

**NEXT IAS**

**TEST YOURSELF**

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**FEBRUARY, 2022**

1. Consider the following statements

1. The Collegium System is prescribed in the constitution.
2. It consists of the Chief Justice of India with two senior most judges.
3. National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014 was brought to replace commission.

Which of the above 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

2. Ukraine, recently seen in the news due to the Russia-Ukraine Conflict, shares borders with which of the following countries?

1. Belarus
2. Romania
3. Hungary
4. Georgia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

3. With reference to the Great Barrier Reef, consider the following statements:

1. It extends over 14 degrees of latitude, from shallow estuarine areas to deep oceanic waters.
2. The reef is located in the Coral Sea of Lakshadweep.
3. It was declared a World Heritage Area in 1981 because of its 'outstanding universal value'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(c) 2 only

(d) 1 and 3 only

4. Which of the following constitutes Great Britain?

1. England

2. Northern Ireland

3. Scotland

4. Wales

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

5. With reference to Lymphatic Filariasis, consider the following statements:

1. It is commonly known as Kala Azhar.

2. It is the second leading cause of permanent disability.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Which of the following are the features of Special Economic zones (SEZs)?

1. No licence is required for import.

2. Manufacturing or service activities allowed.

3. SEZ units will have freedom for subcontracting.

4. No routine examination by customs authorities of export/import cargo.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 3 and 4 only

(c) 1, 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Repo Rate is the rate the central bank of a country pays its commercial banks to park their

excess funds in the central bank.

2. Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the central bank of a country lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds.

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

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

8. 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

9. With reference to the Fundamental Rights under the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. They are protected and enforced by the Constitution.
2. They can be amended by a simple majority.
3. The Supreme Court is the guardian of Fundamental Rights.
4. All Constitutional rights are fundamental rights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. Consider the following statements about Basavanna.

1. He was Nayanars bhakti saint, reformer and philosopher.
2. Nathpanthis Group was founded by him.
3. He was the contemporary of Raja Krishna Deva Raya.

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

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

11. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Sanctuaries</i>	<i>States</i>
1. Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary	Haryana
2. Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary	Gujarat
3. Bhindawas wildlife sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh

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

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

12. With reference to Lokpal, consider the following statements:
1. The Chief Justice of India can only be appointed as the chairperson of the Lokpal.
  2. Lokpal's jurisdiction covers all categories of public servants.
- 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
13. 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
14. He was a Sufi mystic saint and philosopher. He was also known as 'Gharib Nawaaz' and 'Benefactor of the poor'. He made Ajmer, Rajasthan his residence, where his resting place, the Ajmer Sharif Dargah is located.
- The above description describes about:
- (a) Qutub-ud-din Aibak
  - (b) Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti
  - (c) Mullah Mohammad Mahdi
  - (d) Abd-Allah ibn Muhammad ibn al-Hanafiyyah
15. 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.
- 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
16. With reference to the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It reserves all private-sector jobs for the people domiciled in the State.
  2. It covers all establishments within the State employing more than 10 people.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
17. With reference to International Space Station (ISS), consider the following statements:

1. It is a habitable artificial satellite, in Low Earth Orbit
2. It was the brainchild of former US President Ronald Reagan.
3. It is a joint project of two agencies NASA and JAXA.

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

18. With reference to PM MITRA Park Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The seven Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks will be set up at Greenfield or Brownfield sites located in different states.
2. The Scheme shall be implemented on a pan-India basis and is intended for the holistic development of the Textile sector.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

19. The “SilverLine project”, which was in the news recently refers to:

- (a) A semi high-speed railway project
- (b) Project to stop Coral bleaching in the Andaman Islands.
- (c) NASA’s mission to build a laser telescope
- (d) Ministry of Women and Child Development project to rescue trafficked children in urban areas.

20. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

<i>Port in news</i>	<i>Location</i>
1. Chittagong port	Bangladesh
2. Hambantota port	Sri Lanka
3. Port Sudan	Sudan

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

21. With reference to the J&K Delimitation Commission, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is headed by a retired Chief Justice of J&K High Court.
2. It has used the census data of 2001 for the delimitation exercise.
3. This is the first time Scheduled Tribes are being given representation in the Legislative Assembly of the state.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

22. Which two states in India have allowed commercial cultivation of hemp crops?
- Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh
  - Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
  - Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh
  - Meghalaya and Assam
23. With reference to Black Percher, consider the following statements:
1. It is a species of dragonfly.
  2. It has a wide prevalence in Southern Eurasia and the whole of Africa.
  3. It is listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 1,2 and 3
24. The '1961 Madrid Protocol' is associated with:
- Reduction in Carbon Emission
  - Curbing Global Terror funding
  - Environmental protection in Antarctica
  - Demilitarisation of Space
25. With reference to the Green Bond, consider the following statements:
1. It is specifically earmarked to raise money for climate and environmental projects.
  2. The first green bond was issued in 2007 by the World Economic Forum(WEF).
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
26. With reference to PM CARES Fund, consider the following statements:
1. The Finance Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund.
  2. It consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals/organizations and does not get any budgetary support.
  3. Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
  4. Its funds are audited by an auditor who is a Chartered Accountant drawn from the panel prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2, 3 and 4 only
  - 1,3 and 4 only
  - 1,2,3 and 4
27. Operation AAHT recently seen in the news, is related to
- Rescue mission in Yemen
  - Military Operation to remove the separatists
  - Seize control of the Siachen Glacier
  - Curb human trafficking
28. Consider the following statements:
1. The discussion on motion of thanks can also be postponed in favor of an urgent Government Bill

- or other business.
2. There are no amendments allowed to the motion of thanks.  
Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 29.** With reference to Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), consider the following statements:
- 1. It is also known as China's Marshall Plan.
  - 2. It is a project bypassing the need to transport goods from the Middle East to China through the Strait of Hormuz.
- 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.** 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
- 31.** It was built in 1591 by Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah, who was the fifth king of the Qutub Shahi dynasty. It has been built in the Indo-Saracenic style of architecture. The materials used are granite and lime mortar.  
It was:
- (a) Taj Mahal
  - (b) Qutub Minar
  - (c) Charminar
  - (d) Red Fort
- 32.** With reference to Sri Ramanujacharya, which of the following statements is/are correct?
- 1. The Statue of Unity has been unveiled to mark his 1000th birth anniversary.
  - 2. He gave the philosophy of Vishishtadvaita.
  - 3. He set the Parampara or traditions to be followed in Shaivite temples.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 2 only
  - (b) 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 2 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 33.** World Oil Outlook 2021 recently published by which of the following ?
- (a) International Energy Agency(IEA)
  - (b) World Trade Organization (WTO)
  - (c) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



- (d) Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries( OPEC).
34. Which of the following languages is /are given classical status in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?
1. Kannada
  2. Sanskrit
  3. Malayalam
  4. Dogri
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3 only
35. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) recently seen in the news, it is chaired by:
- (a) President
  - (b) Finance Minister
  - (c) Prime Minister
  - (d) Speaker of the Lok Sabha
36. With reference to Section 498A of IPC, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. The definition of cruelty covers both physical and mental abuse.
  2. The Malimath Committee has recommended making the law compoundable to prevent the possibility of settlement or compromise in the cases.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
37. With reference to International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor(ITER) , consider the following statements:
1. It is the world's largest fission experiment.
  2. It was launched in 1985 and is located in France.
  3. India is a member of this collaboration.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 1 and 2 only
  - (c) 2 only
  - (d) 2 and 3 only
38. With reference to Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), consider the following statements:
1. It is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament, 2008.
  2. Both financial and administrative powers are vested in it.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2

- (d) Neither 1 nor 2
39. With reference to the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), consider the following statements:
1. It is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
  2. It is located in Hyderabad and was established in 1999.
- 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
40. Filariasis is a parasitic disease, caused by:
- (a) Wuchereria bancrofti  
(b) Entamoeba histolytica  
(c) Babesia microti  
(d) Trypanosoma cruzi
41. With reference to Nirbhaya Fund, consider the following statements
1. The fund is administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
  2. The fund is to support initiatives protecting the dignity and ensuring safety of women 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
42. With reference to the death penalty in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. The Supreme Court has evolved the “Rarest of Rare” doctrine in the Bachan Singh case (1979).
  2. NCRB data has established that the decline in the murder rate is a result of the increase in executions in the country.
  3. 35th Report of the Law Commission of India (1962) had recommended the abolition of capital punishment.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1 only  
(b) 1 and 3 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3
43. With reference to Mission Indradhanush, consider the following statements:
1. It covers partially and unvaccinated pregnant women and children.
  2. Under it, all vaccines under Universal Immunization Program (UIP) are provided as per National Immunization Schedule.
  3. It was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).
- 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
44. With reference to Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consider the following statements:
1. It was constituted under Section 45ZB of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934.

2. It is chaired by the Finance Minister of India.  
3. It determines the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.  
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
45. With reference to Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, which of the following statements is/are correct?  
1. It is an Indian initiative to build economic infrastructure in response to China's Belt and Road Initiative.  
2. It was launched in 2019.  
Select the correct answer using the code given below:  
(a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
46. With reference to Swami Dayanand Saraswati, consider the following statements:  
1. He was the founder of the Arya Samaj.  
2. He believed in Idol worship.  
3. He did not believe in the authority of the Vedas.  
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?  
(a) 1 only  
(b) 1 and 3 only  
(c) 2 and 3  
(d) 1, 2 and 3
47. With reference to the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), which of the following statements is not correct?  
(a) Their origin is exclusively anthropogenic.  
(b) They are carcinogenic in nature.  
(c) Not all the VOCs are measured in NAAQS.  
(d) They may lead to the formation of other secondary pollutants.
48. "One Ocean Summit" is being organized by France in cooperation with?  
(a) United Nations and the World Bank.  
(b) WWF and UNEP  
(c) Greenpeace and The Nature Conservancy.  
(d) Earth Island Institute and Conservation International
49. Consider the following statements:  
1. A fleet review is usually conducted every year on Republic Day by the President.  
2. By reviewing the ships, the President reaffirms his faith in the fleet and its ability to defend the nation's maritime interest.  
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
50. With reference to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), consider the following statements:
1. It measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products.
  2. It is done by the National Statistics Office under the Ministry of Finance.
  3. Currently, IIP figures are calculated considering 2004-05 as the base year.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3
51. With reference to World Food Programme (WFP), consider the following statements:
1. It launched its first development programme in Brazil in 1963.
  2. It is governed by an Executive Board consisting of 80 Member States.
  3. In 2020, it was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace for its efforts to combat hunger.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 2 only  
(d) 3 only
52. The Solomon Islands recently seen in the news, it is situated in which of the following oceans?
- (a) Atlantic Oceans  
(b) Indian Oceans  
(c) Pacific Oceans  
(d) Arctic Oceans
53. The landmark judgment, Prakash Singh Case sometimes seen in news refers to?
- (a) Public interest litigation  
(b) Police reforms  
(c) Women safety  
(d) Cooperative Federalism
54. With reference to the Maharaja Surajmal, consider the following statements:
1. Kumbhalgarh Fort was built in the 18th century by him.
  2. He established the Bharatpur town in the year 1743.
  3. He was described as "the Plato of the Jat people".
- Which of the given above statement(s) is/are not correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 1 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 3 only
55. With reference to Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), consider the following statements:
1. The idea for its establishment was given by the Raghuram Rajan Committee.

2. It is a Statutory Body.
3. It is headed by the RBI Governor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**56.** With reference to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), consider the following statements:

1. The Companies Act, 2013 allows companies to spend 1% of their average net profit in the previous three years on CSR activities.
2. CSR provisions are applicable to companies with an annual turnover of 1,000 crore and more, or a net worth of Rs. 500 crore and more.
3. Non compliance of CSR provisions has been notified as a criminal offense.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

**57.** He was born in Varanasi in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India as a member of an untouchable leather-working caste. He had envisaged a society that is based on equality and free from any kind of discrimination. He was one of the most famous and leading stars of the nirguna sampradaya (sant parampara) and was one of the prominent leaders of the North Indian Bhakti movement. The Chief Architect of our Constitution, Dr B.R. Ambedkar embodied the Constitutional principles around the values expressed by him.

