as **user interconnection** and **increased Internet usage**. Hence

**statements 1 is correct.**

- The Web 3.0 architecture establishes a **new version of the Internet protocol** incorporating **token-based economics, transparency, and decentralisation.** Hence **statements 2 is correct.**

**73. [ANS] b**

**[SOL]** Recently, the Reserve Bank of India said that it will call a special meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) soon explaining the reasons for the average retail inflation remaining above the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent for three consecutive quarters.

- **Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934** provides for an empowered six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) to be constituted by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette.
- Chaired by the Governor of RBI.
- **Mission:** Fixing the benchmark policy interest rate (repo rate) to restrain inflation within the particular target level (2% to 6%).
- MPC conducts meetings at least 4 times a year.
- The monetary policy is published after every meeting with each member explaining his opinions.

**74. [ANS] b**

**[SOL]** **India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway (IMT Highway)**

- It is a 1,360 km long highway in the making **under India's Look East policy.** Hence **statements 1 is correct.**
- It will connect **Moreh, India** with **Mae Sot, Thailand** via **Myanmar.** Hence **statements 2 is incorrect.**
- The road is expected to boost trade and commerce in the **ASEAN–India Free Trade Area**, as well as with the **rest of Southeast Asia.**
- India has also proposed extending the highway to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Hence **statements 3 is correct.**
- The proposed approx 3,200 km route from India to Vietnam is known as the East-West Economic Corridor.
- This highway will also connect to the **river ports** being developed along the way at **Kalay** (also called Kalaymyo) and **Monywa** on the **Chindwin River.**

**75. [ANS] b**

**[SOL]** **Statement 1 is not correct:** The term Lingayat denotes a person who wears a personal linga, an iconic form of god Shiva, on the body which is received during the initiation ceremony. Lingayats had been classified as a Hindu subcaste called “Veerashaiva Lingayats” and they are considered to be Shaivites. Lingayats are the state’s single largest community, at nearly 17 per cent of the population, mostly in the north Karnataka region. **Statement 2 is correct:** The tradition of Lingayatism is known to have been founded by social reformer and philosopher Basavanna in 12th century Karnataka. Their emergence can be located within the larger trend of Bhakti movements that had swept across South India from the 8th century AD onwards.

**76. [ANS] d**

**[SOL]** **Statement 1 is correct:** The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organisation established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the UNCLOS.



**Statement 2 is correct:** In accordance with Article 156 (2) of UNCLOS, all States Parties to UNCLOS are ipso facto members of ISA. As of May 2020, ISA has 168 members including India.

**Statement 3 is correct:** It ensures the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed related activities and allows ocean areas for exploitation of Polymetallic Nodules. India has been allotted a site of 75,000 square kilometres in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) by ISA.

77. [ANS] c

[SOL] **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**

- **About:**
  - The CPEC is a collection of **infrastructure projects** that have been under construction throughout Pakistan **beginning 2013**.
  - The CPEC is **part of China's larger Belt and Road Initiative**, which aims to spread Chinese investments in trade and connectivity infrastructure to bring Central Asian and European markets closer. **Hence statement (b) is correct.**
  - New Delhi has protested the project from its inception since it passes through large chunks of **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir**.
- **Details:**
  - The CPEC is a **3,000 km route of infrastructure projects** that seek to create **a series of contiguous economic and trade hubs with road and rail infrastructure**. **Hence statement (a) is correct.**
  - It will link places like **China's restive western province of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region** and the **new Gwadar port in Pakistan's** equally unquiet Balochistan state. **Hence statement (c) is incorrect.**
- **Mutual Benefit for China and Pakistan:**
  - For China, the project will bypass the **Strait of Malacca**, which can be a choke point in case of a conflict with the US or other adversaries.
  - On the other hand, Pakistan expects CPEC to be a **lifeline for its deteriorating economy**, leading to a multiplier effect on production and employment generation and sustainable economic growth.

78. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Both the statements are correct:** The **Liparidae**, commonly known as snailfish or sea snails, are a **family of marine scorpaeniform fishes**.

- The **Snailfish releases biofluorescence**, which allows it to glow green and red in the dark arctic waters.
- Snailfish is the only polar fish reported to have **biofluorescence**. Biofluorescence is the **ability of an organism to convert blue light into green, red, or yellow light**.
- Snailfish are found in **cold water**—in the North Atlantic and North Pacific and the Arctic and Antarctic seas.

79. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Option d is not correct:** Biofloc system is a **wastewater treatment** which has gained vital importance as an approach in aquaculture.

