

NEXT IAS

TEST YOURSELF

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY, 2022

1. Clofazimine, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following diseases?
 - (a) Diabetes
 - (b) Malaria
 - (c) Dementia
 - (d) Leprosy
2. With reference to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which statement is not correct?
 - (a) Its mandate is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household who volunteers.
 - (b) The scheme works on strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions
 - (c) One of the goals of MGNREGS is to rejuvenate the natural resource base of rural areas.
 - (d) States have the freedom to either implement the scheme or give 100 day employment through any other scheme.
3. Recently seen in news “ #KeepItOn campaign”, consider the following statements:
 1. This campaign is launched by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
 2. It is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations system.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
4. Which organisation releases the “Financial Stability Report”?
 - (a) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
 - (b) World Bank
 - (c) United Nations
 - (d) Reserve Bank of India
5. Who releases the World Drug Report?
 - (a) World Health Organisation
 - (b) UN Office on Drugs and Crime
 - (c) Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences
 - (d) International Narcotics Control Board
6. With reference to Vice President of India , consider the following statements:
 1. The Vice-President of India is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of Rajya Sabha only .
 2. The Election Commission of India conducts the election to the office of the Vice-President.
 3. All doubts and disputes arising in connection with the election of the Vice-President are enquired by the Supreme Court of India .Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1 and 3
 - (d) 2 and 3 only

7. With reference to Small saving instruments, consider the following statements:
1. These are managed by the central government.
 2. They provide returns that are generally higher than bank fixed deposits.
 3. They provide tax benefits.
 4. These are linked to yields on benchmark government bonds.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 2, 3 and 4
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
8. Consider the following statements:
1. Fedchenko Glacier located in Tajikistan is the world's largest glacier found outside the polar regions.
 2. Farkhor Air Base in Tajikistan is operated by the Indian Air Force in collaboration with the Tajik Air Force.
- 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. Consider the following statements regarding Multi-Agency Maritime Security Group (MAMSG):
1. MAMSG is created to give effect to the Colombo Security Conclave.
 2. National security adviser is the de facto National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC).
 3. Role of NMSC is to ensure cohesion among stakeholders like Indian Navy, the Coast Guard etc.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1 and 3 only
10. With reference to UN - Habitat, consider the following statements:
1. UN - Habitat promotes urbanisation to reduce inequality.
 2. Its New Urban Agenda is related to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11.
- 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
11. Consider the following statements regarding freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju:
1. He was a political activist who founded the Bombay Presidency Association .
 2. He led the famous "Rampa Rebellion" or Manyam Rebellion in Madras Presidency.

3. He took leadership of the Civil Disobedience Movement from south India .
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) 2 and 3 only
12. Recently seen in the news, the Akula class nuclear attack submarine (SSN) has to be imported from which country?
- (a) France
 - (b) Ukraine
 - (c) Russia
 - (d) Israel
13. With reference to Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator, consider the following statements:
- 1. It is designed & developed by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
 - 2. It is powered by a small turbofan engine.
 - 3. It has the potential to deliver high fuel efficiency and stealth.
- 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
14. With reference to Anthrax, consider the following statements:
- 1. It is a serious infectious disease caused by a rod-shaped virus known as Bacillus anthracis.
 - 2. It occurs naturally in soil and commonly affects domestic and wild animals.
 - 3. It has usually been found in India's southern states and is less frequently found in the northern states.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1,2 and 3
15. Recently, the Lisbon Declaration was in the news. It aims at?
- (a) Ocean conservation
 - (b) Preserving the Wetlands
 - (c) Persistent Organic Pollutants
 - (d) Trade in Endangered Species
16. Consider the following statements regarding the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA):
- 1. It is mandatory for an NGO receiving foreign donations to register itself under the FCRA.
 - 2. Members of the media houses can also register themselves under the FCRA to avail of foreign donations.

- 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
17. Which of the following best describes “Agnikul” and “Skyroot”, which were recently in news?
- (a) ISRO’s in-orbit satellite servicing stations
 - (b) Start-ups developing launch vehicles for small payloads
 - (c) The controlled anti-satellite weapons
 - (d) ISRO’s initiative to monitor space debris
18. Consider the following regarding the Large Hadron Collider (LHC):
1. It is a giant, complex machine built to study particles that are the smallest known building blocks of all things.
 2. The Compact Muon Solenoid is the largest general-purpose particle detector experiment at the LHC.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 Only
 - (b) 2 Only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
19. With reference to Sangam Age, consider the following statements:
1. First Sangam was held at Kapadapuram.
 2. No literary work of this Second Sangam is available.
 3. History of the Sangam age is reconstructed from literary works of the Third Sangam.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
20. Which following countries are members of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC)?
1. China
 2. Cambodia
 3. Myanmar
 4. Tibet
 5. Japan
 6. Thailand
 7. Vietnam
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (b) 4, 5, 6 and 7 only
 - (c) 1, 4, 5 and 6 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7