He was:

- (a) Saint Kabir Das
- (b) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
- (c) Guru Ravidas
- (d) Shankaracharya

**58.** With reference to Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), consider the following statements:

1. It provides health assurance of up to ₹10 Lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care-related hospitalizations.
2. There is no cap on family size or age or gender under it.
3. No enrolment or registration of beneficiary is required to avail benefits under the scheme.

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

**59.** Consider the following statements regarding e-Rupi Platform

1. It is a person and purpose-specific digital payment solution.

2. It is developed by the RBI.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

60. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), consider the following statements

- 1. It insures farmers against all non-preventable natural risks.
- 2. Claims are worked out on the basis of shortfall in actual yield.
- 3. There is no upper limit on Government subsidies.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

61. With reference to Medaram Jatara Festival, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is celebrated annually in the state of Telangana.
- 2. It is the second-largest fair in India, after the Kumbh Mela.
- 3. It is a festival with no Vedic or Brahmanic influence.

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

62. With reference to Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Central Government.
- 2. Under the scheme, Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices will be provided only to Senior citizens belonging to the BPL category.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

64. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)?
1. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second-largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations.
  2. Its headquarters is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
  3. India is a member of the OIC.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
65. Which one of the following is not an instrument of selective credit control in India?
- (a) Regulation of consumer credit
  - (b) Rationing of credit
  - (c) Margin requirements
  - (d) Variable cash reserve ratios
66. Renke Commission is recently seen in the news, it is related to
- (a) Development of vulnerable tribes
  - (b) Examine centre-state relations
  - (c) Probe the Babri Masjid demolition
  - (d) Reorganization of state boundaries
67. With reference to Crimson Rose, consider the following statements:
1. It is a large butterfly with a mix of black, white and crimson colours on its wings and body.
  2. It is known to migrate along the coast, inland and crosses the sea often.
  3. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species listed it as Least Concern.
- 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
68. "Ekuverin" is a joint military exercise between India and which other country?
- (a) Nepal
  - (b) Sri Lanka
  - (c) Philippines
  - (d) Maldives
69. World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is a flagship programme of which organization?
- (a) The Nature Conservancy

- (b) World Wide Fund for Nature
- (c) National Geographic Society
- (d) The Energy and Resources Institute

70. With reference to Rare Earth Elements, consider the following statements:

1. These metals have unusual conductive and magnetic properties.
2. They are rarely found on the earth.

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

71. With reference to Capacity Development (CD) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an Ongoing Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
2. It gives the complete count of all non-farm economic establishments located within the geographical boundary of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

72. With reference to Hydrogen Fuel, consider the following statements:

1. It is a zero-emission fuel burned with oxygen.
2. It can be manufactured by electrolysis of water by using direct current.
3. It can not be used as a fuel for spacecraft propulsion.

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

73. Consider the following statements:

1. India has a trade surplus with the UAE.
2. The UAE is India's largest trading partner among Gulf countries.

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
74. 95:95:95 strategy is related to which disease?
- (a) AIDS  
(b) TB  
(c) Malaria  
(d) Cancer
75. Consider the following statements with regard to “Forest Rights Act 2006”:
1. It deals with the rights of forest-dwelling communities over land and other resources.
  2. Rights under the Act are confined to those who “primarily reside in forests” and who depend on forests and forest land for a livelihood.
- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
76. With reference to Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) Project, consider the following statements:
1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
  2. It will be a step towards ensuring effective and modern policing.
  3. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be responsible for the implementation of the project.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3
77. He had a council of ministers (Asht Pradhan) to advise him on the matters of the state but he was not bound by it. He revived ancient Hindu political traditions, court conventions and promoted the usage of Marathi and Sanskrit, rather than Persian, in court and administration. He innovated military tactics, pioneering non-conventional methods (guerrilla warfare) and leveraged strategic factors like geography, speed, and surprise.  
He was:
- (a) Maharana Pratap  
(b) Chhatrapati Shivaji  
(c) Aurangzeb  
(d) Pulakesin II
78. Bent-toed gecko is recently seen in the news, it is related to
- (a) Frog  
(b) Ostrich  
(c) Blue whale

- (d) Lizard
79. In the “Index of Eight Core Industries”, which of the following industries has the highest weightage?
- (a) Steel Industry
  - (b) Coal Industry
  - (c) Electricity Industry
  - (d) Refinery Products Industry
80. Consider the following statements:
- Attorney General of India can
- 1. take part in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha
  - 2. be a member of a committee of the Lok Sabha
  - 3. speak in the Lok Sabha
  - 4. vote in the Lok Sabha
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 and 4
  - (c) 1, 2 and 3
  - (d) 1 and 3 only
81. Recently, the Uday Kotak committee was in the news, what is the rationale behind it?
- (a) Corporate Governance
  - (b) Bad bank
  - (c) Non-performing loan
  - (d) Demonetisation
82. Consider the following statements regarding the First information report (FIR):
- 1. The term FIR is not defined in the Indian Constitution but is defined in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
  - 2. It should be given in writing only and oral FIR's are not acceptable.
- Which of the following statements is/are *not correct*?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
83. Consider the following pairs:
- | <i>Martial Arts</i> |   | <i>State</i> |
|---------------------|---|--------------|
| 1. Silambam         | - | Sikkim       |
| 2. Gatka            | - | Punjab       |
| 3. Pang Lhabsol     | - | Tamil Nadu   |
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

84. With reference to Purple Revolution, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's (CSIR) Aroma Mission.
2. It aimed at increasing lavender cultivation mainly in the North Eastern region of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

85. With reference to Pashmina, consider the following statements:

1. The word Pashmina comes from the Persian word 'Pashm' which means 'soft gold'.
2. It is indigenous to the high altitude regions of Leh-Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.
3. It has been accredited by the Guinness Book of World Records for being the costliest cloth in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

86. With reference to GST Council, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. The Finance Secretary will be the Chairperson of the council.
3. Vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one third of the total votes cast.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

87. With reference to Japanese Encephalitis (JE), consider the following statements:

1. It is a mosquito-borne flavivirus and belongs to the same genus as dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses.
2. It is transmitted to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes of the Culex species.
3. The first case of JE was documented in 2001 in Japan.
4. There is no antiviral treatment for patients with JE.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

88. 'Byanjana Dwadashi' recently seen in the news, it is related to:
- (a) Paintings
  - (b) Architecture
  - (c) Festival
  - (d) Martial Arts
89. The "Minsk agreement", recently seen in the news, related to?
- (a) Solving the dispute of South China Sea
  - (b) Agreement to ban nuclear weapons
  - (c) Protection of biodiversity hotspot
  - (d) Ukraine-Russian agreement to end a separatist war
90. Which of the following is/are not the Fundamental Duties enshrined in the Constitution of India?
- 1. To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.
  - 2. To exercise our Universal Adult Franchise at the time of general elections.
  - 3. To have freedom of thought, belief and religion.
- Choose the correct answer using the code given below
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 1 and 3 only
  - (c) 2 only
  - (d) 2 and 3 only
91. With reference to the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), consider the following statements:
- 1. It is a non-statutory apex council under the Ministry of Finance.
  - 2. Narasimham Committee on financial sector reforms first proposed the creation of FSDC.
  - 3. It aims to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism of maintaining financial and macroeconomic stability.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 2 only
  - (d) 1 and 3 only
92. Angadia system recently seen in the news, it is related to
- (a) Place of worship
  - (b) Superintendent of Agriculture
  - (c) Troops supplied by forest tribes
  - (d) Banking service
93. "The Meitei people", an ethnic group is native to which state of India?
- (a) Gujarat
  - (b) Maharashtra
  - (c) Andaman and Nicobar
  - (d) Manipur

94. With reference to NDC-TIA Project, consider the following statements:
1. It is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI).
  2. The Ministry of environment, forest and Climate Change is the implementing partner for the India component of the project.
- Which of the statements given above is/are *not correct*?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
95. With reference to the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:
1. The Chief Election Commissioner has more say in the decision making of the Commission among the Election Commissioners.
  2. The decisions of the ECI can be challenged in the High Court and the Supreme Court of India.
  3. In respect of election for the office of the President of India, review petitions can only be filed before the High Court.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 2 only
  - (d) None of the above
96. Which of the following areas is the space debris graveyard?
- (a) Reunion Island
  - (b) Madagascar
  - (c) Point Nemo
  - (d) Galapagos Island
97. With reference to Exercise Milan, consider the following statements:
1. It is a biennial, multilateral naval exercise that started in 1995.
  2. The U.S. will be joining Exercise Milan 2022 for the first time.
  3. It has so far been held in Andaman and Nicobar but is now being shifted to Kerala.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 2 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
98. With reference to Fair and Remunerative Prices (FRP) consider the following statements:
1. It has been determined on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders.
  2. Under the FRP system, the farmers are not required to wait till the end of the season or for any announcement of the profits by sugar mills or the Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**99.** With reference to Golan Heights, consider the following statements

1. Golan Heights refers to the border region captured from Syria by Israel during the Six-Day Middle-East War of 1967
2. It is bounded by the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee.

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

**100.** What can be the possible Causes of Wildfires?

1. Increased drought
2. High air temperatures
3. Low relative humidity
4. Lightning
5. Strong winds

Which of the following options are correct?

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

**101.** With reference to Sea Cucumber, consider the following statements:

1. Sea cucumbers are in high demand in China and Southeast Asia, where they are consumed as food and used in medicine
2. Sea cucumbers in India are treated as an endangered species listed under schedule V of Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
3. Lakshadweep has created the world's first conservation area for sea cucumbers.

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

**102.** With reference to Endosulfan, consider the following statements:

1. It does not occur naturally in the environment
2. It smells like turpentine but does not burn.
3. It is used to control insects on food and non-food crops.

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
103. Sustainable Cities India Programme is signed between India and:
- (a) World Bank (WB)
  - (b) United Nations (UN)
  - (c) International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
  - (d) World Economic Forum (WEF)
104. With reference to Minimum support price, consider the following statements
1. The MSPs are announced by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
  2. Crops covered include Rubber and Coffee along with others.
- 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
105. What are the major sources of Black Carbon?
1. Fossil fuels for transportation.
  2. Solid fuels for industrial and residential uses.
  3. Open burning of biomass.
- Choose the correct answer using the codes given below
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
106. He was a freedom fighter, politician, lawyer, writer, social reformer, and institutor of Hindutva ideology. He wrote 'The Indian War of Independence, 1857' during his jail time. He was arrested in 1909 on charges of plotting an armed revolt against the Morley-Minto reform. He also founded the two-nation theory in his book 'Hindutva' calling Hindus and Muslims two separate nations. He opposed the Quit India Movement of 1942. He was:
- (a) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
  - (b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
  - (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
  - (d) Vinayak Damodar Savarkar
107. With reference to P-8I Aircraft, consider the following statements:
1. It is a long-range, multimission maritime patrol aircraft.
  2. It's a variant of the P-8A Poseidon aircraft that Boeing developed as a replacement for the US Navy's ageing P-3 fleet.
  3. India was its first international customer.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

108. The Gulf of Aqaba separates which two countries?

- (a) Jordan and Egypt
- (b) Israel and [Saudi Arabia](#)
- (c) Egypt and Israel
- (d) Jordan and South Sudan

109. Which of the following are covered under the TRIPS Agreement?

- 1. Copyright
- 2. Patent
- 3. Industrial Design
- 4. Layout design of integrated circuits

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

110. "3D printing" has applications in which of the following?

- 1. Preparation of confectionery items
- 2. Manufacture of bionic ears
- 3. Automotive industry
- 4. Reconstructive surgeries
- 5. Data processing technologies

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

111. With reference to Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a messaging network used by banks and financial institutions globally for quick and faultless exchange of information.
- 2. It is merely a platform that sends messages and does not hold any securities or money.
- 3. No country has been excluded from SWIFT till now.

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

112. With reference to Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It covers every establishment in which 20 or more persons are employed.
2. Under the scheme, the employee has to pay a certain contribution towards the provident fund and the same amount is paid by the employer on a monthly basis.
3. EPFO provides the rate of interest only after it is ratified by the government through the finance ministry.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

113. Recently seen in news, ABHA is related to:

- (a) A scheme to provide solar pumps to increase harvest of horticulture crops.
- (b) A health account to save all the data related to clinical records of a person.
- (c) A branch of auxiliary nurse midwives to help pregnant women in prenatal problems.
- (d) None of the above.

