

NEXT IAS

TEST YOURSELF

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

DECEMBER, 2021

1. With reference to National Hydrology Project, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored scheme sponsored by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. It is getting Financial aid from the Asian Developed Bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to Central Bank Digital Currency, consider the following statements

1. It is a legal tender regulated by the central bank.
2. It is exchangeable one-to-one with fiat currency.
3. It can be transacted using wallets backed by the blockchain.
4. It enables the user to conduct both domestic and cross border transactions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3. With reference to Border Security Force (BSF), consider the following statements

1. It was raised in the wake of the 1971 War.
2. It is India's border guarding forces along the borders of Pakistan and Bangladesh.
3. It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

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
4. '90:90:90 Strategy' is an ambitious treatment that targets to help in ending which of the following diseases?
- (a) Tuberculosis (Tb)
 - (b) Citrus leprosy (CL)
 - (c) Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)
 - (d) Cancer
5. With reference to the Chief Secretary of State, consider the following statements:
1. He/ she is the Chairman of State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA).
 2. The tenure of Chief Secretary is fixed by an executive order.
- 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. With reference to updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) by India at the Glasgow Climate Meet (COP26), consider the following statements:
1. 50% of electricity generation will come from renewable energy sources by 2030.
 2. Target of achieving 450 GW non-fossil energy capacity has been doubled by 2030.
 3. For the first time, India announced the target of achieving net-zero emission by 2070.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

7. Match the following:

Dams

Rivers

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Bisalpur | a. Kaveri |
| 2. Krishnarajasagar | b. Krishna |
| 3. Nagarjuna Sagar | c. Banas |
| 4. Tehri | d. Bhagirathi |

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1-c; 2-a; 3-b; 4-d
- (b) 1-a; 2-b; 3-c; 4-d
- (c) 1-c; 2-d; 3-b; 4-a
- (d) 1-c; 2-b; 3-a; 4-d
8. With reference to Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, consider the following statements:
1. It encourages other property owners to undertake conservation projects within their communities, either independently or through public-private partnerships.
 2. It is supported by the newly established partnership between UNESCO and the World Trade Organisation.
 3. The Special Recognition for Sustainable Development and an updated set of Awards criteria was introduced in 2020.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only
9. With reference to World Migration Report, consider the following statements:
1. It is released by the World Economic Forum.
 2. It has been produced annually since 2000.
 3. It is available online only.

4. The number of international migrants has reduced globally from 1970 to 2020 as per the 2022 report.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. With reference to Global Gateway Plan, consider the following statements:

- 1. Money will be utilised in both public and private investments.
- 2. Funding will be done by the European Union.

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

11. With reference to Preamble, consider the following statements:

- 1. It has been amended only once till now.
- 2. It was adopted on 26th January 1950.

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

12. With reference to “The Great hornbill”, consider the following statements

- 1. It is only endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
- 2. It is a predominantly frugivorous species.
- 3. It is listed as “Endangered” in the IUCN red list.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

13. Which of the north-eastern state in India celebrates the Hornbill festival?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Assam
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) Nagaland

14. With reference to Perform, Achieve, Trade (PAT), consider the following statements:

1. It is a regulatory instrument to reduce specific energy consumption in energy-intensive industries.
2. The PAT scheme covers only two sectors which are thermal power plants (TPP) and cement.
3. Under the PAT Scheme, the Energy Savings Certificates (ESCerts) were introduced in India in 2012 by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

15. With reference to Lesser florican, consider the following statements:

1. It is a small and slender bird species found in tall grasslands.
2. The IUCN Red List classifies it as Near Threatened (NT).

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 Public Accounts Committee (PAC), consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest Committee of the Parliament.
2. Since its inception the Chairperson is selected from the opposition party.
3. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is known as a friend, philosopher and guide of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements regarding 'Assam Rifles':

1. It is the only paramilitary force under the total control of the Ministry of Defence.
2. It is the oldest paramilitary force.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

18. With reference to Project RE-HAB, consider the following statements:

1. Under it, "Bee-fences" are created by setting up bee boxes in the passageways of elephants.
2. It was launched for the first time in Assam.
3. It is a sub-mission of the National Honey Mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only
- 19.** Mount Semeru recently seen in the news, it is situated in
- (a) Maldives
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) Thailand
- (d) Japan
- 20.** With reference to Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act 2013, consider the following statements:
1. The Complaints Committee has been given the powers of a Court.
 2. The District Officer is required to constitute a Local Complaints Committee at each district.
- 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.** With reference to Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), consider the following statements:
1. Only the President can declare the whole State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
 2. It gives the Army powers to search premises and make arrests without warrants.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2 only
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 22.** With reference to Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana, consider the following statements:
1. Under the scheme, the Central government will be paying the full Employer's contribution for a period of three years towards the Employee Provident Fund (EPF).

2. New employees earning wages less than or equal to Rs. 30,000 are eligible for it.
3. It brings informal workers to the formal workforce.

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.** He founded the Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha also known as Outcastes Welfare Association. He started a fortnightly newspaper, the 'Mooknayak' (Dumb Hero), with the support of Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur. He published the essay under the title Annihilation of Caste. In 1990, He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna.

He was

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
 - (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (c) BR Ambedkar
 - (d) Subhas Chandra Bose
- 24.** As on 2021, India has '2+2 ministerial dialogue' with which of the following countries?

1. Russia
2. Australia
3. USA
4. Japan
5. Israel
6. UK

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 6
- (b) 4, 5 and 6
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

25. What are the Common features of invasive exotics species

1. They reproduce both asexually and sexually.
2. They have High dispersal ability.
3. They are not tolerant to a wide range of environmental conditions.

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

26. Consider the following statements:

1. Methane is the second-most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, after Nitrogen.
2. India is the second-largest source of methane emissions after the US.
3. Global Methane Pledge is the first structured agreement in minimising methane emissions.

Which of the following statements are *not correct*?

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

27. With respect to the concentration of ammonia in the potable water, consider the following statements.

1. The permissible level of ammonia as per the Bureau of Indian Standards is 5ppm.
2. Ammonia is only produced due to anthropogenic activities.
3. An increase in ammonia leads to a decrease in Biological Oxygen Demand.

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

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

(d) 3 only

28. Consider the following statements regarding the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020.

1. The law is inspired by the Son of Soil movements.
2. It will be applicable to the informal and unorganised sector enterprises only.

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

29. With reference to Aurora, consider the following statements:

1. They are caused by the streams of electrified particles emitted by the sun.
2. They are also called Polar Lights.

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. Consider the following statements regarding 5G

1. It is a joint collaboration between IIT Hyderabad and Madras.
2. It uses millimetre wave technology to provide high-speed internet connectivity.
3. It offers more range at a lower frequency, which is the opposite of 5G.

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

31. He was born at Guru Ke Mahal in Amritsar in 1621. He became the ninth Sikh Guru. He was publicly killed in 1675 on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi as he resisted forced conversions of non-Muslims to Islam during Aurangzeb's rule.
- (a) Guru Angad
 - (b) Guru Hargobind
 - (c) Guru Tegh Bahadur
 - (d) Guru Gobind Singh
32. Consider the following statements with reference to the Ambergris:
- 1. It is a waxy solid substance, secreted by sperm whales.
 - 2. It is used in the perfume market especially to create fragrances like musk.
 - 3. The trade of Ambergris is illegal under provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
33. With reference to Ken-Betwa River linking Project, consider the following statements:
- 1. It is the first major centrally-driven river interlinking project in the country.
 - 2. Both these rivers are tributaries of river Ganga.
 - 3. The project will partly submerge the Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 2 and 3 only
34. Recently, which institute has released a report which tracks the global arms trade?
- (a) Arms Reduction Coalition

- (b) Stop the War Coalition
- (c) War Resisters International.
- (d) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

35. With reference to Kasturirangan Committee, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to bring 37% of Western Ghats under the Economic Sensitive Area.
2. The Gadgil Committee came after it to mend the problems in the Report.
3. Thermal power projects face complete ban although hydro power projects are allowed with some restrictions.

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

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

36. With reference to Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2020, consider the following statements

1. The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy but allows altruistic surrogacy.
2. The bill allows a woman to become a surrogate only once.
3. It opens the door for single men and women in India to become parents through surrogacy.

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

37. 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

38. With reference to Gatekeeper Model, consider the following statements:

1. It is a model for prison inmates with a focus on preventing suicide.
2. Gatekeepers are people from outside prison.

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

39. 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

40. With reference to the Pharmaceutical Industry in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Pharma sector currently contributes to around 1.72% of the country's GDP.
2. Up to 74%, FDI has been allowed through automatic route for Greenfield pharmaceuticals projects.