- The principle of the technique is to maintain the higher C-N ratio by adding carbohydrate source and the water quality is improved through the production of high-quality single-cell microbial protein
- In such conditions, heterotrophic microbial growth occurs which assimilates the nitrogenous waste that can be exploited by the cultured species as feed and also works as a

- bioreactor controlling water quality.
- Immobilization of toxic nitrogen species occurs more rapidly in biofloc because the growth rate and microbial production per unit substrate of heterotrophs are ten times greater than that of the autotrophic nitrifying bacteria.
- This technology is based on the principle of flocculation within the system.

80. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct:** Setup in 2016. BBB selects top officials (MD, CEO, Chairman and full-time Directors) for PSBs, LIC and other public sector financial institutions.

- Actual appointment is done by the Finance Ministry's Department of Financial Services.

81. [ANS] c

[SOL] **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)**

- **About:**
  - Conceptualized and managed by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** at the **Central Fingerprint Bureau (CFPB)** in New Delhi. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - The National Automated Fingerprints Identification System (NAFIS) project is a **country-wide, centralised and searchable database of crime- and criminal-related fingerprints.**
  - Recently, **Madhya Pradesh** became the **first state in the country** to identify a deceased person through NAFIS.
- **The web-based application:**
  - The web-based application functions as a **central information repository** by consolidating fingerprint data from **all states and Union Territories.**
- **Unique ID:**
  - NAFIS assigns a unique **10-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN)** to each person arrested for a crime. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - This unique ID will be **used for the person's lifetime**, and different crimes registered under different FIRs will be linked to the same NFN.

82. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The UIDAI is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016") on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India, under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Aadhaar number is a 12-digit random number issued by the UIDAI to the residents of India after satisfying the verification process laid down by the Authority. Any individual, irrespective of age and gender, who is a resident of India, may voluntarily enrol to obtain an Aadhaar number.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Under the Aadhaar Act 2016, UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle, developing the policy, procedure, and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals and perform authentication and the security of identity information and authentication records of individuals.

83. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Cloudbursts:**

- **About:**
  - A cloudburst is a **localized but intense** rainfall activity.
  - **Short spells of very heavy rainfall over a small geographical area** can cause **widespread destruction**, especially in **hilly regions** where this phenomenon is the most common.
- **Definition:**
  - Not all instances of very heavy rainfall, however, are cloudbursts.
  - A cloudburst has a very specific definition: **Rainfall of 10 cm or more in an hour** over a

- roughly **10 km x 10-km area** is classified as a cloudburst event.
- By this definition, 5 cm of rainfall in a half hour period over the same area would also be categorized as a cloudburst.
  - During a cloudburst event, a place receives about 10% of this annual rainfall within an hour.
  - **Frequency of Cloudbursts:**
    - Cloudbursts are **not uncommon events**, particularly during the monsoon months.
    - Most of these happen in the **Himalayan states** where the **local topology, wind systems, and temperature gradients** between the **lower and upper atmosphere** facilitate the occurrence of such events.
  - **Consequences:**
    - **Flash floods** are mostly the result of cloudbursts.
    - Even if cloudburst & flash floods is a localized activity, the consequences of these events are not confined to the small areas.
    - Because of the nature of terrain, the heavy rainfall events often trigger landslides and flash floods, causing extensive destruction downstream.

84. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, Non-Fungible Tokens have also taken a hit as a result of the crypto fallout.

- It is a unit of data that is stored on a **digital ledger (block chain)** and can be **sold and traded**.
- NFT data units may be associated with digital files such as **photos, videos, and audio**.
- Each NFT may represent a **different underlying asset and can have a different value**.
- It is a **unique digital asset** that represents **ownership of real-world** items like art, video clips, music, and more.

### Fungible VS Non-Fungible Token Comparison Chart

Fungible Token	Non-Fungible Token
Fungible tokens are assets which are interchangeable and can be exchanged with another asset with the similar kind.	Non fungible tokens are unique assets that are not interchangeable and cannot be exchanged with another NFT of same kind.
Fungible tokens are divisible assets meaning the item can be broken down into any number of units as long as the value remains the same.	Non fungible tokens are non divisible assets and they represent a whole entity and cannot be sub-divided into multiple units.
Fungible tokens are uniform and they do not have unique value proposition like NFTs.	NFTs have a unique value proposition and each token has a unique ID.
Fungible tokens use ERC20 standard used to create the fungible tokens on Ethereum blockchain.	NFTs use ERC721 standard for representation of their tokens.

DB Difference  
Between.net

85. [ANS] b

[SOL] An **inverted duty structure** comes up in a situation where import duties on input goods are higher than on finished goods. In other words, the GST rate paid on purchases is more than



the GST rate payable on sales.