114. Which Indian state is in the process of developing a Dugong (Sea Cow) reserve?

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

115. With reference to Munich Security Conference, consider the following statements

1. It is held once every 5 years.
2. It is the world's leading forum for debating international security policy only.
3. It has been hosted by the US since 1963.

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

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

## Explanation

### 1. [ANS] a

**[SOL]** In News: Recently, the Supreme Court collegium has recommended Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari for the appointment as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Collegium System is not prescribed in the constitution nor in any statute. It came into existence through the 2nd Judges case..

Statement 2 is not correct: The 2nd Judges Case recommended the CJI+ 2 senior most judges but 3rd Judges cases upgraded it to CJI+4 senior most judges.

Statement 3 is correct: National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014 was brought to replace commission. But it was declared unconstitutional by SC.

### 2. [ANS] a

**[SOL]** In News: Recently, India called for a “peaceful resolution” of the situation (ongoing crisis between Russia and the West ) through “sustained diplomatic efforts” for “long-term peace and stability” in the region and beyond. Ukraine is bordered by Belarus to the north, Russia to the east, the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea to the south, Moldova and Romania to the southwest, and Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland to the west. In the far southeast, Ukraine is separated from Russia by the Kerch Strait, which connects the Sea of Azov to the Black Sea.

### 3. [ANS] d

**[SOL]** Recently, Australia unveiled a billion-dollar package to protect the climate-ravaged Great Barrier Reef.

**Statements 1 and 3 are correct:** The Great Barrier Reef is unique as it extends over 14 degrees of latitude, from shallow estuarine areas to deep oceanic waters.

- Within this vast expanse is a unique range of ecological communities, habitats and species – all of which make the Reef one of the most complex natural ecosystems in the world. The Great Barrier Reef was declared a World Heritage Area in 1981 because of its 'outstanding universal value'

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The reef is located in the Coral Sea, off the coast of Queensland, Australia.

### 4. [ANS] c

**[SOL]** In News: Recently, India and the United Kingdom concluded the first round of discussion for the ambitious Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

**Option c is correct:** The United Kingdom comprises a union of the individual countries of England, Scotland and Wales (collectively, Great Britain) and the constitutionally distinct region of Northern Ireland.

- The individual countries of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are further divided into a number of boroughs, cities, council areas, counties and districts.

5. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Neglected tropical disease day is observed every year on 30th January. It was declared in the 74th World Health Assembly (2021).

Statement 1 is not correct: A parasitic NTD called Lymphatic Filariasis, colloquially referred to in Hindi as hathipaon or Elephant Feet.

Statement 2 is correct: It is the second-leading cause of permanent disability in the world. It attacks the human lymphatic system and can cause painful swelling of limbs (lymphoedema) and genitalia (hydrocele) among others. Disfigurement of breast and genitalia are common. It is endemic in 328 districts across 21 states / Union territories.

6. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: In a move to enhance exports, the government will rewrite a new law to replace the existing Special Economic zones (SEZ) Act.

- Special Economic zones (SEZ) is an area in a country that is subject to different economic regulations than other regions within the same country.
- It aids foreign investment and export hubs as well.
  - Companies operating in such zones get tax sops from the government and also pay lower tariffs when the goods are exported and not sold outside these zones.
- The economic regulations of SEZs tend to be conducive to and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy was launched in April 2000.
  - SEZs Act, 2005, was passed by Parliament in 2005.
  - **Salient features:** A designated duty-free enclave to be treated as a territory outside the customs territory of India for the purpose of authorised operations in the SEZ.
    - No licence is required for import.
    - Manufacturing or service activities allowed.
    - The Unit shall achieve Positive Net Foreign Exchange to be calculated cumulatively for a period of five years from the commencement of production.
    - Domestic sales are subject to full customs duty and import policy in force.
    - SEZ units will have freedom for subcontracting.
    - No routine examination by customs authorities of export/import cargo.

7. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the State Bank of India stated that it believes the stage is set for a Reverse Repo Normalisation in India.

**Statements 1 and 2 are not correct: Repo Rate:** The (fixed) interest rate at which the Reserve Bank provides overnight liquidity to banks against the collateral of government and other approved securities under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF).

- **Reverse Repo Rate:** The (fixed) interest rate at which the Reserve Bank absorbs liquidity, on an overnight basis, from banks against the collateral of eligible government securities under the LAF.

8. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: A new scheme, Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East (PM-DevINE) was announced by the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs while

presenting the Union Budget 2022-23. It will be implemented through the North-Eastern Council.

**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.

9. [ANS] b

**[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:** The Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part III of the Constitution from Articles 12 to 35. The Fundamental Rights are guaranteed by the Constitution to all persons without any discrimination. The Fundamental Rights are named so because they are guaranteed and protected by the Constitution, which is the fundamental law of the land. They are 'fundamental' also in the sense that they are most essential for the all-around development (material, intellectual, moral and spiritual) of the individuals.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Any changes to the fundamental rights require a constitutional amendment that should be passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The amendment bill should be passed by a special majority of Parliament.

**Statement 3 is correct:** They are defended and guaranteed by the Supreme Court. The aggrieved person can directly go to the Supreme Court, not necessarily by way of appeal against the judgement of the high courts. Article 32 and 224, Writs of five types are testimony to this. Hence, SC acts as the guardian of Fundamental Rights.

**Statement 4 is not correct:** All Constitutional rights are not fundamental rights. The Constitution has itself mentioned what rights are fundamental in nature.

10. [ANS] a

**[SOL] In News:** Lingayats are demanding reservation in Karnataka under OBC quota.

**Statement 1 is correct.** Shaivite Bhakti Saints are called Nayanars. Basavana was a Nayanar saint and poet and compiled Vachanas.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** He founded Lingayats also known as Veershaivs. Nathpanthis were founded by Gorakhnath.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** He was a contemporary of Chalukyan Kings, not VijayaNagar Empire. Vijaynagar empire came into existence in the 14th century whereas Basvanna was a saint of the 11th century.

11. [ANS] b

**[SOL] In News:** On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh have been added to the Ramsar site.

- Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest natural floodplain wetland in the district of Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
  - Established in the year 1980, the sanctuary's lake is important for the migratory birds who fly down here in the winter season.

- Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary is a coastal wetland with rich avifaunal diversity providing a safe habitat to endangered and vulnerable species.
  - Located 12 km away from Jamnagar District headquarters in Gujarat.
- Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary is a human-made freshwater wetland, and is the largest wetland in Haryana State. The wetland was declared as a protected area in 1986 and was designated as an Eco-sensitive zone by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in 2011.

## 12. [ANS] b

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, The Kerala government proposed to amend the Kerala Lok Ayukta Act with an ordinance.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The central Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 was notified on January 1, 2014.

- The law was a result of demands of several decades for stronger anti-corruption laws.
- It mandates the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for the States.
- It aims to inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.
- The act extends to the whole of India and is applicable to "public servants" within and outside India.
- The institution of Lokpal is a statutory body without any constitutional backing.
- Lokpal is a multi-member body, made up of
  - One chairperson and
  - A maximum of 8 members.
- The person who is to be appointed as the chairperson of the Lokpal should be
  - Either the former Chief Justice of India Or
  - The former Judge of Supreme Court Or
  - An eminent person with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and expertise of a minimum of 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Lokpal will also have jurisdiction over Ministers and MPs except not in the matter of anything said in Parliament or a vote given there.

- Public Servants: Lokpal's jurisdiction will cover all categories of public servants.

13. [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.

14. [ANS] b

**[SOL] In Context:** The Prime Minister of India presented a Chadar which shall be offered at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah on the Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti.

**Option b is correct:** Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti was born in Iran in 1141-42 CE.

He was a Sufi mystic saint and philosopher. He is the most famous saint of the Chishti order of Sufism in the Indian Subcontinent. Also known as 'Gharib Nawaaz' and 'Benefactor of the poor'. He made Ajmer, Rajasthan his residence, where his resting place, the Ajmer Sharif Dargah is located. At his Dargah, chadar is offered for prayer by both Hindus and Muslims which represents the spirit of mutual respect and unity in the diversity of India. He was contemporary to Qutub-ud-din Aibak and Iltutmish. He died in 1236.

15. [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.
  - They are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.
- The members are partly elected and partly nominated.
  - While the elected members hold the office for a term of 5 years, the nominated members continue as long as they hold the office.
  - The Station Commander is the President of the Cantonment Board and Chief Executive Officer -an officer appointed by the Union Government.
  - 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.

- It provides for public health, water supply, sanitation, primary education, and street lighting, among other things, to the residents of the cantonment.
- 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

## 16. [ANS]b

[SOL] Punjab and Haryana High Court stayed the 'Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020'.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The law seeks to provide 75% reservation for local candidates who are 'domiciled in Haryana' in all private-sector jobs in the State having a salary less than Rs. 30,000 per month.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The law covers all companies, societies, trusts, limited liability partnership firms and large individual employers having more than 10 employees. However, employees of the Central government and the State governments are not covered under the law.

## 17. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, NASA announced that the International Space Station (ISS) will cease operations in 2031, after which it will fall out of orbit and plunge into the waters of the South Pacific Ocean.

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** International Space Station (ISS) is a space station, or a habitable artificial satellite, in Low Earth Orbit (approximately 250 miles above Earth).

- It was the brainchild of former US President Ronald Reagan, who in 1984 proposed building a permanently inhabited spacecraft in cooperation with a few other countries.
- The first piece of the International Space Station has launched in 1998 into space onboard a Russian rocket.
  - NASA and its partners around the world finished the space station in 2011.
- The ISS is one of the most ambitious international collaborations in human history.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** The ISS programme is a joint project between five participating space agencies: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada).

- The ownership and use of the space station are established by intergovernmental treaties and agreements.
- The station is divided into two sections, the Russian Orbital Segment (ROS) and the United States Orbital Segment (USOS), which is shared by many nations.

## 18. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the State Governments have been requested to send their proposals for PM MITRA Parks Scheme by 15th March 2022.

The seven Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks will be set up at Greenfield or Brownfield sites located in different states.

Maximum Development Capital Support (DCS) of Rs 500 crore to all Greenfield PM MITRA and a maximum of Rs 200 Crore to Brownfield PM MITRA will be provided for the development of Common Infrastructure (at 30 percent of the Project Cost).

- It is in line with the vision of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' and to position India strongly on the Global textiles map.



- It will be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), which will be owned by the State Government and the Government of India in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Mode.
- It is inspired by the 5F vision of the Prime Minister of India. The '5F' Formula encompasses - farm to fibre; fibre to factory; factory to fashion; fashion to foreign.
- These parks will also have support infrastructures like workers' hostels and housing, logistics park, warehousing, medical, training and skill development facilities.
  - The Scheme shall be implemented on a pan-India basis and is intended for the holistic development of the Textile sector.

## 19. [ANS] a

**[SOL] In News:** A Day after Kerala Finance Minister claimed that in-principal nod has been accorded for the controversial Silver Line rail corridor project, the Centre submitted before the Kerala High Court that the proceedings of land acquisition for the project should be stopped at this stage as even feasibility of the present alignment has not been agreed upon by the Ministry of Railways.

**Option a is correct:** It is a semi high-speed railway project that envisages a train running at 200 km/h between the state's northern and southern ends.

- Urban policy experts have long been arguing that the existing railway infrastructure in Kerala cannot meet the demands of the future.
- Most trains run at an average speed of 45 km/hr due to a lot of curves and bending on the existing stretch.
- The government claims the SilverLine project can take a significant load of traffic off the existing stretch and make travel faster for commuters, which in turn will reduce congestion on roads and help reduce accidents.
- The government claims the line will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help in the expansion of Ro-Ro services, produce employment opportunities, integrate airports and IT corridors, and enable faster development of cities it passes through.

## 20. [ANS] d

**[SOL] In News:** China and Pakistan signed a new agreement on industrial cooperation as part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plan during Pakistan's PM ongoing visit to China.