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. “The Brasilia Declaration” seen recently in the news is related to:

- (a) Climate Change
- (b) BRICS summit
- (c) Currency swap agreement
- (d) Road safety

42. With reference to the Dam Safety Bill, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It provides for the constitution of a National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) which is chaired by the Central Water Commissioner.
2. Water is a state subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

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

43. With reference to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a project to improve infrastructure within Pakistan.
2. The goal of CPEC is to transform Pakistan’s economy by modernizing its road, rail, air and energy transportation systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

44. With reference to Global Health Security Index 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
2. The world's overall performance on the GHS Index scores increased in 2021.
3. India has improved its score by 1.2 points.

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

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

45. With reference to the Law Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. It is reconstituted every three years.
3. It does not have part-time members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

46. With reference to James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), consider the following statements:

1. It will be a large infrared telescope with an approximately 6.5-meter primary mirror.
2. It will study every phase in the history of the Universe.
3. It is an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(c) 1 and 3

(d) 3 only

47. With reference to the Ramanujan Prize, consider the following statements:

1. It is administered by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
2. The Mathematician who is less than 30 years of age is eligible for it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

48. With reference to Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), consider the following statements

1. If a bank is weak or is even about to go bankrupt, depositors will get their money of up to Rs 1 lakhs within 90 days.
2. All commercial banks are insured by the DICGC.
3. This covers banks already under moratorium and not those that could come under moratorium.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

49. With reference to the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws.
2. It was established in 1975 under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

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

50. With reference to the North-Eastern Council, consider the following statements:

1. It is the statutory body established for the economic and social development of Sixth Schedule areas in the North-Eastern States.
2. The council is headed by the Prime 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

51. Consider the following pairs:

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

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

52. With reference to Measles, consider the following statements:

1. It is a highly contagious bacterial disease.
2. It is not known to occur in animals.
3. It is normally passed through direct contact and the air.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

53. With reference to digital Platform “LokpalOnline”, consider the following statements:

1. It is an end-to-end digital solution for the management of complaints against public servants filed under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
2. Its security audit has been done by an agency empanelled by the CERT-In, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
3. The identity of the complaint is kept confidential on the platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

54. Which of the following features are correct regarding “The Co-Lending Model” between a bank and NBFC for lending to the priority sector.

1. Banks are permitted to co-lend with all the registered Housing Finance Companies (HFC) also.
2. Banks shall be required to retain a minimum of 20 percent share of the individual loans on their books.
3. The CLM shall not be applicable to foreign banks with less than 20 branches.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

55. With reference to United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea.

Consider the following statements:

1. India is not a member of the Convention.
2. It divides the sea into 4 parts.

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. Consider the following statements:

1. Asia is the most unequal region in the world, whereas Europe has the lowest inequality levels, as per the World Inequality Report 2022.
2. Bihar has the highest proportion of multidimensionally poor people as per the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
3. National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is released by the NITI Aayog.

Which of the given above statements are correct?

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

57. With reference to recent changes made by the RBI to bring NBFCs under the Prompt Corrective Action Framework, consider the following statements:

1. It is applicable to both deposit-taking NBFCs and non-deposit-taking NBFCs.
2. The RBI can even supersede the board under section 7 as stated under the RBI Act.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

58. Consider the following statements regarding the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2021:

1. The Bill amends the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 to correct a drafting error.
2. Article 20(1) of the Constitution says that no person shall be convicted of any offence retrospectively.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

59. In 1928, he successfully led the landowners of Bardoli in their resistance against increased taxes. In March 1931, he presided over the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress. He also played an important role in the Mutiny of the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) of February 1946 by counselling the participants.

He was

(a) Mahatma Gandhi

(b) Jawaharlal Nehru

(c) C. Rajagopalachari

(d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

60. Which of the following states are covered under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution?

1. Assam

2. Meghalaya

3. Tripura

4. Nagaland

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2, 3 and 4 only

(c) 1, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3 only

61. Consider the following statements:

1. To blaspheme is to steal a sacred object from a place of worship.
2. Sacrilege is to show contempt or disrespect for God or sacred things.

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. With reference to the Mekong River, consider the following statements:

1. It forms part of the international border between Myanmar and Laos, as well as between Laos and Thailand.
2. The river traverses through Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam before draining into the South China 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

63. Consider the following statements regarding Polavaram Dam Project:

1. Its reservoir spreads in parts of Chhattisgarh and Orissa.
2. It is situated on Krishna River.
3. It has been accorded National Status.

Which of the above statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2

(b) 2 and 3

(c) 1 and 3

(d) 1, 2 and 3.

64. With reference to the Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR), consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh state.
2. It was declared as the twenty-second Tiger reserve of India in 1994.
3. It was given the Award of Excellence in 2007 by the Ministry of Tourism of India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

65. With reference to the Agni Prime missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is a canisterised surface-to-air ballistic missile.
2. It has a range of up to 10000 km.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

66. With reference to India's new "Labour codes 2022", consider the following statements:

1. Labour is a State subject.
2. Employees will get a four-day workweek against five-day currently.
3. The regulations restrict allowances to 50 per cent.

Which of the given above statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

67. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding PM-Poshan?

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Education.
2. A social Audit of the scheme has been made mandatory.
3. Remuneration paid to Cook-Cum-Helpers is uniform across the country.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2, and 3

68. With reference to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, consider the following statements:

1. The person who is declared as a Fugitive Economic Offender can challenge the proclamation in the High Court.
2. Value of the offence should at least be Rs 100 crore, among other conditions, to be a Fugitive Economic Offender.

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 World Food Programme (WFP), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 1961 by the World Health Organization.
2. It is the largest humanitarian organisation implementing school feeding programmes worldwide.
3. It was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2020.

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

70. With reference to Cantonment Boards, consider the following statements:

1. They are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.

2. The members of the Board are partly elected and partly nominated.

3. Cantonments are areas that comprise both military and civil populations.

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

71. With reference to the Indian Flapshell turtle, consider the following statements:

1. It is commonly found in only Pakistan and India.

2. It is omnivorous and its diet consists of frogs, snails and some aquatic vegetation.

3. It is listed under Schedule (I) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

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

72. Ramnath Goenka Awards is related to which of the following?

(a) Medicine

(b) Journalism

(c) Literature

(d) Economics

73. With reference to “Special Category Status” to the states, consider the following statements

1. It is mentioned under Part I of the Constitution.
2. Once granted, centre gives 100% assistance to the state.
3. Currently, Odisha and Bihar have this status.

Which of the following statements is/are **not correct**?

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

74. “Katchatheevu Island” is a disputed territory between which of the two countries?

- (a) India-Sri Lanka
- (b) India-Bangladesh
- (c) India-Maldives
- (d) India-Pakistan

75. With reference to the Indian economy, ‘Open Market Operations’ are:

- (a) Borrowing by scheduled banks from the RBI
- (b) Lending by commercial banks to industry and trade
- (c) Purchase and sale of government securities by the RBI
- (d) None of the above

76. 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

77. With reference to Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle, consider the following statements:

1. It is being purchased from the United States of America.
2. It is fitted with instruments for water reconnaissance, land reconnaissance, navigation and data backup.

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

78. “Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE)” is an outcome of which of the following organization

- (a) World Bank
- (b) G7
- (c) IMF
- (d) OECD

79. The National Development Council is a?

- (a) Constitutional Body
- (b) Statutory Body
- (c) Quasi-judicial Body
- (d) Executive Body

80. With reference to the Greater Adjutant Stork, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. They are only found in the Gangetic Plains of India.
2. They are listed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

81. Consider the following statements with reference to Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021:

1. It aims at Linking Aadhaar to the Voter ID.
2. People would be debarred from voting if they do not link the Aadhar within 6 months from the effective date.
3. It would also amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

82. The K-Rail Silver Line project, sometimes seen in the news, is coming up in which state?

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

83. With reference to Mediation Bill, 2021, Consider the following statements:

1. The Bill provides for the establishment of the Mediation Council of India.
2. The Bill sets a period of 180 days for completing the mediation process which is further extendable to a maximum period of 180 days.
3. The mediated settlement agreement resulting from mediation will be final and binding.

Which of the given above statements are correct?