**Anti Dumping Duty:** It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

**Countervailing Duty:** It is a specific form of duty structure that the government imposes in order to protect domestic producers by countering the negative impact of import subsidies.

86. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News :** The biomass of the Pacific Bluefin Tuna has increased and is second-highest in recorded history

**Statement 1 is correct :** There are three species of bluefin: Atlantic (the largest and most endangered), Pacific, and Southern.

- **Atlantic Bluefin Tuna** is the largest tuna.

**Statement 2 is not correct :** The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies it as **Endangered**.

87. [ANS] d

[SOL] **International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978**

- **Origin, amendments and enactment:**
  - STCW was adopted in 1978 by a conference **at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London** and entered into force in 1984. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - India is a signatory to the convention. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - The Convention was **significantly amended in 1995 and 2010** entered into force on 1 January 2012.
- **About:**
  - The Convention prescribes **minimum standards** relating to **training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers** which countries are obliged to meet or exceed. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Significance:**
  - The 1978 STCW Convention was the **first to establish minimum basic requirements** on training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers on an **international level**.
  - **Previously** the minimum standards of training, certification and watchkeeping of officers and ratings were established by **individual governments**, usually without reference to practices in other countries.
  - As a result, minimum standards and procedures varied widely, even though shipping is extremely international by nature.

88. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) is a voluntary code issued by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Union Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers relating to marketing practices for pharmaceutical companies as well as the medical devices industry.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It was made voluntary for six months from 1st January 2015. It was to be reviewed after six months. At present, the UCPMP Code is applicable to Pharmaceutical Companies, Medical Representatives, Agents of Pharmaceutical Companies such as Distributors, Wholesalers, Retailers, and Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Associations.

89. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, India's first indigenously developed **Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus** was launched in **Pune**.

- **About:**
  - The Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus is a product of the joint development efforts by **KPIT** and **CSIR-NCL** (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Chemical Laboratory). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- **Downstream process technology:**
  - The uniqueness of the process developed by CSIR-NCL is a **novel downstream process technology**, which makes this indigenous technology competitive with global benchmarks. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - The process is ready for technology transfer and further co-development to commercial scale.
- **Better than electric vehicles:**
  - They enable a **refuelling time of just 5 minutes**, compared to **30-45 minutes of charging** for a Battery operated Electric Vehicle. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
  - Also, cars get **better energy storage per unit volume and weight**, freeing up a lot of space for other things.
  - It is also **effective for sectors that cannot be electrified like shipping and air travel.**

90. [ANS] b

[SOL]

- Recently, Bihar's Mithila Makhana has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag by the Union Government.
  - The GI has been registered in the name of Mithilanchal Makhana Utpadak Sangh.
- Botanical name
  - Mithila Makhana is locally known as Makhan in Mithila.
  - Its Botanical name is Euryale Ferox Salisb.
- Region associated
  - This special variety of Aquatic Fox Nut is cultivated in the Mithila region of Bihar and adjoining areas of Nepal.
- Micro-nutrients
  - Fox Nuts are rich in protein and fiber and have various micronutrients such as magnesium, calcium, phosphorus and iron.
- Significance
  - The Maithili Brahmin community extensively uses and distributes Makhana during the Kojagara Puja festival.
  - This move is expected to help growers get the maximum price for their premium produce.

91. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and the **Government of India (GoI)** signed a **headquarters agreement**.

- **About:**
  - The agreement will enable the status of an '**Independent and International Legal Entity**' for CDRI.
  - The agreement will enable the institution to pursue functions internationally with all rights, immunities, and privileges, as per the **United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947**.

92. [ANS] d

[SOL] Pandurang Khankhoje:

- He was born in **1884** at **Wardha, Maharashtra**.
- **Association with the Indian independence movement:**
  - **Meeting Lala Har Dayal:**
  - While in the US, Khankhoje met **Lala Har Dayal**, an Indian intellectual teaching at

- Stanford University.
- This was the seed from which the Ghadar Party would emerge.
- **Ghadar Party:**
  - Khankhoje was **one of the founding members of the Ghadar Party**.
  - It was established by Indians living abroad in 1914, mostly belonging to Punjab.
  - Its aim was to lead a revolutionary fight against the British in India.
  - **Agricultural research:**
- He was appointed a **professor at the National School of Agriculture in Chapingo, near Mexico City**.
- He researched **corn, wheat, pulses and rubber**, developing **frost and drought-resistant varieties**.
- It was part of efforts to bring in the Green Revolution in Mexico.
- **Recognition:**
- Khankhoje was revered as **an agricultural scientist in Mexico**.
- **Legacy:**
- The statue of **freedom fighter and agricultural scientist Pandurang Khankhoje** will soon be unveiled in **Mexico**.

93. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct:** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights.

- **Drafted by representatives from different legal and cultural backgrounds** from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217 A) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations.
- It sets out, for the first time, **fundamental human rights to be universally protected** and it has been translated into over 500 languages.
- The UDHR is widely recognized as having inspired and paved the way for, the adoption of more than seventy human rights treaties, applied today on a permanent basis at global and regional levels (all containing references to it in their preambles).

94. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently the James Webb Space Telescope has captured new images of our solar system's largest planet, Jupiter.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Kepler was “designed to be a “wide and shallow” survey telescope, while Webb is designed for “narrow and deep” focused studies with near and mid-IR imaging and spectroscopy.”

**Statement 2 is correct:** Webb is sensitive to wavelengths from visible light to mid-infrared, while Herschel was sensitive to the far-infrared wavelength.

95. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Government has amended rules and increased post-retirement allowances to CJI, and SC judges.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Department of Justice has formulated a scheme on **Access to Justice** named ‘**Designing Innovating Solutions and Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)**’.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is to be implemented during the period of 2021 to 2026.

**Statement 3 is correct:** DISHA aims to merge different Access to Justice (North East & Jammu and Kashmir) programmes being implemented by DoJ while simultaneously upscaling them to all India level. One of the key objectives of DISHA is implementation of Pan India Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme.

96. [ANS] d

**[SOL] Floor Test**

- A floor test is primarily taken to know **whether the executive enjoys the confidence of the legislature.**
- This happens **both in the parliament and the state legislative assemblies.**
- It is a constitutional mechanism under which a **Chief Minister appointed by the Governor** can be **asked to prove a majority on the floor** of the Legislative Assembly of the state.

**Role of Governor**

- **2018 Shivraj Chouhan vs Speaker case:**
  - In this case, the Supreme Court ruled that a **Governor can ask for a floor test if he/she believes**, based on facts, that the **government no longer shares the confidence** of the legislature.
  - The apex court has also stated that the **Governor, in no way, shall favour any party** when it comes to the timing of the trust vote.
- **In cases of disqualification of rebel MLAs:**
  - The Supreme Court has also specified that the **Governor can go ahead and call for a trust vote even if there are cases of disqualification** of rebel MLAs pending before the Speaker of the House, and **not wait for the Speaker's decision. Hence statements (a) and (b) are correct.**
- **The 2019 Pratap Gowda Patil vs State of Karnataka case:**
  - The top court, in this case, ruled that the rebel MLAs have the right to skip the floor test voting process in the House. **Hence statement (c) is correct.**

**97. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] Statements 1 and 2 are not correct:** It is caused by the infection of cattle or buffalo with the poxvirus Lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV). The virus is one of three closely related species within the genus capripoxvirus, the other two species being Sheeppox virus and Goatpox virus. Historically, LSD has remained confined to **Africa**, where it was first **discovered in 1929**, and parts of West Asia. LSD was first reported in Asia and the Pacific region in 2019 in northwest China, Bangladesh and India.

**98. [ANS] b**

**[SOL]** Recently, a tripartite MoU was signed for the swift development of a **modern Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP)** under Bharatmala Pariyojna.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has conducted a thorough study of the NH network and has approved overall investment for the construction of about 34,800 km (including 10,000 km of residual NHDP segments) at a cost of Rs 5,35,000 crore.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The creation of Multimodal Logistics Parks and the removal of chokepoints would improve the efficiency of current routes.

Multimodal Logistics Parks are an important policy effort of the Indian government to enhance the country's logistics industry by lowering total freight costs, reducing vehicle pollution and congestion, and lowering storage expenses.

**99. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] Option D is correct:** It is a **blood** disorder in which the body has less haemoglobin than normal. The disorder results in extreme damage of red blood cells, which leads to a condition where the body doesn't have sufficient regular healthy red blood cells. This condition in medical terms is called Anaemia. The disorder is primarily inherited by individuals from their parents.

**100. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] Option D is correct:** The Singapore Convention on Mediation is a uniform and efficient framework for international settlement agreements resulting from mediation. It applies to international settlement agreements resulting from mediation, concluded by parties to resolve a commercial dispute.