**Option d is correct:** Chittagong port (Bangladesh), Hambantota port (Sri Lanka), Port Sudan (Sudan)

## 21. [ANS] a

**[SOL]** Delimitation Panel proposed significant **changes to the political map of J&K.**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The panel is **headed by a retired SC Judge**, Justice Ranjana Desai.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** As per the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, the **Commission uses the data for the 2011 Census.**

**Statement 3 is correct:** For the **first time in the history of J&K, STs are being given representation** in the State. The Commission has reserved 9 seats for the members of STs in the Legislative Assembly.

## 22. [ANS] a

**[SOL]** In a bid to strengthen its position in the global medical cannabis industry, Indian pharmaceutical major Dr Reddy's Laboratories has said that it will acquire German firm Nimbus Health.

**Option a is correct:** In India, while trade and consumption of cannabis is banned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985, calls for legalizing its use



for medicinal purposes have grown stronger over the years.

- Cannabis is not completely prohibited in the country as its medical and scientific use is allowed after obtaining necessary permissions from state governments.
- In 2018, Uttarakhand had become the first state in the country to allow commercial cultivation of hemp crops. A year later, the Madhya Pradesh government also did the same.

23. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, Black Percher sighted in **Seshachalam Hill** for **the first time**.

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** Black Percher or Black Ground Skimmer (*Diplacodes lefebvrii*), a species of dragonfly.

- It belongs to the **phylum Arthropoda**, class **Insecta** and orders **Odonata**.
- It has a wide prevalence in **Southern Eurasia and the whole of Africa**.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List of threatened species, Black Ground Skimmer was labelled in 2016 as of '**least concern**'

24. [ANS] c

[SOL] A team of Argentine scientists is using microorganisms native to Antarctica to clean up pollution from fuels and potentially plastics in the pristine expanses of the white continent.

**Option c is correct:** The Antarctic continent is protected by a 1961 Madrid Protocol that stipulates it must be kept in a pristine state. **The Antarctic Treaty was signed in Washington in 1959** by the twelve nations that had been active during the IGY (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States and USSR). Through this agreement, the countries active in Antarctica consult on the uses of a whole continent, with a commitment that it should not become the scene or object of international discord.

**The Treaty** stipulates that Antarctica should be **used exclusively for peaceful purposes**, military activities, such as the establishment of military bases or weapons testing, are specifically prohibited.

25. [ANS] a

[SOL] The government proposes to issue **sovereign green bonds** to mobilise resources for green infrastructure.

**Statement 1 is correct:** It is a type of fixed-income instrument that is specifically **earmarked to raise money for climate and environmental projects**.

- These bonds are typically **asset-linked and backed by the issuing entity's balance sheet**, so they usually carry the same credit rating as their issuers' other debt obligations.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The **first green bond was issued in 2007 by the European Investment Bank**, the EU's lending arm.

- This was followed a year later by the **World Bank**. Since then, many governments and corporations have entered the market to finance green projects.

26. [ANS] b

[SOL] The PM CARES Fund collected ₹10,990 crores from its inception in March 2020 until March 2021.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund) was created in 2020 at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and was set up to deal with "any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide relief to the affected.

- Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of

the Fund.

**Statement 2,3 and 4 are correct:** The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals/organizations and does not get any budgetary support.

- Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Donations to PM CARES Fund will also qualify to be counted as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013
- It has also got exemption under the FCRA and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened.
- This enables PM CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.
  - It functions with transparency and its funds are audited by an auditor who is a Chartered Accountant drawn from the panel prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

27. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, Railway Protection Force has launched a nationwide operation named “Operation AAHT” to curb human trafficking.

- As part of “Operation AAHT”, special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with a focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- As part of “Operation AAHT”, the infrastructure and intelligence network of the force could be utilised to collect, collate and analyse clues on victims, source, route, destination, popular trains used by suspects, the identity of carriers/agents, kingpins etc and shared with other law-enforcing agencies.

28. [ANS] d

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29. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** China and Pakistan have signed an agreement to continue the Second Phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) (part of BRI) during Pakistan PM Imran Khan’s visit to China.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Belt and Road Initiative is also known as China’s Marshall Plan. Mutual benefit is a feature of the BRI, which will also help to develop markets for China’s products in the long term and to alleviate industrial excess capacity in the short term.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Belt and road (BRI) is the new Silk Road initiative, both by land and sea, announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. It’s the most ambitious infrastructure and connectivity project in history, aiming to connect China with Europe by land and rail, and to Africa and Asia by sea. The project is of strategic significance for China as it is a means to transport goods from the Middle East to its territory by bypassing the Strait of Malacca, which can be a choke point in case of a conflict with the US or other adversaries. The Strait of Hormuz is situated between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

30. [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.

31. [ANS] c

**[SOL] In News:** The Archeological Survey of India is taking steps to make the wiring discreet and light up Charminar in a better way.

- Charminar, (Urdu: “Four Minarets”) historic monument located at the heart of Hyderabad in south-central India.
- It was built in 1591 by Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah, who was the fifth king of the Qutub Shahi dynasty, to mark the founding of Hyderabad and the end of a plague that had devastated the city.
- The Charminar has been built in the Indo-Saracenic style of architecture. The materials used are granite and lime mortar.

32. [ANS] a

**[SOL] PM Modi recently unveiled the Statue of Equality at Muchintal near Hyderabad in Telangana, which has been constructed to honour the philosopher-saint Ramanujacharya and his teachings.**

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Statue of Equality at Muchintal near Hyderabad in Telangana has been constructed to honour the philosopher-saint Ramanujacharya and his teachings. The Statue of Unity has been constructed in memory of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Sri Ramanuja gave the philosophy of Vishishtadvaita, which is also referred to as qualified non-dualism.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Sri Ramanuja belonged to the Vaishnavite tradition and he set the Parampara to be followed for rituals in the Vaishnava temples. It includes the timing and the content of rituals, the performance of Seva and recitation of hymns.

33. [ANS] d

**[SOL] In News :** Recently ,the World Oil Outlook 2021 projected that the oil demand in India is expected to reach around 11 million barrels per day by 2045 as compared to approximately 4.9 million barrels per day in 2021. It is a flagship publication by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

- It is part of the Organization’s commitment to market stability.
- It combines the expertise of the OPEC Secretariat, professionals in OPEC Member Countries and the Organization’s Economic Commission Board, as well as input from various other sources.
- It aims to highlight and further the understanding of the many possible future challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the oil industry.

34. [ANS] d

**[SOL] The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India.**

Part XVII of the Indian Constitution deals with the official languages in Articles 343 to 351.

- The eighth schedule includes the recognition of the following 22 languages:

- Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri are the 22 languages presently in the eighth schedule to the Constitution.
  - Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. Subsequently, Sindhi was added in 1967; Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added in 1992; and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santali were added in 2003.
- Currently, six languages enjoy the 'Classical' status: Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).

**35. [ANS] c**

**[SOL]** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) is chaired by the Prime Minister. One of the standing committees of the cabinet. It comprises 11 ministers and 3 special invitees. Major functions:

- Take major economic decisions like disinvestments, MSP, etc
- CCEA handles the functions of the cabinet committee on prices, cabinet committee on UIDAI, Cabinet committee on WTO, after they were scrapped

**36. [ANS] a**

**[SOL]** Supreme Court stated that instead of assuring rapid state intervention for protecting women against cruelty by her husband, Section 498A is increasingly being used to settle personal scores against in-laws.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Under Section 498A, 'Cruelty' is defined as wilfully driving a woman to commit suicide or inflicting grave injury (including physical or mental injury) upon her.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Both the Law Commission as well as Malimath Committee have recommended making dowry law compoundable. This will leave a scope for compromise in cases where it is felt that the case is not genuine and is motivated in nature.

**37. [ANS] d**

**[SOL]** Recently, Scientists in the United Kingdom achieved a new milestone in producing nuclear fusion energy or imitating the way energy is produced in the Sun. The record and scientific data from these crucial experiments are a major boost for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor(ITER).

**Statement 1 is not correct:** ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) is the world's largest fusion experiment.

**Statement 2 and 3 are correct:** It was launched in 1985 and is located in France.

- It aims to build the world's largest tokamak to prove the feasibility of fusion as a large-scale and carbon-free source of energy.
- The ITER Members—China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States—are now engaged in a 35-year collaboration to build and operate the ITER experimental device, and together bring fusion to the point where a demonstration fusion reactor can be designed.
- The member states share the cost of project construction, operation and decommissioning and they also share the experimental results and any intellectual property generated by the fabrication, construction and operation phases.

## 38. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) invited applications for the 'Accelerate Vigyan' scheme for the summer season.

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament, 2008. The mandate is to support basic research in emerging areas of Science & Engineering.

Supporting basic research in emerging areas of Science & Engineering is the primary and distinctive mandate of the Board. The Board structure, with both financial and administrative powers vested in the Board, would enable quicker decisions on research issues, greatly improving thereby our responsiveness to the genuine needs of the research scientists and the S&T system

## 39. [ANS] b

[SOL] Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has carried out a coastal vulnerability assessment for the entire Indian coast at the state level.

**Option B is correct:** Indian National Centre for Oceanic Information Services (INCOIS) is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It prioritises requests for specific services from its diverse user community that ranges right from fishermen to offshore oil exploration industries. The targeted users are fishermen, marine fishery resource managers, researchers, ecologists, and environmentalists.

## 40. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct:** It is a parasitic disease caused by microscopic, thread-like worms. *Wuchereria bancrofti*, is responsible for 90% of the cases. The adult worms only live in the human lymph system. The lymph system maintains the body's fluid balance and fights infections. Transmission: It is spread from person to person by mosquitoes. It is a leading cause of permanent disability worldwide.

## 41. [ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** The standing committee on education, women, children, youth and sports in its 316th report has expressed concerns over underutilisation of Nirbhaya Fund and asked the government to bring states on board for faster implementation of projects and schemes under it.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The fund is administered by the Department of Economic Affairs of the finance ministry.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The fund is to support initiatives protecting the dignity and ensuring safety of women in India.

## 42. [ANS] a

[SOL] Favours the anti-death penalty cause, SC said that judges across the country must look at the mitigating factors in favour of life imprisonment, rather than prescribing the death penalty with an eye only on the abhorrence of the crime.

**Statement 1 is correct:** 'Rarest of Rare' doctrine was evolved in the *Bacchan Singh* case (1979). Delivering the judgment in the case, SC said that capital punishment must only be awarded in rarest of the rare cases, which shook the collective conscience of society, and only if it serves the other societal causes.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the murder rate in India has declined from 4.6 per lakh in 1992 to 2.7 in 2013. This decline has coincided with a corresponding decline in the rate of executions, thus raising questions on the effectiveness of the death penalty.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** In the 35th Report of Law Commission of India (1962), which was presented in 1967, the Law Commission favoured retaining the death penalty in the Indian Judicial System. It said that maintenance of law and order, absence of any empirical research and other similar factors, "India cannot risk the experiment of abolition of capital punishment".

43. [ANS] d

**[SOL] Statements 1 2 and 3 are correct:** Prime Minister launched Mission Indradhanush in December 2014 to cover the partially and unvaccinated pregnant women and children in pockets of low immunization coverage, high-risk and hard-to-reach areas and protect them from vaccine-preventable diseases"

- Under Mission Indradhanush, all vaccines under Universal Immunization Program (UIP) are provided as per National Immunization Schedule. Mission Indradhanush was also identified as one of the flagship schemes under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (16,850 villages across 541 districts) and Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (48,929 villages across 112 aspirational districts).
- It was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)

44. [ANS] c

**[SOL] Statements 1 and 3 are correct:** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is constituted by the Central Government under Section 45ZB of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934. It determines the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It is chaired by the Governor of RBI. MPC conducts meetings at least 4 times a year.

45. [ANS] b

**[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct:** (CDRI) is an Indian initiative to promote knowledge sharing and best practices globally in the field of disaster risk reduction. Unlike China's BRI, it does not focus on the construction of foreign territory.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It was launched in 2019. Initially, it had a membership of 27 member states.

46. [ANS] a

**[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:** He was an Indian philosopher, social leader and founder of the Arya Samaj, a reform movement of the Vedic dharma.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Denouncing the idolatry and ritualistic worship, he worked towards reviving Vedic ideologies.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** He believed in the infallible authority of the Vedas.