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

84. With reference to the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It contains provisions relating to disqualification on the ground of defection.
2. It was included under the 42nd Constitution Amendment Act.
3. The law applies to Parliament and not the state assemblies.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

85. India successfully test-fired the 'Pralay' Missile recently, consider the following statements with respect to this:

1. It is developed by DRDO.
2. It is a Surface-to-air missile.
3. It has the ability to change its path after covering certain range mid-air.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

86. Which of the following countries does Somalia share Land boundaries with?

1. Djibouti
2. Ethiopia
3. Kenya
4. South Sudan
5. Yemen

Choose the correct option using the codes given below:

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

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

87. India's "Trincomalee deal" with Sri Lanka, recently in the news, is regarding?

- (a) Oil Deal
- (b) Cyber Security Deal
- (c) Defense Deal
- (d) Fertilizer Deal

88. With reference to Gram Nyayalaya, consider the following statements:

1. The seat of the Gram Nyayalayas shall be located at the headquarters of the intermediate Panchayat.
2. Only Civil Disputes are to be as per the Gram Nyayalayas Act.
3. The Gram Nyayalaya shall be bound by the rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

89. With reference to Blue Bull (nilgai), consider the following statements

1. It is the largest Asian antelope.
2. It is found in only India and Pakistan.
3. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species listed it as Least Concern.

Which of the given above statements are correct?

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

90. With reference to Geographical Indication (GI) Certification, consider the following statements:

1. It is an indication used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.
2. It allows authorised use of a Registered Geographical Indication by others

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

91. The Mahajan Commission report" seen recently in the news is related to?

- (a) Dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra
- (b) Krishna-Godavari dispute
- (c) Privatization of Railways
- (d) Leasing of Coalfields

92. The Sea of Okhotsk is situated between which of the following bodies?

- (a) Kamchatka Peninsula and Bering Sea
- (b) Sakhalin Island and Kamchatka Peninsula
- (c) Sakhalin Island and North Korea
- (d) None of the Above

93. With reference to Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements, consider the following statements

1. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Education and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
2. It systematically rank higher educational institutions in India

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

94. With reference to Rythu Bandhu scheme, consider the following statements

1. It is a scheme of the Maharashtra government.
2. It is the first-ever farmer investment support scheme in India, where the cash is paid directly.
3. It provides a grant of Rs. 5,000 per acre per farmer for both Kharif and rabi seasons.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

95. With reference to Gram Ujala programme, consider the following statements

1. Under it ,high-quality LED bulbs are being provided free of cost with 3 years guarantee .
2. Every household can exchange a maximum of 50 bulbs.
3. It is being implemented only in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh on trial basis .

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

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

96. With reference to Konark Sun Temple, consider the following statements

1. It was built by King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty in the 17th century.
2. The main Temple was called by European sailors "The Black Pagoda".
3. It belongs to the Kalinga school of Indian Temples

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

97. Indian pangolin is found in which of the following countries?

1. Bangladesh
2. Pakistan
3. Nepal
4. Sri Lanka

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

98. With reference to 'Faceless Appeal Scheme, 2021', consider the following statements

1. It was notified by The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
2. It grants an oral hearing to taxpayers through video conference as a matter of right while dealing with their appeals.
3. Under the scheme, there is no need for a physical appearance by the taxpayer or his representative.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only

- (b) 1 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 99.** Sankalp Smarak, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following personalities?
- (a) Mahatma Gandhi.
 - (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (c) Subhash Chandra Bose
 - (d) Chandra Shekhar Azad
- 100.** With reference to Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) Scheme, consider the following statements
1. It will be launched by the Minister of Labour & Employment.
 2. It covers several comprehensive measures for both transgender persons and persons who are engaged in the act of begging.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation

1. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statements 1 and 2 are not correct: National Hydrology Project is a **Central Sector scheme** sponsored by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Govt. of India.

- o Financial aid from the World Bank.
- Timeline: 8 years from 2016-17 to 2023-24
- Scale: Pan India
- **Objective:**
 - to improve the extent and accessibility of water resources information and strengthen institutional capacity to enable improved water resources planning and management across India.

2. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statements 1, 2, 3 and 4 are correct: Central Bank Digital Currency is a **legal tender** and a **central bank liability** in digital form denominated in a **sovereign currency** and appearing on the **central bank's balance sheet**.

- It is the same as a **fiat currency** and is **exchangeable one-to-one** with the **fiat currency**. Only its form is different.
- It can be converted or exchanged at par with similarly denominated **cash and traditional central bank deposits**.
- It can be transacted using wallets backed by the blockchain and is regulated by the central bank.
- CBDCs enable the user to conduct **both domestic and cross border** transactions which **do not require a third party or a bank**.

3. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Border Security Force (BSF) was raised in the **wake of the 1965 War on 1 December 1965** as India's **first line of defence** for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters connected therewith.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: It is **India's border guarding forces** along the borders of Pakistan and Bangladesh.

- o **Administrative Control:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

4. [ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct: **90:90:90 strategy** as adopted by UNAIDS (90% (diagnosed,

treatment (by anti-retroviral treatment (ART)) & suppression)) by 2020. Extended by 10 years with the goal post of 95-95-95.

5. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: In his capacity, the Chief Secretary is a member of the Chairman of State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA). The Chief Minister of state is the Chairman of SDMA.

Statement 2 is not correct: There is no fixed tenure imposed on the office of the Chief Secretary. However, the term can be extended for 6 months.

6. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: As per the new NDC, 50% of electricity generation will come from renewable energy sources by 2030.

Statement 2 is not correct: The target of achieving 450 GW non-fossil energy capacity has been increased to 500 GW by 2030.

Statement 3 is correct: For the first time, India announced the target of achieving net-zero emission by 2070 and that it will reduce carbon emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030. These were not a part of the 2015 NDCs.

7. [ANS] a

[SOL]

Dams	Rivers
1. Bisalpur	Banas (Rajasthan)
2. Krishnarajasag	Kaveri (Karnataka)
3. Nagarjuna Sagar	Krishna (Telangana)
4. Tehri Dam	Bhagirathi (Uttarakhand)

8. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme has been recognising the efforts of private individuals and organisations in restoring, conserving, and transforming structures and buildings of distinct heritage value in the region since 2000.

- It encourages other property owners to undertake conservation projects within their communities, either independently or through public-private partnerships.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is supported by the newly established partnership between UNESCO and the Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation (NTFCF).

- o NTFCF is supporting five Awards cycles from 2021 to 2025, along with a series of

especially tailored capacity-building activities amplifying the impact of the Awards programme, especially for youth.

Statement 3 is correct: In 2020, UNESCO introduced the Special Recognition for Sustainable Development and an updated set of Awards criteria to highlight the contribution of cultural heritage to sustainable development within the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

9. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Recently, The International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched its flagship World Migration Report 2022. The World Migration Report is produced by the **Migration Research Division (MRD)**, in collaboration with some of the **leading academic and applied researchers and other migration** experts from across the world.

Statements 2 and 4 are not correct: It has been produced **biennially since 2000**.

- It has been produced to **contribute to increased understanding of migration and mobility throughout the world**.
- The number of **international migrants has grown from 84 million globally in 1970 to 281 million in 2020**.
- The number of air passengers globally **dropped 60 per cent in 2020 to 1.8 billion** (down from 4.5 billion in 2019) while at the same time **internal displacement due to disaster, conflict and violence rose to 40.5 million (up from 31.5 million in 2019)**.

Statement 3 is correct: It is available online only.

- o Printed hard copies have not been made in order to reduce paper, printing, and transportation impacts.

10. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The European Commission has announced the Global Gateway plan to mobilise €300 billion (\$340 billion) between 2021 and 2027 in public and private infrastructure investment around the world. The plan is global in scope, adapting to the needs and strategic interests of different regions and is seen as a European effort to challenge China's Belt and Road Initiative, launched in 2013, and funds infrastructure projects in the developing world. Money will be utilised in both public and private investments.

Statement 2 is not correct: The money to be made available will **not come** from EU and member state coffers, and the plan will need funding from international institutions and from the private sector if it is to get anywhere near its target.

11. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The preamble has been **amended only once so far**. On 18 December 1976, during the Emergency in India, the Indira Gandhi government pushed through

several changes in the Forty-second Amendment of the constitution.

Statement 2 is not correct: Jawaharlal Nehru introduced his objective resolution on December 13, 1946, later it was accepted by the Constituent Assembly on 22 January 1947. The preamble can also be called the soul of the constitution as it has everything about the constitution. **It was adopted on 26th November 1949** and it was started from 26th January 1950 also known as Republic Day.

12. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** It is found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.

Statement 2 is correct: It is predominantly frugivorous, but is an opportunist and will prey on small mammals, reptiles and birds.

Statement 3 is not correct: IUCN status: Vulnerable.

13. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Option d is correct:** This is a very popular festival of Nagaland. Often cited as “festival of all festivals”.

- The aim of the festival is to revive and protect the rich culture of Nagaland and display its extravaganza and traditions.

14. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 and 3 are correct:** The Perform, Achieve, Trade (PAT) scheme was established by the National **Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency**.