**101. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act:**

- In **1989**, the Government of India enacted the **Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act** in order to prevent atrocities against SC/STs.
- The purpose of the Act was **to prevent atrocities** and help in the social inclusion of Dalits into society.
- **Cognizable offence:**
  - All offences listed in the Act are cognizable. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - The police can arrest the offender **without a warrant and start an investigation** into the case without taking any orders from the court.
- **Punishments:**
  - The Act prescribes **both minimum as well as maximum punishment. Hence statement 4 is correct.**
  - The minimum in most cases is six months imprisonment while the maximum is five years sentence and with a fine.
  - In some cases, the minimum is enhanced to one year while the maximum goes up to life imprisonment or even death sentence.
- **Creation of Special Courts:**
  - The POA mandated the creation of Special Courts precisely to circumvent this problem; only **a few states have created separate Special Courts** in accordance with the law. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Conviction:**
  - Even if cases make it to trial, the POA also suffers from **abysmal rates of conviction. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
  - **Judicial bias against Dalits** is rampant and unchecked, and court decisions frequently bear the mark of such bias.

**102. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:**

- **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)** aims to ensure **hassle-free delivery** of subsidised food grains to all **migratory beneficiaries** anywhere in the country through **nation-wide portability** under National Food Security Act (NFSA).

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**

- ONORC is rolled out by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- The Union Labour Ministry has developed a National Database of **Unorganised Workers (NDUW) portal** and the **eShram portal** for registration of labourers spread over 400 occupations including in constructions, agriculture, fishing, dairy, self-employed and even ASHA and anganwadi workers.

**103. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct:** The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is a scientific agency of India. It was founded in 1851, is a Government of India organization under the **Ministry of Mines**, one of the oldest of such organisations in the world and the second oldest survey in India after Survey of India (founded in 1767), for conducting geological surveys and studies of India.

**Statement 2 is correct:** GSI is the official participant in steel, coal, metals, cement, power industries and international geoscientific forums. It is also the prime provider of basic earth



science information to the government, industry and general public.

104. [ANS] d

[SOL] Rani Gaidinliu was born on January 26, 1915, in the present-day **Tamenglong district of Manipur and died in 1993.**

- She was the **Naga spiritual and political leader** who belonged to the **Rongmei tribe (also known as Kabui).**
- She led an armed uprising against the British in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam
- In 1927, at the age of 13, Gaidinliu, along with her cousin **Haipou Jadonang, joined the Heraka movement**, which aimed at the **revival of the Naga tribal religion and establish self-rule of the Nagas (Naga Raj) ending the British rule.**
- Jawaharlal Nehru called her the “**Daughter of the Hills**” and gave her the title “**Rani**” or **queen** acknowledging her role in the struggle against the British,
- In 1972, she was awarded Tamara Patra by the Government of India for her contribution to the freedom movement.
- She also received the Padma Bhushan in 1982.
- In 1996, the Union government issued a commemorative postage stamp in her honour.
- **Vivekananda Sewa Summan in 1983, and Stree Shakti Puraskar in 1991.**
- She posthumously was awarded the **Bhagwan Birsa Munda Puraskar in 1996.**
- The Government of India also issued a commemorative stamp in her honour in the same year.
- **The Centre also released a Rs 100 commemorative coin in 2015 on the occasion of her 100th birth anniversary.**
- The Indian Coast Guard commissioned a **Fast Patrol Vessel “ICGS Rani Gaidinliu”** in 2016.

105. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** He is appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The main role of CEA is to produce an Economic Survey.

**Statement 3 is correct:** He is head of the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

106. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022:**

- The new rules **replace the Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001.**
- The new rules **cover all types of batteries -**
  - Electric Vehicle batteries,
  - Portable batteries,
  - Automotive batteries and
  - Industrial batteries.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):**
- The rules function based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The **producers (including importers)** of batteries are responsible for the **collection and recycling/refurbishment** of waste batteries
- They are also responsible for the **use of recovered materials** from **wastes** into new batteries.
- **Recycling:**

- EPR mandates that **all waste batteries** to be collected and sent for recycling/refurbishment, and its **prohibits disposal in landfills and incineration. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- **Environmental compensation:**
- On the principle of **Polluter Pays Principle**, environmental compensation will be imposed **for non-fulfilment** of Extended Producer Responsibility targets, responsibilities and obligations set out in the rules. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

107. [ANS] b

[SOL] Context

Recently, India and Bangladesh have finalized the text of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on interim water sharing of Kushiya river.

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Kushiya River is a distributary river in **Bangladesh and Assam, India**. From its origin at the mouth of the Barak, also known as the Amlshid bifurcation point, the Kushiya flows westward forming the boundary between Assam, India, and the Sylhet District of Bangladesh. It forms on the India-Bangladesh border as a branch of the Barak River, when the Barak separates into the Kushiya and Surma.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The waters of the Kushiya thus originate in the state of Nagaland in India and pick up tributaries from Manipur, Mizoram and Assam.

108. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Net Zero:** A state in which a **country's emissions are compensated by absorption and removal** of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from the atmosphere is called Net Zero State; it is also referred to as carbon-neutrality. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

**"Getting India to Net Zero" report":**

- The report is recently released in **New Delhi** and it is named as '**Getting India to Net Zero**'.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect. The report was released by:**
- Former Australian prime minister **Kevin Rudd**, also the president of Asia Society Policy Institute,
- Former UN Secretary-General and Global Green Growth Institute President & Chair **Ban Ki-moon**,
- International Finance Corporation's Head and Director of Climate Business, **Vivek Pathak** and
- Former Indian foreign secretary **Shyam Saran**.

**Panchamrit strategy:**

- Hon. PM Narendra Modi's **Panchamrit strategy** was announced at the COP 26 in Glasgow conference into enhanced climate targets.
- India will increase its **non-fossil fuel energy capacity to 500 gigawatt (GW) by 2030**.
- It will meet **50 percent of its energy requirements** from renewable sources **by 2030**.
- The total projected carbon emissions will be reduced by **1 billion tonnes** from now through 2030.
- The carbon intensity of its economy will be brought down **to less than 45 percent**.
- India will achieve its target of **net zero by 2070. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

109. [ANS] b

[SOL] **In Context** India is to develop two hydropower projects in Nepal, namely the West Seti Hydropower Project and the Seti River Hydropower Project.

- The Seti Gandaki River is also known as the Seti River or the Seti Khola.
- The Seti river is a river of western Nepal.
- It originates from the glaciers around the twin peaks of Api and Nampa in the south facing slopes of the main Himalayas. The area is near the tri junction of the borders of Nepal, India (Uttarakhand), and China.



- The river finally joins the Karnali or Ghagra River (which is Nepal's longest river).

110. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Recently, the ministry of chemicals and fertilizer has issued directions to all companies to use the new brand name, Bharat, and logo of the subsidy scheme on the bags.

- The concept of **One Nation-One Fertilizer (ONOF)** will be implemented from October 2, 2022.
- As part of the initiative, crop nutrients -- urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) or muriate of potash (MOP) will be **sold under a single brand name**, 'Bharat' irrespective of the manufacturing companies.
- All fertilizer bags, whether containing urea or di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) or muriate of potash (MOP) or NPK will sport the brand name '**Bharat Urea**', '**Bharat DAP**', '**Bharat MOP**' and '**Bharat NPK**' irrespective of the company that manufacturers (private or public)

111. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Recently, the 13th edition of the 21-day **India-US Joint Special Forces Exercise Vajra Prahar 2022** culminated at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh.

- The Vajra Prahar series of joint exercises aims to share best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics as also to improve interoperability between the Special Forces of both Nations.
- This annual exercise is hosted alternatively between India and the United States.

112. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : The CWRC near Kaziranga National Park has completed 20 years of providing emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation to indigenous wild animals displaced due to various reasons.

CWRC is a joint initiative of the Assam Forest Department, the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

- It was established on August 28, 2002.
- It currently has two satellite facilities called mobile veterinary services. These are located in eastern Assam at Guijan in Tinsukia district (Dibru Saikhowa National Park) and in western Assam at Charaikhola (Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary).
- It continues to be the only facility in India to have successfully addressed the welfare and conservation of 357 species including elephant, leopard, rhino, tiger, clouded leopard, black bear, wild buffalo, hog deer, muntjac, wild boar and monkeys.

113. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Recently, the Union Minister of Education and Skill Development presented certificates to NDMC workers for completing the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program in Delhi.

**Statement 1 is not correct :** The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana in the year 2015.

- Recognition of Prior Learning is a component of the PMKVY Scheme. It is being implemented under the SANKALP Programme. The implementing agency for the programme is the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

**Statement 2 is correct :** Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program is a process used to evaluate a person's existing skill sets, knowledge and experience gained either by working

on-the-job or learning over the years.

114. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) - **National Mission for Financial Inclusion** recently completed eight years of its implementation. PMJDY is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner. The scheme was launched based upon the following 6 pillars:

- Universal access to banking services – Branch and BC
- Basic savings bank accounts with overdraft facility of Rs. 10,000/- to every eligible adult(**Statement 1 is not correct** )
- Financial Literacy Programme– Promoting savings, use of ATMs, getting ready for credit, availing insurance and pensions, using basic mobile phones for banking
- Creation of Credit Guarantee Fund – To provide banks some guarantee against defaults(**Statement 2 is correct** )
- Insurance – Accident cover up to Rs. 1,00,000 and life cover of Rs. 30,000 on account opened between 15 Aug 2014 to 31 January 2015(**Statement 3 is correct** )
- Pension scheme for Unorganized sector(**Statement 4 is correct** )

115. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : **Artemis I** is set to lift off from the Kennedy Space Center launching an Orion spacecraft toward the **moon** for 42 days.