47. [ANS] a

**[SOL]** As per a new Study, swapping fossil fuel-based vehicles with vehicles powered by cleaner fuels can decrease the emission of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) by 76%.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** VOCs are carbon-containing chemicals that have both natural origin as well as anthropogenic origins. They are produced naturally by plants as well as a part of vehicular emissions.



Statement 2 is correct: VOCs can irritate the eyes, nose and throat, and other body organs. Long exposure to VOCs can also increase the risk of cancer as they are carcinogenic in nature.

Statement 3 is correct: National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) was adopted in 1982 and subsequently revised in 1994 and 2009 to measure prime air pollutants. As of now, amongst VOCs, it is only Benzene, which is measured as a part of NAAQS.

Statement 4 is correct: VOCs can lead to the formation of other secondary pollutants like ground-level ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

**48. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News:** India is committed to eliminating single-use plastic and the Indian Navy will contribute 100 ship days to clean the plastic waste from the sea, said the PM during the One Ocean Summit.)

**Option a is correct:** Recently, One Ocean Summit was organized by France in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank. The objective of the Summit is to mobilize the international community to take tangible action towards preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.

- India will be joining France in launching a global initiative on single-use plastics.
  - India supports the French initiative of a high ambition coalition on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.
- India would phase out single-use plastic by 2022.
- The country recently undertook a nationwide awareness campaign to clean plastic and other waste from coastal areas.
- India hopes for a legally binding international treaty this year regarding a coalition on biodiversity.

**49. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** The Indian Navy is set to hold the 12th President's Fleet Review (PFR) on February 21 at Visakhapatnam.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Fleet Review is a "long-standing tradition followed by navies all across the world" and it is "an assembly of ships at a pre-designated place for the purpose of displaying loyalty and allegiance to the sovereign and the state".

It is usually conducted once during the tenure of the President. Since Independence 11 PFRs have been conducted by the Navy, of which two have been International Fleet Reviews in 2011 and 2016. The first PFR was held in 1953 for the first President Dr Rajendra Prasad.

**Statement 2 is correct:** In terms of significance, the Navy's Presidential review is second only to the Republic Day Parade. By reviewing the ships, the head of the state, "reaffirms his faith in the fleet and its ability to defend the nation's maritime interest" and such an exercise is done without any "belligerent intentions".

**50. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News:** India's industrial recovery slowed sharply in December, with output growing just 0.4% year-on-year, and manufacturing activity shrinking 0.1%, as per official estimates for the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

**Statement 1 is correct:** Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a composite indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to that in a chosen base period.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** With the inception of the Central Statistical Organization (now known as National Statistics Office (NSO)) in 1951, the responsibility for compilation and publication of IIP was vested with it, under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

**Statement 3 is not correct :** Base year: 2011-2012

- Sources of data: NSO compiles the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) using secondary data received from 14 source agencies in various Ministries/Departments or their attached/subordinate offices.
- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) is the source for the major chunk of data for the calculation.

#### 51. [ANS] d

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, India signed an agreement with the United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of 50,000 MT of wheat that it has committed to sending Afghanistan as part of humanitarian assistance, with diplomatic efforts underway to begin sending truck convoys through Pakistan by road.

**Statements 1 and 2 are 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. The first development programme is launched in Sudan in 1963

- It is governed by an Executive Board consisting of 36 Member States, which provides intergovernmental support, direction and supervision of WFP's activities.
- The organization is headed by an Executive Director, who is appointed jointly by the UN Secretary-General and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It works in over 80 countries to bring life-saving food to people displaced by conflict and made destitute by disasters.

**Statement 3 is correct:** 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.

#### 52. [ANS] c

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the US stated that it will open an embassy in the Solomon Islands.

- The Solomon Islands, a country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- Solomon Islands lie northeast of Australia and southwest of Hawaii.
  - They comprise 992 islands of which 147 are inhabited.
- They gained independence from Britain on July 7, 1978.
- Honiara, on the north coast of Guadalcanal Island, is Solomon Islands' capital and largest city.
- Today, between 70 to 80 percent of the population live a subsistence form of life in their small villages, settlements and islands away from the main urban centres.
- About 95% of The Population are Christians.

#### 53. [ANS] b



**[SOL] In News:** To improve the quality of forensics, policing and weapons, the Centre has approved the continuation of a mega police modernisation scheme for five years (up to 2025-26) with a financial outlay of Rs 26,275 crore.

**Option b is correct:** The police reforms were introduced in the pre-independence era by the British government in 1902-1903.

- After independence, in 1977, the Indian government set up a committee “National Police Commission”. This was the first committee at the national level set up by the Indian government to report on policing.
- The NPC produced eight reports between 1979 and 1981, suggesting wide-ranging reforms in the existing police setup.
- One of the most important recommendations is about the Model Police Act but it was not accepted by the government.
- In 1996 one former DGP of Uttar Pradesh filed public interest litigation in the Supreme Court and demanded police reforms.
- In a landmark judgment, Prakash Singh Case, the Supreme Court in September 2006 had directed all States and Union Territories to bring in police reforms.
- In this judgment, the Supreme Court directed States and Union Territories to comply with seven binding directives which would kick-start the reforms.
- Post-2006: Supreme Court created Justice Thomas Committee to review the seven directives (stated by Supreme Court).
- In 2012-2013 Justice J.S. Verma committee was constituted to recommend amendments to the criminal law so as to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminally accused of committing sexual assault against women – after nirbhaya scandal.

#### 54. [ANS] b

**[SOL] In News:** The Prime Minister paid tributes to Maharaja Surajmal on his birth anniversary.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Lohagarh Fort was built in the 18th century by Raja Suraj Mal. It is the only fort in India that no one in history has won. Lohagarh Fort is considered one of the strongest forts because the British could not capture it in spite of several attacks.

**Statement 2 is correct:** He established the Bharatpur town in the year 1743. He fortified the city by building a massive wall around the city.

**Statement 3 is correct:** He was described as "the Plato of the Jat people" and by a modern writer as the "Jat Odysseus", because of his political sense, steady intellect and clear vision. He visualized “India as one nation” and devoted his life in forging national integration.

#### 55. [ANS] c

**[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:** Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is an apex-level body constituted by the government of India. The idea to create such a super regulatory body was first mooted by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008. Finally in 2010, the then Finance Ministry decided to set up such an autonomous body dealing with macro prudential and financial regularities in the entire financial sector of India.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** An apex-level FSDC is not a statutory body.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** It is headed by the Union Finance Minister of India. Its members include:

- Governor Reserve Bank of India (RBI),
- Finance Secretary and/ or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA),
- Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS),
- Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs,
- Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology,
- Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance,
- Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI),
- Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA),
- Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA),
- Chairman, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

**56. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** The Centre has now mandated corporate India to furnish a comprehensive report on their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, specifying an 11-page form (CSR-2) for this purpose.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The term "Corporate Social Responsibility" in general can be referred to as a corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare. In India, the concept of CSR is governed by clause 135 of the Companies Act, 2013. Under the Act, the Companies are required to spend, in every financial year, at least 2% of their average net profits generated during the 3 immediately preceding financial years.

**Statement 2 is correct:** All companies with a net worth of Rs 500 crore or more, a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or more, or net profit of Rs 5 crore or more, are required to spend 2 percent of their average profits of the previous three years on CSR activities every year.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Non compliance of CSR provisions has been notified as a civil offense.

**57. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** Guru Ravidas Jayanti 2022 will be celebrated on February 16, 2022. This will be the 645th Birth Anniversary of saint Guru Ravidas. He was born in Varanasi in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India as a member of an untouchable leather-working caste, and his poems and songs often revolve around his low social position.

- He was a great Saint, philosopher, poet, social reformer, and follower of God.
- He made remarkable contributions in the form of devotional songs, verses, and spiritual teachings during the Bhakti movement.
- He had envisaged a society that is based on equality and free from any kind of discrimination.
- He gave it the name 'Be-gampura' - the city where there is no place for any kind of grief or fear.
- He was one of the most famous and leading stars of the nirguna sampradaya (sant parampara) and was one of the prominent leaders of the North Indian Bhakti movement.
- There are 41 verses of Guru Ravidass Ji in the Sikh Holy Book, Guru Granth Sahib which was compiled by Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the fifth Guru of the Sikhs.
- India's constitutional values of social justice, freedom, equality and fraternity are in line with Guru Ravidas's philosophy of life.

- The Chief Architect of our Constitution, Dr B.R. Ambedkar embodied the Constitutional principles around the values expressed by Guru Ravidasji.

#### 58. [ANS] b

**[SOL]** the National Health Authority (NHA) is working to integrate the database of Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 beneficiaries with the National Food Security Act (NFSA) portal so that beneficiaries can seek information regarding their entitlements under the AB PM-JAY using their ration card number.

**Statement 1 is not correct :** The NHA is mandated with the implementation of the AB PM-JAY.

- The scheme provides health assurance of up to ₹5 Lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care-related hospitalizations.
- The 10.74 Crore beneficiary families under AB PM-JAY have been identified from the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) of 2011 basis 6 deprivation and 11 occupational criteria across rural and urban areas, respectively

**Statements 2 and 3 are correct :** It is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government and the cost of implementation is shared between the Central and State Governments.

- The beneficiary families under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) have been identified from the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) of 2011 on the basis of select deprivation and occupational criteria across rural and urban areas.
- It is a completely cashless and paperless scheme.
- There is no cap on family size, or age or gender.
- It is an entitlement-based scheme. No enrolment or registration of beneficiary is required to avail benefits under the scheme.
  - The beneficiary may directly visit the empanelled hospital (public or private) to avail cashless treatment benefits.

#### 59. [ANS] a

**[SOL] In News:** The RBI has hiked the cap on e-Rupi prepaid digital vouchers from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh and enabled the instrument for multiple transactions.

**Statement 1 is correct:** e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless digital payments medium, which will be delivered to mobile phones of beneficiaries in the form of an SMS-string or a QR code. It is a person and purpose-specific digital payment solution which is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It is developed by The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

#### 60. [ANS] d

**[SOL] In News:** Maharashtra may follow several other big states and opt out of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

**Statement 1, 2 and 3 are correct:** PMFBY insures farmers against all non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest. Farmers have to pay a maximum of 2 percent of the total premium of the insured amount for kharif crops, 1.5 per cent for rabi food crops and oilseeds as well as 5 per cent for commercial / horticultural crops. The balance premium is shared by the Union

and state governments on a 50:50 basis and on a 90:10 basis in the case of northeastern states. Claims are worked out on the basis of shortfall in actual yield, vis-a-vis the threshold yield in the notified area. It shall be implemented through a multi-agency framework by selected insurance companies under the overall guidance & control of the Department of Agriculture and state government. There is no upper limit on Government subsidies. The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and the balance premium is paid by the Government to provide the full insured amount to the farmers.

**61. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** Medaram Jatara Festival is being celebrated from 16th-19th February 2022.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Medaram Jatara Festival is a tribal festival of honouring the goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma celebrated in the state of Telangana, India.

- The Jathara was designated as a State Festival in 1996, owing to the festival's popularity and auspicious importance.
- It is celebrated once in two years in the month of "Magha" (February) on the full moon day.

**Statements 2 and 3 are correct:** It commemorates the fight of a mother and daughter Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.

- It is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana- the Koya tribe for four days.
- It is a festival with no Vedic or Brahmanic influence.
- At present, the Jatara festival is biennially celebrated and organized by the Koyas in collaboration with the Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Telangana.

**62. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** Camp for free Assistive Devices distribution organized for Divyangjan and Senior Citizens in Tikamgarh (M.P) under 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana' (RVY Scheme) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** It is a scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to the BPL category.

- This is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Central Government.
- The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund".
- The Scheme will be implemented through the sole implementing agency - Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Under the scheme, physical aid will be provided only to the senior citizens of the nation.

- This implies those who are aged above 60 years will get free assisted living aids and physical devices which are required for their sustainability.
- The main criteria for the senior citizens to get full benefits of the RVY scheme is that they must belong to the BPL family and should hold a valid BPL card issued by the concerned authority.

**63. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** India plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages under the SVAMITVA scheme.

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

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

**64. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News:** India has lashed out at the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation for being "communal minded" amid the Karnataka hijab row.