- o NMEEE is one of the eight national missions under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** launched by the Government of India in the year 2008.
- o The Union Ministry of Power and Bureau of Energy Efficiency were entrusted with the task of preparing the implementation plan for the NMEEE.
- Under PAT Scheme, the **Energy Savings Certificates (ESCerts)** were introduced in India in 2012 by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**
- It is a **regulatory instrument to reduce specific energy consumption** in energy-intensive industries, with an associated market-based mechanism to enhance the cost-effectiveness through certification of excess energy saving which can be traded.
- It aims to improve energy efficiency in Indian industries and consequently reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Statement 2 is not correct: PAT scheme covered about 13 energy-intensive sectors. Sectors included are thermal power plants (TPP), cement, aluminium, iron and steel, pulp and paper, fertiliser, Chlor-alkali, petroleum refineries, petrochemicals, distribution companies, railways, textile and commercial buildings (hotels and airports).

15. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Lesser florican, taxonomically classified as **Sypheotides indicus**.

- The lesser florican (*Sypheotides indicus*) is one of three bustard species endemic to India, the others being the Bengal florican and the Great Indian Bustard.
- It is a **small and slender bird species** belonging to the bustard group, found in tall grasslands.
- It is observed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and some other regions during the monsoon season when it breeds and later disappears with its chicks to unknown places.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is declared endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and also features in Appendix 2 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

- o It is also protected under Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Act.

16. **[ANS] b**

[SOL] Statement 1 and 2 are not correct: Estimates Committee is the largest among all the committees. The Public Accounts Committee consists of 22 members elected according to the principle of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. The PAC is the oldest parliamentary committee in Indian legislative affairs and has been crucial in upholding the principle of accountability as it exercises oversight of public expenditure. First set up in 1921 in the wake of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms. As a convention, starting from the Public Accounts Committee of 1967-68, a member of the Committee belonging to the main opposition party/group in the House is appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee.

Statement 3 is correct: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is known as a friend, philosopher and guide of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The Committee is assisted by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in the examination of Accounts and Audit Reports.

17. **[ANS] b**

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: It is the only paramilitary force with a dual control structure. While the administrative control of the force is with the MHA, its operational control is with the Indian Army, which is under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Statement 2 is correct: Assam Rifles is the oldest paramilitary force raised way back in 1835 in British India with just 750 men.

18. **[ANS] d**

[SOL] Statement 1 and 3 are correct: Under Project RE-HAB, 'Bee-fences' are created by setting up bee boxes in the passageways of elephants to block their entrance to human territories.

- The boxes are connected with a string so that when elephants attempt to pass through, a tug or pull causes the bees to swarm the elephant herds and dissuade them from progressing further.
 - o It is scientifically recorded that elephants are annoyed by the honey bees.
 - o Elephants also fear that the bee swarms can bite the sensitive inner side of the trunk and eyes. The collective buzz of the bees is annoying to elephants that force them to return.

Bee boxes have been placed on the **ground as well as hung from the trees**.

- **High resolution, night vision cameras** have been installed at strategic points to record the **impact of bees on elephants and their behaviour** in these zones.
- Project RE-HAB is a sub-mission of **KVIC's National Honey Mission**.
 - o The Honey Mission is a programme to increase the bee population, honey production and beekeepers' income by setting up apiaries.

Statement 2 is not correct: Project RE-HAB was launched at 11 locations in the Kodagu district of **Karnataka on 15th March 2021**. In just 6 months, this project has reduced elephant attacks by over 70% so it has been launched in Assam with greater efficiency and better technical knowhow

19. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, **Indonesia's Mount Semeru** spewed more ash, forcing rescuers to **suspend the search for survivors as aerial images**.

- The last time it erupted was in December 2020, forcing thousands of residents to take shelter.
- The **3,676-meter (12,060-feet)** mountain in Lumajang district is the highest **volcano on Indonesia's most** densely populated island of Java.
 - o Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 270 million people, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity because it sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped series of fault lines.

20. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Complaints Committee has been given the powers of a Court.

Statement 2 is correct: The District Officer is required to constitute a Local Complaints Committee at each district.

21. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statements 1 is not correct:** It was enacted by the Parliament and approved by the President in 1958.

- It confers certain **special powers on members of the Armed Forces** (military forces, air forces operating on the ground as land forces and any other armed forces of the Union (CRPF, BSF, ITBP etc) for carrying out **proactive operations against the insurgents in a highly hostile environment**.
 - o They have the authority to prohibit a **gathering of five or more persons** in an area.
- The AFSPA is also in force in the **entire Nagaland, certain districts of Arunachal Pradesh, and most parts of Manipur barring the Imphal municipal areas**.
- **Under Section 3** -The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a **disturbed**

area.

- An area can be disturbed due to **differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.**

Statement 2 is correct: Section 4 gives the Army powers to search premises and make arrests without warrants, to use force even to the extent of causing death, destroy arms/ammunition dumps, fortifications/shelters/hideouts and to stop, search and seize any vehicle.

- **Section 6 stipulates that arrested persons and the seized property are to be made over to the police with the least possible delay.**
- **Section 7 offers protection of persons acting in good faith in their official capacity.**
 - o The prosecution is permitted only after the sanction of the Central Government.

22. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 and 3 are correct: Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana is implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

- It has been designed to incentivise employers for the generation of new employment, where the **Government of India will be paying the full employer's contribution towards EPF & EPS both** w.e.f 01.04.2018 (earlier benefit was applicable for employer's contribution towards EPS only) for the new employment.
- The terminal date for registration of beneficiaries through establishment was 31st March 2019.
- **It brings informal workers to the formal workforce.**

Statement 2 is not correct: Under the scheme, the Government of India is paying **the Employer's contribution i.e. 12% for a period of three years** to the new employees earning wages less than or equal to **Rs. 15,000/- through EPFO.**

23. [ANS] c

[SOL] BR Ambedkar was born in a Dalit (Hindu Mahar) family on 14th April 1891 in a small town at Mhow Cantt in erstwhile Central Provinces (now Madhya Pradesh).

- He always worked for the welfare of the poor, Dalits and deprived sections.
- He was regarded as a Buddhist guru because of his great influence in India to eradicate the social scourge of untouchability.
- His essay titled '**Small Holdings in India and their Remedies**' (1918) proposed industrialisation as the answer to India's agricultural problem and is still relevant to contemporary debates.
 - o **1920:** Started a fortnightly newspaper, the '**Mooknayak**' (Dumb Hero), with the support of Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur.
 - o **1924:** Founded the **Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha** also known as **Outcastes Welfare**

Association, with an aim to spread education and awareness among the Dalits.

- o **1947:** Worked as the **first Law Minister of India** in Jawahar Lal Nehru's cabinet and was also made the **Chairman of the Drafting Committee of Constitution**.
- o **1955:** Founded the **Bharatiya Bauddha Mahasabha**.
- o **1956:** Embraced **Buddhism** along with many of his followers in a public ceremony in Nagpur.
- **Major Literary Works**
 - o The Untouchables: Who Were they and why they Became Untouchables?
 - o Who were the Shudra?
 - o Mr Gandhi and the Emancipation of the Untouchables
 - o Annihilation of Caste
 - o Pakistan or the Partition of India
 - o The Buddha and His Dhamma
 - o What Congress and Gandhi Have Done to the Untouchables
- In **1990**, he was **posthumously** awarded the **Bharat Ratna** (highest civilian honour of India).

24. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Option c is correct:**

- India now has a 2+2 format dialogue mechanism on strategic and security issues with four of its key strategic partners, Russia being the latest. The three others are Australia, the US and Japan which are also 'Quad' partners.

25. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The ability to reproduce both asexually and sexually

Statement 2 is correct: They have a High dispersal ability

Statement 3 is not correct: They are tolerant to a wide range of environmental conditions.

26. [ANS] d

[SOL] **All the statements are not correct:** Over 90 countries have signed the Global Methane Pledge that was launched at the ongoing UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. The pledge was first announced in September by the US and EU. It is not a structured agreement. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect.**

Methane is the second-most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, after Carbon dioxide. As

of now, India, the third-largest source of methane emissions. China, the United States, India, Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Mexico are estimated to be responsible for nearly half of all anthropogenic methane emissions. Hence **statements 1& 2 are not correct.**

27. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Water production was hit due to heavy sewage and industrial discharge from Haryana.

Statement 1 is not correct: The acceptable maximum limit of ammonia in drinking water is **0.5 ppm**, as per the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.

Statement 2 is not correct: Natural sources of ammonia: Decomposition or breakdown of organic waste matter, gas exchange with the atmosphere, forest fires, and nitrogen fixation processes.

Statement 3 is not correct: Biochemical oxygen Demand: Ammonia reduces the amount of oxygen in the water as it is transformed to oxidised forms of nitrogen. Hence, it also increases Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD).

28. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, provides 75% reservations to local people in private-sector jobs that offer a salary of less than Rs 30,000 a month. The law could trigger an exodus of large domestic and multinational investors across various sectors.

Statement 1 is correct: The law provides privilege to locals and hence it is inspired from the Son of Soil Movements.

Statement 2 is not correct: It will be applicable to

- all the Companies, Societies, Trusts,
- Limited Liability Partnership firms, Partnership Firm,
- any person employing ten or more persons and
- an entity, as may be notified by the Government, from time to time.

29. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** They are caused by the streams of electrified particles emitted by the sun.

Statement 2 is correct: They are also called Polar Lights.

30. [ANS] d

[SOL] **All the statements are correct:** 5Gi is basically a Made in India 5G standard created through a joint collaboration between IIT Hyderabad and Madras (Chennai). 5Gi uses millimetre wave technology to provide high-speed internet connectivity. It offers more range at a lower

frequency, which is the opposite of 5G. It can play a big role in giving rural India access to a faster telecom network. The greatest advantage of this technology is that it increases coverage to nearly 6km. This is sufficient to cover 95 per cent of India's villages since they lie within 6km of BharatNet PoPs (points of presence). This also reduces the number of base stations required to provide rural coverage and thus the cost of total deployment will come down significantly.

31. [ANS] c

[SOL] Guru Tegh Bahadur was born at **Guru Ke Mahal** (now a Gurudwara with the same name), **Amritsar** in **1621**.

- He was the **fifth and the youngest son** of **Guru Hargobind Sahib**
- He had witnessed and even participated in the **battles of Amritsar and Kartarpur..**
 - o His childhood name was **Tyag Mal**.
- He became the **ninth Sikh Guru** after the **eighth** gurus, **Guru Har Krishan** (1656-1664) and was followed by the **tenth** guru, **Guru Gobind Singh** (1666-1708).
- The Sikhs began to call him **Teg Bahadur** after the **battle of Kartarpur** against **Painda Khan** in which he proved to be a **great sword player or gladiator**.
- He **resisted forced conversions** of non-Muslims to Islam during Aurangzeb's rule.
 - o He **founded the town of Chak-Nanki** in Punjab, which later became a part of **Anandpur Sahib**, a famous holy city and a **global tourist attraction in the foothills of the Himalayas**.
- He was publicly killed in **1675** on the orders of Mughal emperor **Aurangzeb** in Delhi as he **had opposed the policy of religious persecution being enforced at that time**.
 - o **Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib** and **Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib** in **Delhi** are the sites of his **execution and cremation**, respectively

32. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct:** Ambergris is a waxy solid substance, secreted by sperm whales. The reason for its high cost is its use in the **perfume market**, especially to **create fragrances like musk**.

- It being extremely rare contributes to its **high demand and high price in the international market**. There is a ban on possession and trade of **ambergris in countries like the USA, Australia and India**, in several other countries, it is a tradable commodity, though with limitations in some of them.
 - o In the Indian context, sperm whales are a protected species under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act and possession or trade of any of its by-products, including Ambergris and its byproducts, is illegal under provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

33. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** It is the first major centrally-driven river interlinking project in the country between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Statement 2 is not correct: Both these rivers are tributaries of river Yamuna.

Statement 3 is not correct: The project will partly submerge the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh and affect the habitat of vultures and jackals.

34. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Option d is correct:** Three Indian companies are among the world's top 100 for combined arms sales in 2020, said a new report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which tracks global arms trade.

35. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kasturirangan report seeks to bring just 37% of the Western Ghats under the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) zones — down from the 64% suggested by the Gadgil report.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Gadgil Committee came **before the Kasturirangan Committee**. The report recommended a blanket ban on mining, quarrying, setting up of red category industries and thermal power projects. Although hydro power projects are allowed with few restrictions,

Statement 3 is correct: The report recommended a blanket ban on mining, quarrying, setting up of red category industries and thermal power projects.

Although hydro power projects are allowed with few restrictions.

36. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy but allows altruistic surrogacy. Altruistic surrogacy involves no monetary compensation to the surrogate mother other than the medical expenses and insurance coverage during the pregnancy.

Statement 2 is correct: The bill allows a woman to become a surrogate only once and it allows any willing woman to act as a surrogate, and also lets widows and divorcees to opt for surrogacy to have children.

Statement 3 is not correct: Now, single men and women in India can no longer become parents through surrogacy.

37. [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).

38. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The gatekeeper Model is a model for prison inmates with a focus on preventing suicide.

Statement 2 is not correct: Gatekeepers are **existing people** who are in close contact with the prisoners and can provide help for the prisoners.

- **Gatekeepers** could be other convicted prisoners, prison staff who will be able to identify and support prisoners **needing psychological help**.
 - o People having a psychological problem or at risk of suicide can access the gatekeeper, who can **bridge the gap** between them and the professional services. This is of particular benefit in at-risk suicidal prisoners.

39. [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.

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

40. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry has witnessed robust growth over the past few years.

- Indian medicines are preferred worldwide, thereby rightly making the country the “Pharmacy of the World”.

- **Major Segments** of the Pharmaceutical Industry are Generic drugs, OTC Medicines and API/Bulk Drugs, Vaccines, Contract Research & Manufacturing, Biosimilars & Biologics.
- **Pharma sector currently contributes to around 1.72% of the country's GDP**
- The country now ranks **3rd worldwide by volume of production** and 14th by value, thereby accounting for around 10% of the world's production by volume and 1.5% by value.
- Indian exports are destined to more than 200 countries around the globe including highly regulated markets of the US, West Europe, Japan and Australia.

Statement 2 is not correct: FDI policy: Up to 100%, FDI has been allowed through automatic route for Greenfield pharmaceuticals projects. For Brownfield pharmaceuticals projects, FDI allowed is up to 74% through automatic route and beyond that through government approval.

41. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Option d is correct:** The Brasilia Declaration, adopted at the second global high-level conference on road safety held in Brazil, lays down recommendations on strengthening existing legislation, adopting sustainable transport and strengthening the post-crash response.

42. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Dam Safety Bill, 2019** recently passed by the Parliament. RS passed with an amendment of changing the title **from 2019 to 2021**. The Bill **Constitutes two national bodies: National Committee on Dam Safety:** Making recommendations over dam safety standards. **Headed by CWC chairman. National Dam Safety Authority:** To implement policies and standards, impose penalties for non-adherence, binding decisions on all parties. Water is a state subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The Centre had brought the bill under **Article 246** of the Constitution (**Entry 56 (regulation of inter-state rivers) and Entry 97 of List I in the Union list**).

43. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a massive bilateral project to improve infrastructure within Pakistan for better trade with China and to further integrate the countries of the region. It was launched in 2015.

Statement 2 is correct: The goal of CPEC is both to transform Pakistan's economy—by modernizing its road, rail, air, and energy transportation systems—and to connect the deep-sea Pakistani ports of Gwadar and Karachi to China's Xinjiang province and beyond by overland routes.

44. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statements 1, 2 and 3 are not correct: Global Health Security Index 2021** was jointly released by non-profits **Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security**.

- It was developed with Economist Impact. It is the **first comprehensive assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capabilities** across 195 countries. The world's

overall performance on the GHS Index score slipped to **38.9 (out of 100) in 2021**, from a score of **40.2 in the GHS Index, 2019**.

- Some 101 high-, **middle- and low-income countries**, including India, have slipped in performance since 2019.
- **In South Asia**, India, with a **score of 42.8 (out of 100)** too, has slipped by **0.8 points** since 2019.
 - o But three neighbouring countries — **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives** — have improved **their score by 1-1.2 points**.

45. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 and 3 are not correct:** The Law Commission of India is a **non-statutory** body constituted by the Government of India from time to time.

The Commission was originally constituted in 1955.

- **22nd Law Commission:** It was constituted by the Government on February 21, 2020, for a period of **three years** from the date of publication of the Order of Constitution in the Official Gazette. It will consist of:
 - o A full-time Chairperson;
 - o **Four full-time Members** (including Member-Secretary) Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs as ex-officio Member; Secretary, Legislative Department as ex officio Member.
 - o and not more than **five part-time Members**.

Statement 2 is correct: The Law Commission of India **reconstituted every three years**. The tenure of the twenty-first Law Commission of India was up to 31st August 2018.

- The Law Commission shall, on a reference made to it by the Central Government or suo-motu, **undertake research in law and review of existing laws in India** for making reforms therein and enacting new legislations.
 - o It shall also **undertake studies and research for bringing reforms** in the **justice delivery systems** for elimination of delay in procedures, speedy disposal of cases, reduction in the cost of litigation etc.
 - o Before finalizing its recommendations, the Commission will consult the nodal Ministry/ Department (s) and such other stakeholders as the Commission may deem necessary for the purpose.

46. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) will be a **large infrared telescope** with an approximately **6.5-meter primary mirror**.

- The telescope will be launched on an **Ariane 5 rocket** from French Guiana in 2021.

- It was formerly known as the **Next Generation Space Telescope** (NGST) but was renamed in **2002** after a former NASA administrator, **James Webb**.
 - o Under his tenure, NASA launched over 75 space science missions, including probes that were sent to Mars and Venus.
- It will **study every phase in the history of the Universe**, ranging from the first luminous glows after the Big Bang, to the formation of solar systems capable of supporting life on planets like Earth, to the evolution of the Solar System.

Statement 3 is not correct: James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is an **international collaboration** between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).

- o The **NASA Goddard Space Flight Center** is managing the **development** effort.

47. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are not correct:** Ramanujan Prize was first awarded in 2005.

- It is administered by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) jointly with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Government of India and the International Mathematical Union (IMU).
- It is given annually to an eminent Mathematician who is less than 45 years of age on 31 December of the year of the award.
- The DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize committee, composed of eminent mathematicians from around the world.

48. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** If a bank is weak or is even about to go bankrupt, depositors will get their money of up to Rs five lakhs within 90 days.

Statement 2 is correct: All commercial banks including branches of foreign banks functioning in India, local area banks and regional rural banks are insured by the DICGC.

Statement 3 is not correct: This covers banks already under moratorium and those that could come under moratorium.

49. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct.** The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws which promotes animal welfare in the country.

Statement 2 is not correct. It was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

50. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** North-Eastern Council (NEC) is the statutory body established

after amending the North-Eastern Council Act, 1971 in the year 2002. It is the nodal agency for economic and social development of 8 North Eastern Region States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura including the four states having Schedule six areas. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Home Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the Council. The DoNER Minister is the Vice-Chairman. The council has Governors and Chief Ministers of all eight northeastern states as its members.

51. [ANS] b

[SOL] Pairs 1, 3 and 4 are correctly matched. The Adriatic Sea is positioned between the eastern coastline of Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro and Albania. The Caspian Sea is bordered by Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Russia. The Mediterranean Sea has 21 countries sharing a border with it and Morocco is one of them.

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

52. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Measles is a **highly contagious viral disease**. Despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine, measles remains an **important cause of death** among **young children globally**.

- o It is caused by a virus in the **paramyxovirus family**.
- o It can also lead to **serious adverse outcomes** such as blindness, pneumonia and encephalitis.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: Measles is a human disease and is not known to occur in animals.

- The virus infects the **respiratory tract**, then spreads throughout the body.
- It is normally passed through **direct contact and through the air**.
- It is spread by coughing and sneezing, close personal contact or direct contact with infected nasal or throat secretions.
- The measles vaccine has been in use since the 1960s.
 - o It is safe, effective and inexpensive.
 - o WHO recommended immunization for all susceptible children and adults for whom measles vaccination is not contraindicated.

53. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct: LokpalOnline is an **end-to-end digital solution** for the **management** of complaints against public servants filed under the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**.

- It is a **web-based facility**, which will quicken the disposal of complaints in an accountable, transparent and efficient manner with benefits to all stakeholders.
- It provides a Dashboard for every **Complainant**, enabling him to view the status of his **Complaints during its lifecycle**.
- The Portal, hosted on NIC Cloud, has been developed on an Open Source Technology.
- Its security audit has been done by an agency empanelled by the CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- **Features:** Facility to the complainant to ascertain the status of complaint at anytime
 - o The identity of the complaint is kept confidential
 - o The CVC, CBI and other inquiry agencies can upload their reports directly on the 'LokpalOnline' platform.

54. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Under CLM, banks are permitted to co-lend with all registered NBFCs (including HFCs) based on a prior agreement. The co-lending banks will take their share of the individual loans on a back-to-back basis in their books.

Statement 2 is not correct: The RBI has clearly said that NBFCs shall be required to retain a minimum of 20 percent share of the individual loans on their books.

Statement 3 is correct: The CLM shall not be applicable to foreign banks with less than 20 branches.

55. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: India is a member of UNCLOS.

Statement 2 is correct: As per UNCLOS, the sea is divided into 4 parts:

- o Territorial waters
- o Contiguous Zone
- o Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- o Continental Shelf

56. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are the most unequal regions in the world, whereas Europe has the lowest inequality levels.

Statements 2 and 3 are not correct: The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is prepared by Niti Aayog, as per the recent index, one in every four people in India was multidimensional poor. Bihar has the highest proportion of people (51.91 per cent of the state's

population) who are multidimensionally poor, followed by Jharkhand at 42.16 per cent and Uttar Pradesh at 37.79 per cent.

57. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The revised PCA framework is applicable to all deposit-taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), all non-deposit taking NBFCs in the middle, upper and top layers, including investment and credit companies, core investment companies, infrastructure debt funds, infrastructure finance companies and microfinance institutions.

Statement 2 is correct: The central bank can even supersede the board under the RBI Act, appoint an administrator and send the NBFC to NCLT for insolvency resolution.

58. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bill amends the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 to correct a drafting error.

Statement 2 is correct: Article 20(1) of the Constitution: says that no person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of the law in force at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offence, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the offence.

59. [ANS] d

[SOL] In 1928, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** successfully led the landowners of Bardoli in their resistance against increased taxes. In March 1931, he presided over the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress. He also played an important role in the Mutiny of the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) of February 1946 by counselling the participants. In September 1948, he led Operation Polo, the name given to the police action for the annexation of the erstwhile state of Hyderabad into the Indian state.

60. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Option D is correct: Sixth Schedule of the Constitution** provides for the administration of tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram** to safeguard the rights of the **tribal population in these states**.

- o This special provision is provided under **Article 244(2) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution**.
- It seeks to safeguard the rights of the tribal population through the formation of **Autonomous District Councils (ADC)**.
 - o ADCs are bodies representing a district to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature.

61. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** To blaspheme is 'to show contempt or disrespect for (God or sacred things)'.

Statement 2 is not correct: Sacrilege is originally the crime of stealing a sacred object from a place of worship.

62. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Mekong River is the longest river in Southeast Asia, the 7th longest in Asia, and the 12th longest in the world. It has a length of about 2,700 miles (4,350 km). Rising in southeastern Qinghai province, China, it flows through the eastern part of the Tibet Autonomous Region and Yunnan province, after which it forms part of the international border between Myanmar (Burma) and Laos, as well as between Laos and Thailand.

Statement 2 is correct: The river then flows through Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam before draining into the South China Sea south of Ho Chi Minh City. Vientiane (Viangchan), the capital of Laos, and Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, both stand on its banks. About three-fourths of the drainage area of the Mekong lies within the four countries the river traverses on its lower course—Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

63. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct.** Polavaram Project is in Andhra Pradesh but its reservoir spreads in parts of Chhattisgarh and Orissa too.

Statement 2 is not correct. It is situated on Godavari River.

Statement 3 is correct. Polavaram Project is a multipurpose dam project. Irrigation, electricity generation and drinking water supply are other objectives of Polavaram Dam. The project was started in 2008, accorded national status in 2014 in the Andhra Pradesh Bifurcation Act.

64. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) is a national park located in the Panna and Chhatarpur districts of **Madhya Pradesh in India.**

Statements 2 and 3 are correct: It was declared in 1994 as the twenty-second Tiger reserve of India and the fifth in Madhya Pradesh.

- Panna was given the Award of Excellence in 2007 as the best maintained national park of India by the Ministry of Tourism of India.
- Among the animals found here are the tiger, leopard, chital, chinkara, nilgai, sambhar and sloth bear.

65. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are not correct:** Agni-P is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system.

- **It is a canisterised surface-to-surface ballistic missile.**
 - o Canisterisation lessens the time required for launch & improves storage and mobility.

It has a range of up to 2000 km.

It is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles with improved parameters, including manoeuvring and accuracy.

Fully made up of composite material.

66. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Labour is a concurrent subject.

Statement 2 is correct: it is likely that employees may be able to enjoy a four-day workweek from next year, as opposed to the current five-day workweek.

Statement 3 is correct: The regulations restrict allowances to 50 per cent, which implies that half of the salary would be basic wages and contribution to provident fund is calculated as a percentage of basic wages that involves the basic pay and dearness allowance (DA).

67. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** It is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme. The scheme replaced the existing Mid-day Meal Scheme. It has been launched for an initial period of five years (2021-22 to 2025-26).