**Artemis I, formerly Exploration Mission-1 and It** will be the first integrated flight test of NASA's Deep Space Exploration Systems:

- the Orion spacecraft, Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, with the newly upgraded Exploration Ground Systems at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- It is an uncrewed mission but the first step toward putting humans back on the moon since the 1972 Apollo 17 mission. It is essentially a safety test. But future missions will include people.
- The primary operating goal of the mission is to assure a **safe crew module entry, descent, splashdown, and recovery.**

116. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Recently, Bihar's newly formed government called for withdrawing the general consent to the CBI.

**Statement 1 is not correct : Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating police agency in India.**

- It has its origin in the **Special Police Establishment set up in 1941** to probe **bribery and corruption during World War II.**
- It was set up by a **resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1963** after the **Santhanam committee recommendation.**

**Statement 2 and 3 are correct :** It functions under the **Department of Personnel, Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances, Government of India.**

The CBI is governed by The **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.**

- **It must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government concerned** before beginning to investigate a crime in a state.
- The state government's consent to CBI can be **either case-specific or general.**

- **General consent** is usually given by states **to help the CBI in the seamless investigation of cases of corruption** against central government employees in their states.
- This is consent by default, in the absence of which the CBI would have to apply to the state government in every case, and before taking even small actions.

117. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News** : Recently, the Union Social Justice Ministry received 402 applications online from across the country for benefits under the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of Denotified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic (SEED) Tribes**.

**Various Committees Set up for Empowerment of DNTs**

- **Ayyangar Committee, 1949:**
  - After the independence of India, there had been a persistent demand by the Central Legislature that the Criminal Tribes Act be repealed as it seeks to classify particular classes of people as criminals and is not aligned with the dignity of free India.
  - For this, The Criminal Tribes Enquiry Committee was set-up 1949-1950 chaired by M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.
  - After a detailed study of the working of the Criminal Tribes Act throughout the country, it submitted its report in 1950, in which it made several recommendations for the repeal of the Act.
  - The Committee also emphasized the need for allocation of adequate funds for their welfare and rehabilitation.
  - The Government of India accepted some of the recommendations of the Ayyangar Committee. It repealed the Criminal Tribes Act with effect from 31 August 1952 by the Criminal Tribes (Repeal) Act, 1952 (Act No XXIV of 1952).
- **Kalelkar Committee, 1953:**
  - The first Backward Class Commission was appointed on 29 January 1953 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Kakasaheb Kalelkar.
  - This Commission suggested that the erstwhile „Criminal Tribes“ should not be called „Tribes“ nor should the names „Criminal“ or „Ex-Criminal“ be attached to them. They could be called Denotified Communities.
  - It further recommended that “these groups may be distributed in small groups in towns and villages where they would come in contact with other people, and get an opportunity for turning a new leaf.
  - This would help in their eventual assimilation in society”.
- **Idate Commission, 2014:**
  - In February 2014, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment took a historic decision to constitute a National Commission for De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes for a period of three years.
  - The Commission gave its report in December, 2017. In its report, the commission prepared draft lists of DNT/NT/SNT Communities.
  - This Commission was tasked among others to identify and proper listing of these communities in different states, to evaluate the progress of development of these communities in the states so that a systematic approach can be developed for the development of these communities.
  - Based on the recommendations of the Idate Commission, the Government of India constituted the **Development and Welfare Board for DNTs, SNTs & NTs (DWBDNCs)** in 2019.

118. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News** : Recently, **India’s largest telecom company Reliance** announced the launch of its **5G services in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai** this year with an aim to expand and cover the entire country by 2023.

- The company said it will launch its 5G services on **standalone 5G architecture**.

**Statements 1 and 2 are not correct :** In the standalone mode the 5G network operates with dedicated equipment, and runs parallel to the existing 4G network, while in the non-standalone mode, the 5G network is supported by the 4G core infrastructure.

Given that the non-standalone networks are built on existing infrastructure, the initial cost and the time taken to roll out services through this track is significantly less than standalone networks. Jio has committed an investment of Rs 2 lakh crore for its standalone 5G network.