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

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

**Statement 3 is not correct:** India is not a member of the OIC. However, in 2006, as India turned the economic corner and improved ties with the US, Saudi Arabia invited Delhi to join as an observer. However, India refrained from joining citing that it did not want to join an organisation founded on religion. Secondly, there was the risk that improving bilateral relations with individual member states would come under pressure in a grouping, especially on issues such as Kashmir.

**65. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] Option D is correct:** Variable Reserve Ratio (Cash Reserve Ratio) is aimed to control only the volume of credit (quantitative method) not both volume and purpose of credit for which banks give loans. Qualitative method and the selective control method are used for purposes. It has a number of limitations.

**66. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News:** The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) for the welfare of Denotified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.

- The Government of India constituted the first commission initially in October 2003 for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic tribes.
- Since this commission could not function properly due to some constraints, in March 2005, the Renke Commission was constituted to complete its mandate.
- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment took a decision in February 2014 to constitute a National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes for a period of three years.
- This commission gave its report in December 2017.
  - Based on the National Commission's recommendations, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has constituted the Development and Welfare Board for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNCs) in 2019.

67. [ANS] d

**[SOL] In News:** The butterflies including **Crimson Rose** have been flying from Dhanushkodi across the Indian Ocean over the last few days.

**Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct:** Crimson Rose, which belongs to the Swallowtails (**Papilionidae**) family

- It is known to migrate along the coast, inland and crosses the sea often.
- It is a large butterfly with a mix of **black, white and crimson colours** on its wings and body, and is known for crossing the sea to migrate to Sri Lanka.
  - Crimson Roses were spotted on **Ipomea flowers** and Half leaf flowers on the beach.
  - The grandest gathering was on a **Calotropis gigantea plant**, which was the sole plant in the vicinity.
  - Each butterfly spent about 30 seconds on nectaring and then continued its journey towards Sri Lanka.
- The species occurs mostly in **dry, deciduous forests, dense scrub, jungles, and open country**, but can also be found in disturbed semi-evergreen, evergreen forests
  - This species occurs across mainland Sri Lanka and Peninsular India to West Bengal, as well as possible distributions along the Andaman Islands, Nicobar Islands, in Western Myanmar, and Bangladesh

- The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2019 listed it as Least Concern.

68. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Option d is correct:** In News: India's Defence Secretary visited the Maldives for discussions with the Maldives National Defence Force as part of the second Defence Cooperation Dialogue.

**Ekuverin** is a **joint military exercise** between **India and Maldives**.

69. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News:** The PM will inaugurate **The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI)** latest edition of the **21st World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)** that will deliberate on the planetary resilience in wake of the multitude of extreme weather events across the globe in recent years.

**Option d is correct:** The **WSDS 2022 is a three-day summit** organized by TERI with participation from over 100 nations. **Theme:** 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'. **It is a platform where stakeholders from across the world** sit together to deliberate on solutions that are based on sustainability and green growth. **TERI is a pioneer in these areas and WSDS 2022 will play a crucial part** in accentuating our role in providing technological, policy as well as knowledge solutions as India works towards realizing the commitments made at COP26.

70. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Rare Earth Elements (REE) have unusual fluorescent, conductive, and magnetic properties, which make them very useful when alloyed, or mixed, in small quantities with more common metals such as iron.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Although they are more abundant than their name implies, they are difficult and costly to mine and process cleanly. However, with the exception of the highly-unstable promethium, rare earth elements are found in relatively high concentrations in the earth's crust

71. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Cabinet approved the continuation of the **Capacity Development (CD) Scheme till 31.03.2026**.



**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The CD Scheme is an **Ongoing Central Sector Scheme** of MoSPI with an overall objective to **augment infrastructural, technical** as well as **manpower resources** for enabling the **availability of credible and timely official statistics**.

- It comprises two sub-schemes:
  - **Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS):** It aims to improve the statistical capacity and operations of State Statistical Systems for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics.
  - **Economic Census:** It is conducted periodically gives the complete count of all **non-farm economic establishments** located within the geographical boundary of India.
    - It provides **disaggregated information** on various operational and structural variables of all such establishments of the country.
    - Its database provides valuable inputs for policymakers to design economic development and employment generation related strategies in States/Districts

72. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Ministry of Power notified the first part of the **National Hydrogen Mission policy on green hydrogen** and green ammonia

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** Hydrogen fuel is a zero-emission **fuel burned with oxygen**.

- It can be **manufactured by**
  - **electrolysis** of water by using direct current.
  - **Natural Gas Reforming/Gasification:**
    - Natural Gas on reaction with steam produces **Synthesis gas**.
    - **Synthetic gas is a mixture of hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and a small amount of carbon dioxide.**
  - **Fermentation:** Biomass is converted into sugar-rich feedstocks that can be fermented to produce hydrogen.



- It is then stored after mixing or converting to ammonia or synthetic gas for easy liquefaction and transport.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** It can be used in fuel cells or internal combustion engines. It is also used as a fuel for spacecraft propulsion.

73. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is likely to be signed at a virtual ceremony in the presence of the PM of India and UAE Crown.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Bilateral trade between India and the UAE stood at \$43.3 billion in 2020-21. Exports were \$16.7 billion, and imports, driven by oil, pushed the balance in favor of the UAE at \$26.7 billion in 2020-21.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The United Arab Emirates is India's third largest trading partner and second largest export destination.

74. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News: There is considerable excitement in the world of medicine after scientists reported that a woman living with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and administered an experimental treatment is likely 'cured'.

**Option A 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.

- **Other Steps taken by Government of India**
- **National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)** (Central Sector Scheme)
- India has achieved the **6th Millennium Development Goal (MDG 6)** of halting and reversing the **HIV epidemic**.
- **Prevention from Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT)** programme
- **HIV/AIDS Act 2017** (prohibits discrimination or unfair treatment of HIV-infected people on any grounds)
- **PALS (PPTCT ART Linkages Software) System** (Repository of HIV positive pregnant women)

- **Social Awareness** through workshops.
- **Viral Load Testing Facilities:** They have been scaled up, and HIV counseling, testing and community-based screening for early diagnosis have been ramped up to achieve the target of Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV.
- **Project Sunrise:** It was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (2016) to tackle the rising HIV prevalence in north-eastern states.

75. [ANS] c

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

76. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** The Centre approved the implementation of Phase II of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project by the Ministry of Home Affairs at a total cost of Rs 3,375 crore during the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The project will be implemented as a **central sector scheme**.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It will be a step towards ensuring **effective and modern policing**.

- The ICJS system would be made available through a **dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high speed connectivity**.
- **It is going to be a major leap forward by digitizing the criminal justice records** and making it accessible to law enforcement agencies, laboratories and courts.
- **Justice to all:** This will not only make it far more difficult for persons to escape the consequences of their actions, it will also ensure that none, either the guilty or the innocent, is forgotten and that justice is equally meted to all.
- **It will not only save time but also make the system more robust and help to track criminals, solve crimes and make India a safer place.**

Statement 3 is correct: **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be responsible for the implementation** of the project in association with National Informatics Centre (NIC).

77. [ANS] b

[SOL] Prime Minister paid tribute to **Maratha empire founder Chhatrapati Shivaji on his 392nd birth anniversary**. Born on February 19, 1630, at **Shivneri Fort in Pune**.

- He was born to **Shahaji Bhonsle**, a Maratha general who held the jagirs of Pune and Supe under the Bijapur Sultanate.
- **Shivaji's mother was Jijabai**, a pious woman whose religious qualities had a profound influence on him.
- Shivaji was not named after **Lord Shiva**.
  - His name was derived from the **name of a regional deity - Goddess Shivai**.
- He carved out an **enclave from the declining Adilshahi sultanate** of Bijapur that formed the genesis of the Maratha Empire.
  - In 1674, he was formally **crowned as the Chhatrapati (Monarch)** of his realm at Raigad.
  - The kingdom's security was based on **religious toleration and the functional integration of the Brahmans, Marathas, and Prabhus**.
  - He had a council of ministers (Asht Pradhan) to advise him on the matters of the state but he was not bound by it. He could appoint or dismiss them.
  - The brave warrior died in 1680 but is still known for his **courage and intelligence**.
- He revived ancient **Hindu political traditions**, court conventions and promoted the usage of **Marathi and Sanskrit**, rather than Persian, in court and administration.
- **India's first-ever navy** in the modern era was **built by Shivaji** to protect the coast of Maharashtra.

- The Maratha Navy guarded the Jaigad, Sindhudurg, Vijaydurg and other forts along the coast of Maharashtra.
- He established a **competent and progressive civil rule** with the help of disciplined military and well-structured administrative organisations.
- He innovated **military tactics, pioneering non-conventional methods(guerrilla warfare)** and leveraged strategic factors like geography, speed, and surprise.

78. [ANS] d

[SOL] A team of herpetologists have recorded a new species of **bent-toed gecko** from a wooded part of the Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya. It is a species of lizard.

The Army's **bent-toed gecko** scientific name is **Cryptodactylus exercitus** and its English name is Indian Army's bent-toed gecko. The name was given to honour the **Army for its services to the country**. The military station where the bent-toed gecko was discovered was also a factor behind its name.

**Other species of the lizard**

- Two more species of the lizard new to science have been named after the places of their occurrence in Mizoram
  - The paper recorded another new bent-toed gecko, the **Cryptodactylus siahaensis** named after **Mizoram's Siaha district where it was found**.
  - Most of these lizard specialists and a few others had in a separate study recorded the **Cryptodactylus lungleiensis**, a new species of bent-toed gecko named after Mizoram's Lunglei town.

79. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Option D is correct:** The eight core sector industries include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity. The eight core industries comprise nearly 40% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The eight Core Industries in decreasing order of their

weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.

80. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1, 2 and 3 are correct:** The Attorney General of India (AGI) has the Right to Speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which he/she may be named a member of.

**Statement 4 is not correct.** AGI does not have the Right to Vote in the House proceedings.

81. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News - Recently, SEBI made separation of the post of chairman and managing director (CMD) voluntary for better corporate governance.

Uday Kotak committee is on corporate governance.

- The main rationale for the recommendation was that separation of powers of the Chairperson and MD/CEO may provide a better and more balanced governance structure by enabling more effective and objective supervision of the management.

82. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The term first information report (FIR) is not defined in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, or in any other law, but in police regulations or rules, information recorded under Section 154 of CrPC is known as First Information Report (FIR).

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Important elements of an FIR

- The information must relate to the commission of a cognizable offence
- It should be given in writing or orally to the head of the police station and
- It must be written down and signed by the informant, and its key points should be recorded in a daily diary.

83. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Silambam classes have mushroomed across Tamil Nadu in schools, in public spaces like beaches and parks, and at martial art institutes.

**Silambam** is a **traditional martial art** developed in Tamil Nadu, India.

- It is originated around **1000 this ancient fighting style** is mentioned in Tamil **Sangam literature 400 BCE**.

Other Martial Arts of India

Gatka- Punjab, Thag Ta- Manipur, Kalaripayattu- Kerala, Pang Lhabsol- Sikkim, Mardani Khel- Maharashtra, Pari Khanda- Bihar

84. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently a key decision was taken to commence **Purple Revolution** in Ramban District by encouraging '**Lavender Cultivation under the CSIR-IIIM's Aroma Mission** through the Ministry of Science and Technology on the lines of Doda and Reasi districts.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Purple or Lavender Revolution was launched by the **Union Ministry of Science & Technology** through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's (CSIR) Aroma Mission, which aimed at **increasing lavender cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir**. The mission's focus was to take advantage of the geographical conditions and increase the homegrown market along with farmers' income.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It aimed at **increasing lavender cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir**. The mission's focus was to take advantage of the geographical conditions and increase the homegrown market along with farmers' income.

- Under the mission, first-time farmers were given free lavender saplings, while those who had cultivated lavender before were charged Rs. 5-6 per sapling.

85. [ANS] d

[SOL] Srinagar-born fashion designer is adorning walls with eye-catching, ultra-fine pashmina shawls.

**Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct:** The word **Pashmina** comes from the Persian word Pashmina comes from an animal fibre **Cashmere**, derived from the **Changthangi goat of Ladakh**.

- It is indigenous to the **high altitude regions of Leh-Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir**.
- It is well known for its **warmth, lightweight, and softness** in addition to its **characteristic dye absorbing property**.
  - Pashmina has been accredited by the **Guinness Book of World Records** for **being the costliest cloth in the world**.