Statement 2 is correct: A social audit of the scheme has also been mandated for each school in each state to study the implementation of the scheme, which was so far not been done by all states.

Statement 3 is not correct: Non-uniform payment across the states is one of the issues of this scheme.

68. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The person who is declared as a Fugitive Economic Offender can challenge the proclamation in the High Court within 30 days of such declaration according to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

Statement 2 is correct: As per the law, a 'fugitive economic offender' means:

Any individual against whom a warrant for arrest in relation to an economic offence has been issued and the person has left the country and refuses to return to India to face criminal prosecution. Also, the value of the offence is at least Rs. 100 crore.

69. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** World Food Programme (WFP) was established in 1961 by the United Nations (UN) to help alleviate world hunger. Its headquarters are in Rome, Italy.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct: It is the **leading humanitarian organization** saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. WFP is the largest humanitarian organisation implementing school feeding programmes worldwide and has been doing so for over 50 years. In 2020, WFP provided school meals to 15 million children, often in the hardest-to-reach areas.

- The **International community** has committed to ending **hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition by 2030.**
- In 2020, it was awarded the **Nobel Prize for Peace** for its efforts to combat hunger, for its **contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas** and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.

70. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct:** Cantonment Boards are a **civic administration body** functioning under the provisions of the **Cantonments Act, 2006.**

- ☐ The **Cantonments Act of 1924** was **repealed by this Act.**
 - o They are under the **administrative control** of the **Ministry of Defence.**
- The members are **partly elected and partly nominated.**
 - o While the **elected members** hold the office for a **term of 5 years**, the nominated members continue as long as they hold the office.
 - o The **Station Commander is the President** of the Cantonment Board and Chief Executive Officer -an officer appointed by the Union Government.
 - o The **military officer commanding the station** serves as the board's **ex-officio president** and presides over its meetings.
- They are primarily meant to accommodate the **military population and their installations.**
 - o It provides for **public health, water supply, sanitation, primary education**, and street lighting, among other things, to the residents of the cantonment.
 - o It also provides for **training and administration** of the Army in the said area.
- Military Stations are purely meant for the use and accommodation of the armed forces and these are established under an executive order whereas the **Cantonments** are areas that comprise **both military and civil population.**

71. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Indian Flapshell turtle **Scientific Name** is *Lissemys punctata*

- It is one of the most common softshell turtles found in India.
 - o It is commonly found in **South Asian countries like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.**
- The rare **yellow colour of the turtle** may be due to the lack of a pigment called **tyrosine** present in **high amounts in reptiles.**

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: Indian Flapshell turtle is omnivorous and its diet consists of frogs,

snails and even some aquatic vegetation

- It is listed under Schedule (I) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

72. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Option b is correct:** Indian Express Group instituted the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards as part of the centenary year **celebrations of its founder, Ramnath Goenka.**

- It is the most **prestigious annual event in the Indian media calendar.**
- It pays tribute to journalists from **Print/Digital & Broadcast** who maintain the **highest standards of their profession** despite being in the face of political and economic pressures, who still manage to produce work that generates and sustains public trust in the media and impact the lives of people.

73. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Constitution never categorized some states as special, treating all of them on an equal footing.

Statement 2 is not correct: If the special category status provision had survived and had been granted to AP, the state would have received funding for centrally sponsored schemes (CSC) in the 90:10 ratios with 90% of the funds coming from the Centre as against 60% for normal category states.

Statement 3 is not correct: Aside from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar had demanded SCS status. However, they have not been granted the status as they did not fulfill the criteria to be qualified as an SCS State.

74. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct:** It is a zone of conflict between India and Sri Lanka.

- In 1974, the island was ceded to Sri Lanka after an agreement was signed by Indira Gandhi between the two countries without consulting the Tamil Nadu government.
- The agreement allowed Indian fishermen “access to Katchatheevu for rest, for drying of nests and for the annual St Anthony’s festival” but it did not ensure the traditional fishing rights.

75. [ANS] c

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

76. [ANS] b

[SOL] Aurobindo Ghose is popularly known as yogi **Rishi Aurobindo.**

- It was a **revolutionary, nationalist, poet, educationist and philosopher**.
- He was born on August 15, 1872, in Calcutta to Shri Krishnadhan Ghosh.
 - o His father was a rich doctor from Calcutta.
- At the **age of seven**, he was taken to England for education.
- He became a state service officer on his return to India in **1893**.
- He worked for the next thirteen years in the Princely State of Baroda in the service of the Maharaja and as a professor at Baroda College.
- He also joined a revolutionary society and took a leading role in secret preparations for an **uprising against the British Government in India**.
- In 1906, soon after the Partition of Bengal, Sri Aurobindo quit his **post in Baroda and went to Calcutta**, where he soon became one of the **leaders of the Nationalist movement**.
 - o 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.
- **Prosecuted twice for sedition** and once for conspiracy, he was released each time for lack of evidence.
- In 1908 he had the first of several fundamental spiritual realisations.
 - o In 1910 he withdrew from politics and went to Pondicherry in order to devote himself entirely to his inner spiritual life and work.
 - o During his forty years in Pondicherry, he evolved a new method of spiritual practice, which he called **the Integral Yoga**.
- In 1926, with the help of his spiritual collaborator, the Mother, he founded the Sri Aurobindo Ashram.
- 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.

77. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicles indigenously designed and developed by **DRDO**, and manufactured by the Pune unit of Bharat Electronics Limited.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a versatile **BMP-IIK amphibious Infantry Combat Vehicle (ICV)** fitted with instruments for **water reconnaissance, land reconnaissance, navigation and data backup**.

- o It can navigate terrain using Military Grid Coordinate System, measure and plot underwater

beds and water currents of rivers or canals, store data from various instruments on Control Console for further analysis and decision-making.

- It is designed to meet the tactical and combat requirements of Military Engineers for **carrying out terrestrial and underwater surveys in hostile terrains.**

78. [ANS] d

[SOL]

- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released detailed rules for the implementation of a far-reaching global tax deal aimed at subjecting multinational enterprises (MNEs) to a 15% minimum tax from 2023.

79. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Option D is correct:** The National Development Council is an executive body as it was established by an executive resolution on the recommendation of the First Five Year Plan (draft outline) in August 1952. It is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.

80. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct.** Once found across South and Southeast Asia, the Greater Adjutant is one of the most threatened stork species in the world. At present, only three known breeding grounds are known. One is in Cambodia and two are located in India (Assam and Kadiyara, Bihar).

Statement 2 is not correct. Greater Adjutant Stork is enlisted as “Endangered” in the IUCN Red List data and is listed under Schedule IV of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Schedule III and IV include species that are not endangered, however, Adjutant stork is listed under Schedule IV despite being Endangered.

81. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill also seeks to allow the electoral registration officers to ask for Aadhaar numbers from "persons already included in the electoral roll for the purposes of authentication of entries in the electoral roll.

Statement 2 is not correct: Amendment bill makes it clear that no application for inclusion of name in the electoral roll shall be denied and no entries in the electoral roll shall be deleted for the inability of an individual to furnish or intimate Aadhaar number due to such sufficient cause as may be prescribed. Such people will be allowed to furnish other documents as may be prescribed.

Statement 3 is correct: Various sections of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951 will be amended.

82. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Option c is correct:** It is a 532-km **semi-high speed rail** corridor. It will **connect 11 of the 14 districts of Kerala**, situated at both ends. Alappuzha, Wayanad, and Idukki are not part of this. It aims to **cut the travel time** between the two ends of the state from 12 hours to less than four

hours. It also plans to connect the corridor with the international airports at Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram. The project **deadline is 2025**.

83. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bill provides for the establishment of the Mediation Council of India.

Statement 2 is correct: The Bill sets a period of 180 days for completing the mediation process which is further extendable to a maximum period of 180 days with the mutual consent of the parties.

Statement 3 is correct: The mediated settlement agreement resulting from mediation will be final and binding and will be enforceable in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in the same manner as if it were a judgment or decree of a Court.

84. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The 10th Schedule of the Constitution contains provisions relating to disqualification on the ground of defection.

Statement 2 is not correct: It was included under the 52nd Constitution Amendment Act, also called Anti Defection Act (1985).

Statement 3 is not correct: The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.

85. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** It is developed by DRDO and is based on the Prithvi Defense Vehicle from the Indian ballistic missile programme.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is a 150-500 km short-range, surface-to-surface missile with a payload capacity of 500-1,000 kg.

Statement 3 is correct: It has the ability to change its path after covering certain range mid-air.

86. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Option c is correct:** Somalia is bordering the Gulf of Aden in the north, Djibouti in the North West, Ethiopia in the west and Kenya in the southwest, in the east it borders the Indian Ocean, and it shares maritime borders with Yemen.