**119. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News :** Recently, the Supreme Court has reiterated that **bail is the rule and jail is the exception.**

- The jurisprudence of bail in post-independent India, is anchored on the bedrock of **Article 21 of the Constitution** which safeguards not only life but also liberty by commanding that liberty can be deprived only through the procedure established by law, which must be “just, fair and reasonable”

**120. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News :** India Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), in collaboration with India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) prepared a report titled as ‘Globalise to Localise: Exporting at Scale and Deepening the Ecosystem are Vital to Higher Domestic Value Addition.

**ICRIER** Established in August 1981, ICRIER is a policy-oriented, not-for-profit, economic policy think tank.

- ICRIER conducts thematic research in the following five thrust areas:
  - Growth, Employment and Macroeconomics (GEM)
  - Trade, Investment and External Relations (TIER)
  - Agriculture Policy, Sustainability and Innovation (APSI)
  - Digital Economy, Start-ups and Innovation (DESI)
  - Climate Change, Urbanisation and Sustainability (CCUS)

**121. [ANS] b**

**[SOL]** A team of officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived in Ukraine to assess the **condition of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Plant**

- Zaporizhzhia is an important town in the Ukraine’s southeast that houses the largest nuclear power plant in Europe.
  - It is about 40 km (25 miles) up the **Dnieper River** from the nuclear plant
- Ukraine has four nuclear power stations comprising 15 reactors.
  - The plant at **Zaporizhzhia** has six reactors, which together produce about **5,700 MW of electricity**. Nuclear energy caters to about half of **Ukraine’s power demand**.

**122. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] Mission Karmayogi:**

- It was launched **in 2020** with the objective of enhancing governance through “**Civil Service Capacity Building**”.
- **Focus:**
  - On promoting ease of living and ease of doing business, by considerably enhancing the **citizen-government interface. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - This involves creation of both **functional and behavioural competencies** among the civil servants.
- **Significance:**
  - It will improve human resource management practices among the officers.
  - It will focus more on **role based management**. It will aim to **allocate roles and jobs based**

- on competencies of the officers.
- **‘Lateral Entry’ into Bureaucracy:**
  - The term lateral entry means the **appointment of specialists and experts**, mainly those from the **private sector**, in government organizations and ministries.
  - **Aim:**
    - To recruit **outstanding individuals**, with expertise in **revenue, financial services, economic affairs, agriculture, cooperation and farmers’ welfare, road transport and highway, civil aviation, commerce** among many other sectors to serve for the benefit of the country.
  - **Details:**
    - These lateral entrants into the civil service will be offered a **three-year contract**, which the government can extend to five years depending on performance. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

123. [ANS] d

[SOL] The Special Marriage Act, 1954

- **About:**
  - The Special Marriage Act, 1954 is an **Act of the Parliament of India** with provision for **civil marriage or "registered marriage"**.
  - The Act deals with **inter-caste and inter-religion marriages**. **Hence statement (a) is correct.**
  - **Inter caste marriage** is a marriage between people of two different castes.
  - **Inter religion marriage** is a marriage between people of two different religions.
- **Applicability:**
  - Any **person, irrespective of religion**.
  - This Act is applicable to the **entire territory of India** and extends to **intending spouses** who are **both**,
  - **Indian nationals.**
  - Indian national **living abroad**. **Hence statement (b) is correct.**
- **Notice of 30 days:**
  - The SMA **requires couples getting married** under it to give a notice to the **Marriage Officer** 30 days before the date of marriage. **Hence statement (c) is correct.**
  - Such a notice is then entered into the **Marriage Notice Book** maintained by the Marriage Officer, which **can be inspected by “any person desirous of inspecting the same”**.
- **Displaying the notice & objections:**
  - These notices have to be also **affixed at a “conspicuous place”** in the office of the **Marriage Officer** so that anyone **can raise an objection** to the marriage. **Hence statement (d) is incorrect.**

124. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Option b is correct:** They are microscopic multicellular organisms known to tolerate extreme physiochemical conditions through a latent state of life known as cryptobiosis.

125. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Western Disturbance (WD is an **extra-tropical storm** that originates in the **Mediterranean region**.

- The disturbance travels from the **“western” to the eastern direction** and gradually travels across the middle-east from Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan to enter the Indian sub-continent.
- Disturbance means an area of **“disturbed” or reduced air pressure**.
- Equilibrium exists in nature due to which the air in a **region tries to normalize its**

**pressure.**

- In the term “extra-tropical storm”, the storm refers to low pressure.
- “Extra-tropical” means outside the tropics (as WD originates outside the tropical region).
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The WD is not always the harbinger of good weather and Sometimes, they can cause extreme weather events like floods, flash floods, landslides, dust storms, hail storms and cold waves killing people, destroying infrastructure and impacting livelihoods.

□□□□