**86. [ans] c**

**[sol] in news:** recently the finance minister called for debate to undertake course correction in the indirect tax regime (gst).

**Statement 1 is not correct:** it is a constitutional body under **article 279a**, introduced by the constitution (one hundred and first amendment) act, 2016.

**Statement 2 is not correct: chairperson:** union finance minister.

- **Members:** union state minister of revenue or finance and ministers in-charge of finance or taxation of all the states.

**Statement 3 is correct: decision making:** every decision of the gst council shall be taken at a meeting by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting, in accordance with the following principles, namely:

- Vote of the central government shall have a weightage of one third of the total votes cast.
- Votes of all the state governments taken together shall have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting.

**87. [ans] d**

**[sol] in news:** researchers at the indian institute of technology (iit) delhi have designed and demonstrated a new strategy for developing potential drug molecules for treating various diseases like **japanese encephalitis virus (jev)**

**Statements 1,2 and 4 are correct:** it is a **mosquito-borne flavivirus** and belongs to the same genus as **dengue, yellow fever and west Nile viruses**.

- It is the most important cause of **viral encephalitis in asia**.
- Jev is **transmitted to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes of the culex species** (mainly culex tritaeniorhynchus).
  - Humans, once infected, do not develop sufficient viraemia to infect feeding mosquitoes. The virus exists in a transmission cycle between mosquitoes, pigs and/or water birds (enzootic cycle).
- The disease is predominantly found in rural and periurban settings, where humans live in closer proximity to these vertebrate hosts.
  - In most temperate areas of asia, jev is transmitted mainly during the warm season, when large epidemics can occur.
  - in the tropics and subtropics, transmission can occur year-round but often intensifies during the rainy season and pre-harvest period in rice-cultivating regions.
- There is **no antiviral treatment for patients** with je. Treatment is supportive to relieve symptoms and stabilize the patient.
  - Safe and effective vaccines are available to prevent je.
  - Who recommends that je vaccination be integrated into national immunization schedules in all areas where je disease is recognized as a public health issue.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** the first case of japanese encephalitis viral disease (je) was documented in 1871 in japan.

88. [ans] c

[sol] **option c is correct:** the **festival of byanjana dwadashi** is a great step towards promoting food security

- it ended in odisha's temple town of puri a few weeks ago
- It is celebrated by **adherents of vaishnavism**, the largest sect within hinduism, which considers **vishnu and his incarnations such as krishna** as the supreme godhead.
- The festival celebrates a **variety of food (byanjana in odia)** on the 12th day (dwadashi) of the **sukla paksha or waxing phase of the moon** in the month of margashira (mid-december to mid-january).
- Vaishnavites, through this festival, commemorate an episode of the **mahabharata where yashoda observes that her son krishna is pale and weak**.

89. [ans] d

[sol] **in news:** us authorities have warned russia not to invade ukraine and urged both countries to return to a set of agreements designed to end a separatist war by russian speakers in eastern ukraine



**Option d is correct:** minsk i: **ukraine and the russian-backed separatists agreed a 12-point ceasefire deal** in the belarusian capital in **2014**.

- **Its provisions included** prisoner exchanges, deliveries of humanitarian aid and the withdrawal of heavy weapons.
- **The agreement quickly broke down**, with violations by both sides.
- Minsk ii: **representatives of russia, ukraine, the organization for security and cooperation in europe (osce)** and the leaders of two pro-russian separatist regions signed a 13-point agreement in 2015.
  - **The leaders of france, germany, russia and ukraine, gathered in minsk** at the same time issued a declaration of support for the deal.
  - **It set out military and political steps** that remain unimplemented.
  - **A major blockage** has been russia's insistence that it is not a party to the conflict and therefore is not bound by its terms.

**90. [ans] d**

**[sol] in news:** recently, the **supreme court** issued notices to the centre and states in a **writ petition seeking the enforcement of the fundamental duties** of citizens as enshrined in the constitution of india.

**Statement 1 is correct:** **article 51(a)** describes 11 fundamental duties — 10 came with the 42nd amendment; the 11th was added by the **86th amendment in 2002**, when atal bihari vajpayee was prime minister.

- It shall be the duty of every citizen of india:
  - To abide by the constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag and the national anthem;
  - To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
  - To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of india;
  - To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
  - To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of india transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
  - To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
  - To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures;

- To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- To safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;
- Who is a parent or guardian, to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

**Statement 2 and 3 are not correct:** these are not the fundamental duties. Freedom of thought, belief and religion is a fundamental right under the article 25 of the Indian constitution.

**91. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News:** The **25th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** was held in Mumbai, under the Chairpersonship of Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

**Statements 1 and 3 are correct: Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** is a **non-statutory apex council** under the Ministry of Finance constituted by the Executive Order in 2010.

**To strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism of maintaining financial and macroeconomic stability.**

- To enhance inter-regulatory coordination and promote financial sector development.
- **It also focuses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.**

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The Raghuram Rajan Committee (2008) on financial sector reforms first proposed the creation of FSDC.

**92. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News:** An FIR has been registered against three Mumbai Police officials for allegedly threatening **Angadias and extorting money** from them in south Mumbai.

- It is a **century-old parallel banking system** in the country where traders send cash generally from **one state to another** through a person called **Angadia** that stands for courier.
- It is **by and large** used in the **jewellery business with Mumbai** – Surat being the most popular route as they are **two ends of the diamond trade**.
- The cash involved is huge and it is the responsibility of the Angadia to transfer **cash from one state to another** for which they charge a nominal fee.

**93. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News:** The Defence Minister while addressing an election rally in Imphal West, called upon insurgency groups operating in Manipur to shun violence and come to the negotiating table. He said the Centre is ready to hold dialogue with them to bring lasting peace to the region.

**Option d is correct:** The Meitei people, or Manipuri people, are an ethnic group native to the state of [Manipur](#) in northeastern [India](#).

- The Meitei primarily settled in the [Imphal Valley](#) region in modern-day Manipur, although a sizable population have settled in [Assam](#), [Tripura](#), [Nagaland](#), [Meghalaya](#), and [Mizoram](#); with notable presence in the neighboring countries of [Myanmar](#) and [Bangladesh](#).
- The Meitei ethnic group represents about 53% of Manipur's population.

**94. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India, with the support of GIZ India, conducted a virtual consultation workshop on 'Financing for Decarbonization of Transport'.

**Statement 1 is correct:** NDC-TIA Project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

**Statement 2 is not correct:** NITI Aayog is the implementing partner for the India component of the project.

**95. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct:** All Election Commissioners, i.e., the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two other Election Commissioners have equal say in the decision making of the Commission.

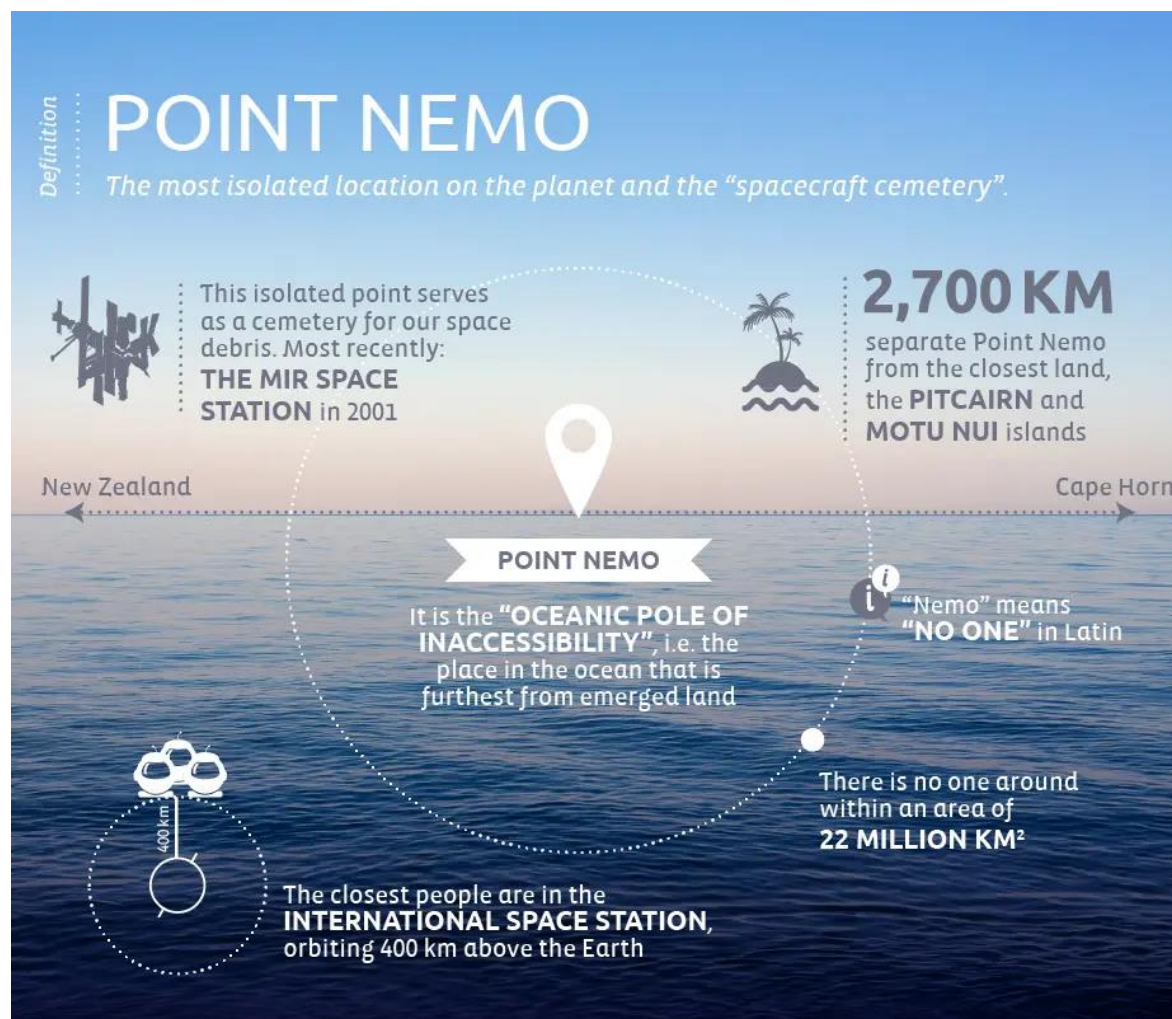
**Statement 2 is correct:** The decisions of the Commission can be challenged in the High Court and the Supreme Court of India by appropriate petitions.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** By long-standing convention and several judicial pronouncements, once the actual process of elections has started, the judiciary does not intervene in the actual conduct of the polls. Once the polls are completed and results declared, the Commission cannot review any result on its own. This can only be reviewed through the process of an election petition, which can be filed before the High Court, in respect of elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures. In respect of elections for the offices of the President and Vice President, such petitions can only be filed before the Supreme Court.

**91. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] Option c is correct:** Recently, NASA has announced plans to retire and decommission the International Space Station (ISS) by 2031. Point Nemo has grown to become a sort of space cemetery, where decommissioned space debris is often brought to rest. Located about 2,700 km

away from any land, it is named after a character in Jules Verne's novel "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea."



97. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News: **Exercise Milan 2022** is scheduled from February 25 to March 4, which will see the participation of around **42 countries with ships from over 15 countries**.

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** It is a biennial, multilateral naval exercise that started in 1995 with the participation of four countries — **Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand**. The U.S. will be **joining the exercise** for the first time.

- The **theme of the MILAN 2022** exercise is '**Camaraderie - Cohesion – Collaboration**', which aims to project India as a responsible maritime power to the world at large,

**Statement 3 is not correct:** It has so far been held at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar but is now being shifted to **Visakhapatnam**, which offers more infrastructure as well as sea space for the exercise

98. [ANS] c

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, Maharashtra allowed payment of Fair and Remunerative Prices (FRP) in two instalments

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced with the '**Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)**' of sugarcane for 2009-10 and subsequent sugar seasons with the amendment of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 in 2009.