Note: Please refer to the map for the map-based questions.

87. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Option a is correct:** Sri Lanka is moving ahead on finalizing plans for jointly developing with India a massive oil tank farm at Trincomalee. During the Second World War, the British built the Trincomalee oil tank farms to serve as a refuelling station, adjacent to the Trincomalee port, an enviable natural harbour. The nearly century-old oil tanks need to be refurbished at the cost of millions of dollars if they are to be fit for use again.

88. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Gram Nyayalayas are aimed at providing inexpensive justice to people in rural areas at their doorsteps. Gram Nyayalayas are to be established for every Panchayat at the intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at the intermediate level or for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats. The seat of the Gram Nyayalayas shall be located at the headquarters of the intermediate Panchayat. The Nyayadhipati shall periodically visit villages and may hear the parties and dispose of the cases at a place other than its headquarters.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Gram Nyayalayas will try criminal cases, civil suits, claims or disputes which are specified in the First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the Gram Nyayalayas Act. They are to follow the summary procedure in a criminal trial. Disputes are to be settled as far as possible by bringing about conciliation between the parties and for this purpose, the Gram Nyayalayas will make use of the conciliators to be appointed for this purpose.

Statement 3 is not correct: The Gram Nyayalaya **shall not be** bound by the rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice subject to any rule made by the High Court.

89. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Blue Bull is the largest Asian antelope (family Bovidae).

- o The nilgai is indigenous to the Indian subcontinent, and Hindus accord it the same sacred status as cattle (both belong to the subfamily Bovinae).
- o Nilgai is the Hindustani word for “blue cow,” which describes the blue-grey of adult bulls. It lives in a lightly wooded forest, wooded grassland, scrub areas and agricultural areas and human settlements. Blue Bull usually avoids dense Forests
- **Statement 2 is not correct :** Blue Bull is found in Nepal, India and Pakistan

Statement 3 is correct: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species listed it as **Least Concern**.

- o It enjoys legal protection by virtue of the species having been included in Schedule-III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

90. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: GI is an indication used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.

- It is used for **agricultural, natural and manufactured goods**.
- In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.
- It is also a part of the **World Trade Organisation’s Trade-Related Aspects of**

Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Statement 2 is not correct : It confers legal protection to Geographical Indications in India

- o **Prevents unauthorised use of a Registered Geographical Indication by others**
- o It provides legal protection to Indian Geographical Indications which in turn boost exports and also enables seeking legal protection in other WTO member countries
- o It promotes the economic prosperity of producers of goods produced in a geographical territory.

91. [ANS] a

[SOL] The Union government in **1966 set up the Mahajan Commission** to look into the border **disputes and claims between Karnataka and Maharashtra**. The commission, headed by former **Chief Justice of India Mehr Chand Mahajan**, submitted its report in **August 1967**.

- It was **1972** by the time the report was **tabled in Parliament**.
- **Recommendation:** The report recommended the transfer of 264 Marathi-dominant villages from Karnataka to Maharashtra, but insisted that Karnataka would retain Belagavi and 247 villages.
- **Maharashtra rejected** the report and sought a review, but **Karnataka accepted it**.
- Decades have passed since then, but the **Union government is yet to formally implement the recommendations**.
- Meanwhile, Belagavi has turned into an **epicentre of violent clashes** over the years due to the border dispute.

92. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Sea of Okhotsk is a marginal sea of the western Pacific Ocean.

- It is located between Russia's **Kamchatka Peninsula** on the east, the **Kuril Islands** on the southeast, Japan's island of **Hokkaido** on the south, the island of **Sakhalin** along the west, and a stretch of eastern Siberian coast along the west and north. The northeast corner is the Shelikhov Gulf.
- The sea is named after Okhotsk, the first Russian settlement in the Far East.
- A marginal sea may be defined as a division of an ocean that is partially surrounded by archipelagos, islands, or peninsulas and is generally much

shallower than the open oceans.

93. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statements 1 and 2 are correct : Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) is a very unique joint initiative of the **Ministry of Education and AICTE** to **systematically rank higher educational institutions** in India on indicators related to **Innovation, Startup and Entrepreneurship Development amongst students and faculty**.

- The first edition of the ARIIA was launched in 2018.
 - o It critically evaluates institutions on parameters like patent filing and granted, number of registered students and faculty startups, fund generation by incubated startups, specialised infrastructure created by institutions to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, etc.

94. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct : Rythu Bandhu literally means 'Friend of Farmer'.

- It is a scheme of the **Telangana government** under which the **state government extends financial support to land-owning farmers** at the beginning of the crop season through **direct benefit transfer**.
- It was announced by the Chief Minister of Telangana in February 2018.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : It is the first-ever farmer investment support scheme in India, where the cash is paid directly. It provides a grant of **Rs. 5,000 per acre per farmer for both Kharif and rabi seasons** for purchase of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, labour and other investments.

- o The scheme is **open to all resident farmers of the state** who owned land.
- o Farmers cultivating the land in the forest, a majority of them from Scheduled Tribe communities, and having Record of Forest Rights (ROFR) document are also eligible to receive benefits under the scheme.
- **Objective**
 - o To provide a timely cash grant for the initial investment needs of farmers
 - o To ensure that farmers do not fall into the debt trap.

95. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statements 1, 2 and 3 are not correct : Under the programme, The bulbs are offered by **Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)**.

- CESL is providing high-quality 7-Watt and 12-Watt LED bulbs with 3 years guarantee at a **cost of INR 10 per bulb** in exchange for working incandescent bulbs.
- Every household can exchange a maximum of 5 bulbs.
- It is being implemented in rural households in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana.

96. **[ANS] c**

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Konark Sun Temple is situated in Odisha.

- **Meaning of Name: "Konarka"**, the place bears a name composed of two World elements: **Kona meaning corner and ARKA meaning the Sun.**
- **Built by:** Built by **King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty** from 1238-1250 CE.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: The main Temple was called by European sailors "**The Black Pagoda**" as it formed an important landmark for them in their coastal voyage.

- The Sun Temple was conceived as a **gigantic chariot of Sun God**, with **twelve pairs of exquisitely ornamented wheels pulled by seven pairs of horses.**
 - o Its fine tracteries and scrollwork, the beautiful and natural cut of animal and human figures, all give it superiority over other temples.
 - o The Sun temple belongs to the **Kalinga school of Indian Temples with characteristic curvilinear towers mounted by Cupolas.**
 - o The alignment of the Sun Temple is in the **east-west direction.**
 - o The temple is a **World Heritage Site.**
- **Great poet Rabindranath Tagore wrote of Konark:** "Here the language of stone surpasses the language of man."

97. **[ANS] d**

[SOL] the Indian pangolin is the largest among eight pangolin species.

- It has large, overlapping scales on its body that act as armour.
 - o It can also curl itself into a ball (volvation) as self-defence against predators such as

the tiger.

- o The nocturnal animal lives in burrows and feed on ants and termites.
- It is widely distributed in India, except in the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East.
- It can be found at elevations up to 2500 m. The species also occurs in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka
- **Protection status :**
 - o Schedule I under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - o Appendix I of the International Convention of Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
 - o Endangered in IUCN Red List.

98. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct:** ‘Faceless Appeal Scheme, 2021’ was notified by The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

- o It grants an **oral hearing to taxpayers** through video conference as a matter of right while dealing with their appeals.
- o All communication between the assessee and the commissioner (appeals) or his representative will be through the **National Faceless Appeal Centre**, which will **solely use electronic mode for communication**.
- **Other features:** There is **no need for a physical appearance** by the taxpayer or his representative.
- o However, the **taxpayer may request a personal hearing for making oral submissions** or present his case before the commissioner (appeals), through the National Faceless Appeal Centre and the official “shall allow the request” and communicate the date and time.

99. [ANS] c

[SOL] Sankalp Smarak was dedicated to the nation by Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN), exactly 78 years after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s arrival on 29 Dec 2021. Sankalp Smarak is a tribute not only to the resolve of the soldiers of the **Indian National Army** and their innumerable sacrifices but also reminds us of the values enshrined by **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose himself**, “Nishtha, Kartavya Aur Balidan” or “Commitment, Duty and Sacrifice” that continue to underscore the ethos of the Indian Armed Forces and the resolve of the Indian Soldier.

100. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is expected to launch a SMILE Scheme for the **rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging** and for **providing support to transgender persons**.

Statement 2 is correct: It includes two sub-schemes - ‘**Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons**’ and ‘**Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging**’.

- **Coverage**
 - o This umbrella scheme covers several comprehensive measures including **welfare measures for both transgender persons and persons who are engaged in the act of begging**.