- The cane price announced by the Central Government is decided on the basis of the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in consultation with the State Governments** and after taking feedback from associations of the sugar industry.
  - Under the FRP system, the farmers are not required to wait till the end of the season or for any announcement of the profits by sugar mills or the Government.
  - The new system also assures **margins on account of profit** and risk to farmers, irrespective of the fact whether sugar mills generate profit or not and is not dependent on the performance of any individual sugar mill.
  - In order to ensure that higher sugar recoveries are adequately rewarded and considering variations amongst sugar mills, the FRP is linked to a basic recovery rate of sugar, with a premium payable to farmers for higher recoveries of sugar from sugarcane.

99. [ANS] c

**[SOL] In News:** Israel fired several surface-to-surface missiles toward Syrian military positions in the country's south causing material damage.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Golan Heights refers to the border region captured from Syria by Israel during the **Six-Day Middle-East War of 1967**.

- This region includes the western two-thirds of the geological Golan Heights and the Israeli-occupied part of Mount Hermon.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is bounded by the **Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee** on the west, Mount Hermon on the north, the seasonal Wadi Al-Ruqq?d on the east, and the Yarmuk River on the south.

100. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News** - The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) called on global governments to adopt a new 'Fire Ready Formula,' as it warned that incidences of wildfires would rise in the future.

Explanation

**Option d is correct: Causes of Wildfires**

- **Climate change:** The prevalence and behavior of wildfires is changing due to numerous factors including, but not limited to, climate change.
  - Wildfires are made worse by climate change through increased drought, high air temperatures, low relative humidity, lightning, and strong winds resulting in hotter, drier, and longer fire seasons.
- **Change in land-use and land management practices:** are also responsible for the increasing risks of wildfires.
- **Anthropogenic Factors**
  - Dropping a **burning matchstick, torchwood or a bidi/cigarette**.
  - A spark can **also be produced when dry pine needles or leaves fall on an electric pole**.
  - When **temporarily built hearths are left behind with fire**, they can lead to massive forest fires.
  - Sometimes the fire spreads to the adjoining forest when **people burn their fields to clear them of stubble, dry grass or undergrowth**.

**101.** With reference to Sea Cucumber, consider the following statements:

1. Sea cucumbers are in high demand in China and Southeast Asia, where they are consumed as food and used in medicine
2. Sea cucumbers in India are treated as an endangered species listed under schedule V of Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
3. Lakshadweep has created the world's first conservation area for sea cucumbers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

[ANS] c



**[SOL] In News :** Indian Coast Guard seized live Sea Cucumbers about 120 nautical miles off Kavaratti island in Lakshadweep

**Statements 1 and 3 are correct :** They are an **important constituent of the marine ecosystem** as they play an important role in maintaining the health of the ecosystem.

- Sea cucumbers are in **high demand in China and Southeast Asia**, where they are consumed as food and used in medicine.
- Lakshadweep has created the **world's first conservation area for sea cucumbers**.

**Statement 2 is not correct :** Sea cucumber in India is treated as an endangered species listed under **schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act of 1972**.

**102. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently , The Supreme Court issued notice on a petition seeking contempt action against Kerala for not disbursing **₹5 lakh each as compensation to the victims of endosulfan pesticide exposure**.

**Statements 1 ,2 and 3 are correct :**Endosulfan is a pesticide. It is a cream- to brown-coloured solid that may appear in the form of crystals or flakes.

- **It has a smell like turpentine but does not burn.**
- **It does not occur naturally in the environment**
- It is sold as a mixture of two different forms of the same chemical (referred to as  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -endosulfan).
- **It is used to control insects on food and non-food crops and also as a wood preservative**
  - Endosulfan can be released into the air, water, and soil in areas where it is applied as a pesticide.

**103. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the World Economic Forum and the National Institute of Urban Affairs signed a MoU to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'.

**Option d is correct: World Economic Forum and the National Institute of Urban Affairs** signed a MoU to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'

- The aim of the Collaboration is to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and the built environment sectors.
- This initiative is particularly noteworthy as it comes after the Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated India's commitment to turn net zero by 2070 as a climate mitigation response at COP26.

104. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The MSPs are announced by the Union government and as such, it is the government's decision.

- But the government largely bases its decision on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** 7 types of cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, bajra, jowar, ragi and barley)
  - 5 types of pulses (chana, arhar/tur, urad, moong and masur)
  - 7 oilseeds (rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, safflower, nigerseed)
  - 4 commercial crops (cotton, sugarcane, copra, raw jute)

105. [ANS] d

[SOL] **All statements are correct:** It is a component of fine particulate matter.

- Black carbon consists of pure carbon in several linked forms.
- It is formed through the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, biofuel, and biomass, and is one of the main types of particle in both anthropogenic and naturally occurring soot.
- Predominant sources of black carbon or soot are combustion-related, namely fossil fuels for transportation, solid fuels for industrial and residential uses as well as open burning of biomass.
- Footprint of local activities in Antarctica has increased with vessels, airplanes, diesel power plants, generators, helicopters and trucks.

106. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News:** The Prime Minister of India has paid tributes to freedom fighter **Veer Savarkar** on his **Punya tithi**.

- **Veer Savarkar** was born in a **Hindu Marathi family in Nashik, Maharashtra on May 28, 1883**. He was a freedom fighter, politician, lawyer, writer, social reformer, and institutor of Hindutva ideology.
- He was arrested in 1909 on charges of plotting an armed revolt against the Morley-Minto reform. In 1910, he was arrested over his association with the revolutionary group India House.
- He was sentenced to two life sentences i.e. 50 years in the cellular jail of Andamans, also known as Kala Pani, in 1911.
- He was released in **1924 under strict conditions of not participating in politics for 5 years**.



- He wrote 'The Indian War of Independence, 1857' during his jail time. He was arrested in 1909 on charges of plotting an armed revolt against the Morley-Minto reform. He also founded the two-nation theory in his book 'Hindutva' calling Hindus and Muslims two separate nations. He opposed the Quit India Movement of 1942. He established a **secret organization called Abhinav Bharat Society** in 1904 with his brother, **Ganesh Damodar Savarkar**.
- He was associated with **India House** and **founded student societies like Free India Society**.

107. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Aircraft manufacturer Boeing has delivered the **12th P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft to the Indian Navy**.

**Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct:** The P-8I aircraft is a variant of the **P-8A Poseidon aircraft** that Boeing developed as a **replacement for the US Navy's ageing P-3 fleet**.

- It is a long-range, multimission maritime patrol aircraft and India was its first international customer.
- In November 2019, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the procurement and the US has approved its sale and related equipment.
  - In May 2021, the US State Department approved the proposed sale of six **P-8I patrol aircraft and related equipment**, a deal estimated to cost 2.42 billion dollars.
- the six P-8Is will come installed with encrypted communication systems since India has now signed the foundational agreement Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) with the U.S.

108. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News - A team of Jordanian and French archaeologists said that they had found a roughly 9,000-year-old shrine at a remote Neolithic site in Jordan's eastern desert.

**Option a is correct:** The Gulf of Aqaba separates Jordan from Egypt.

- It is a large [gulf](#) at the northern tip of the Red Sea, east of the Sinai Peninsula and west of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Its coastline is divided among four countries: [Egypt](#), Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

109. [ANS] d

[SOL] In Context: India, with South Africa, piloted a proposal to waive key provisions of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement on Covid-19 vaccines, drugs, therapeutics, and related technologies.

**Option d is correct:** The areas of intellectual property that Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) covers are:

- **copyright** and related rights (i.e. the rights of performers, producers of sound recordings and broadcasting organisations);
- trademarks including service marks;
- geographical indications including appellations of origin;
- **industrial designs**;
- **patents** including the protection of new varieties of plants;
- the **layout-designs of integrated circuits**;
- undisclosed information including trade secrets and test data.

**110. [ANS] d**

**[SOL]** In News: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology aims to increase India's share in global additive manufacturing to 5 per cent within the next three years.

Explanation

- **It uses computer-aided designing to make prototypes** or working models of objects by laying down successive layers of materials such as plastic, resin, thermoplastic, metal, fiber or ceramic.
- **With the help of software**, the model to be printed is first developed by the computer, which then gives instructions to the 3D printer.
- **Its various applications includes** Preparation of confectionery items, Manufacture of bionic ears, Automotive industry, Reconstructive surgeries, Data processing technologies.

**111. [ANS] a**

**[SOL]** The U.S., Europe and several other western nations are moving to exclude Russia from the **Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)**.

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** SWIFT is a messaging network used by banks and financial institutions globally for quick and faultless exchange of information pertaining to financial transactions. The Belgium-headquartered SWIFT connects more than 11,000 banking and securities organizations in over 200 countries and territories. Each participant on the platform is assigned a unique eight-digit SWIFT code or a bank identification code (BIC). SWIFT is merely a platform that sends messages and does not hold any securities or money. It provides standardized and reliable communication to facilitate the transaction.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** In 2018, certain Iranian banks were ousted from the system despite resistance from several countries in Europe.

## 112. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News :More subscribers left the **Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) scheme** than the number of new people who joined in the past two years, suggested the latest numbers released by the Union Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

**Statements 1 ,2 and 3 are correct** :EPF is a **mandatory savings scheme** under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

- **It is managed under the aegis of Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO).**
- **It covers every establishment in which 20 or more persons are employed** (and certain other establishments which may be notified by the Central Government even if they employ less than 20 persons each).
- The employee **has to pay a certain contribution towards** the provident fund and the same amount is paid by the employer on a monthly basis.
  - At the end of retirement or during the service (under some circumstances), the employee gets the lump sum amount including the interest on PF contributed which gets accrued
- The **Central Board of Trustee**, which is a key decision making body for EPFO, takes a call on the interest rates that have to be provided on the provident fund deposits, every year.
  - Once CBT decides an interest rate on EPF deposits for a fiscal year, it is sent to the Ministry of Finance for concurrence.
  - EPFO provides the rate of interest only after it is ratified by the government through the finance ministry.
- In 2021, the interest rates on deposits were set at **8.5%** and the rates for the current financial year will depend on the income projections for the year.

## 113. [ANS] b

[SOL] In Context: Recently, the Cabinet approved implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission with a budget of ₹1,600 crore for five years.

**Option d is correct**: Health ID has now been renamed to Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA).

- Citizens will be able to create their **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) numbers**, to which their digital health records can be linked.
- This will enable creation of longitudinal health records for individuals across various healthcare providers, and improve clinical decision making by healthcare providers.

## 114. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Marine biologists have welcomed the Tamil Nadu government's recent decision to go ahead with the establishment of a conservation reserve for the elusive dugong.

**Option b is correct:** Dugong conservation reserve would be established in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay between India and Sri Lanka in the state of Tamin Nadu.

**Dugong**

- Also called the **Sea Cow**.
- In an interesting incident, Christopher Colombus mistook them as sea mermaids.
- It is a **herbivorous mammal**.
- They live **in groups, grazing on seagrass** and coming to the **surface to breathe**.
- **LifeSpan:** 70 Years or more
- They are found in over 30 countries. (**Not endemic to India**)
- In India, they are seen in the **Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
  - **Australia** has the **highest Dugong** population due to coral reefs.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: **Vulnerable**
  - CITES **Appendix I**
  - Wildlife Protection Act: **Schedule 1**
- **Threats:**
  - The loss of seagrass habitats
  - Water pollution
  - Degradation of the coastal ecosystem due to developmental activities.
  - Accidental entanglement in fishing nets and collision with boats, trawlers.
  - Poached for meat

## 115. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News - The latest edition of Munich Security Conference assumed significance as it was here that the Ukrainian President appealed for help ahead of the Russian invasion.

- Statement 1 is not correct: It is held annually.
- Statement 2 is not correct: The MSC's objective is to **build trust and to contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts** by sustaining a continuous, curated and informal dialogue within the international security community.

- The primary objective of the MSC was to make sense of international **affairs in an age when weapons of mass destruction had become part of the game.**
- The MSC is the world's **leading forum for debating international security policy.**
- The MSC conceives of its conferences as a type of "**marketplace of ideas**" where initiatives and solutions are developed and opinions are exchanged.
- It provides a venue for **official and non-official diplomatic initiatives** and ideas to address the world's most pressing security concerns.
- In addition to its annual flagship conference, the MSC regularly convenes high-profile events on particular topics and regions and **publishes the Munich Security Report.**
- Statement 3 is not correct: It is not hosted by the US.