21. Consider the following statements regarding Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)
1. It is an initiative by ASEAN nations.
 2. It is an infrastructure development project to counter to China's 'Belt and Road Initiative'.
 3. Under this, aid will be provided to underdeveloped countries to develop critical infrastructure.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
22. Fields Medal recently seen in the news, it is related to which of the following fields?
- (a) English
 - (b) Mathematics
 - (c) Sociology
 - (d) Philosophy
23. Who founded All India Bharatiya Jana Sangh?
- (a) V.D Savarkar
 - (b) Madan Mohan Malviya
 - (c) Bipin Chandra Pal
 - (d) Shyama Prasad Mookerjee
24. Which of the following statement/s are correct regarding critical minerals?
1. Australia is the largest producer of cobalt.
 2. Critical minerals are used in electric vehicle (EV) batteries
- 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
25. Which of the following states topped the first-ever State Ranking Index under the National Food Security Act (NFSA)?
- (a) Kerala
 - (b) Uttar Pradesh
 - (c) Tamil Nadu
 - (d) Odisha
26. Which amongst the following committees suggested bringing down the government stake in public banks?
1. Narasimham Committee
 2. P J Nayak Committee
 3. Kelkar committee
 4. Hanumanth Rao committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 4 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 3 and 4 only
27. Consider the following statements regarding Parliamentary Committees:
1. All Bills other than Money Bills are automatically referred to the Parliamentary Committees.
 2. Recommendations of the Parliamentary Committees are not binding in nature.
 3. Parliamentary standing committees are permanent and are constituted every five years.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
28. Recently seen in the news, Verstehen is related to:
- (a) A type of cookie that can infect computers with malware or viruses.
 - (b) A mission of NASA for human exploration of the planet Mars.
 - (c) Sociological concept that tells about the rationale behind human action.
 - (d) A part of the gene which controls the traits of the living being.
29. It is a Constitutional body established under the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act. Which body is it?
- (a) Goods and Service Tax Council
 - (b) National Commission for Backward Classes
 - (c) Official Language Commission
 - (d) National Commission for Scheduled Castes
30. With reference to “Chenkurinji” sometimes mentioned in the news, consider the following statements:
1. It is a banana species.
 2. It grows in some Himalayan Forest areas.
 3. It is reported to have medicinal properties and is used to lower blood pressure and treat arthritis.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
31. With reference to Mangarh Hillock, consider the following statements:
1. It is situated at the Assam -Meghalaya border .
 2. It is a site of a tribal uprising where a massacre of over 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters took place in 1945.

- 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
32. Consider the following statements regarding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):
- 1. India is behind all south Asian nations except Pakistan in its 2021 SDG ranking.
 - 2. SDG India Index is developed by Oxfam India in collaboration with the United Nations.
- 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
33. Consider the following statements regarding Nominated members in Rajya Sabha:
- 1. They are not allowed to vote in the election of the Vice-President.
 - 2. They can not join any political party as technically they are independent members.
 - 3. They can take part in the proceedings of the House.
- 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
34. With reference to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), consider the following pairs:
- 1. SDG 4 : Quality Education
 - 2. SDG 7 : Affordable And Clean Energy
 - 3. SDG 12 : Sustainable Cities And Communities
- How many pairs given above are correctly matched?
- (a) None of the pairs
 - (b) Only one pair
 - (c) Only two pairs
 - (d) All three pairs
35. Consider the following statements regarding Foreign portfolio investment (FPI):
- 1. It is often referred to as Hot money because it is less liquid and less risky than FDI.
 - 2. FPI is part of a country's Current account.
 - 3. It provides the investor with direct ownership of financial assets.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) None of the above

36. With reference to Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, consider the following statements:

1. Intangible Cultural Heritage is living cultural heritage.
2. Religions or languages are recognized under the Convention.

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
37. Consider the followings pairs :

Flood Type	Details
1. Flash Floods	These floods normally build up slowly or seasonally and may continue for days or weeks.
2. River Floods	It is defined as floods which occur within six hours of the beginning of heavy rainfall.
3. Coastal Floods	They are associated with cyclonic activities like Hurricanes, tropical cyclones etc.

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 pair only
 - (b) 2 pairs only
 - (c) 3 pairs only
 - (d) None of the above
38. With reference to Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act' (CAATSA), consider the following statements:
1. It was passed by a Republican-controlled U.S. Congress in July 2017.
 2. It is meant to punish countries having deep engagements with Russia, North Korea, and China using economic sanctions
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 Only
 - (b) 2 Only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
39. Derecho, recently seen in the news ,is related to which of the following?
- (a) Frog Species of the Tropics
 - (b) Windstorm
 - (c) Supersonic missile
 - (d) Mountain Peak

40. With reference to Pasmanda, consider the following statements:
1. It is used to describe depressed classes among the Muslims.
 2. The term was first used in 1998 by Mohammed Ali Jinnah.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 Only
 - (b) 2 Only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
41. Consider the following statements
1. India's Forex reserves have been on an increasing trend in the last decade.
 2. The country which has the highest forex reserves in the world is the US.
 3. Gold, Special drawing rights from the IMF, Reserve Tranche Position are part of Forex reserves.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
42. Microcredit is delivered through which of the institutional channels in India ?
1. Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs)
 2. Cooperative banks
 3. Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
43. Which of the following are the possible impacts of the Sri Lankan economic crisis in India?
1. Reduction in India's exports
 2. Stress on India's southern port
 3. Migration of Sri Lankans in India
 4. Reduction in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) sales in India.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 4 only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
44. With reference to initiatives by Government of India for Startups, consider the following statements:
1. Project Chunnauti is focused on nurturing ideas and innovations into successful startups.
 2. In the NIDHI Scheme, selected startups are provided legal, intellectual property rights (IPR) and Patent matters guidance.

- 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
45. The word “Tardigrade” was recently seen in the news, refers to?
- (a) Invasive species in the Western Ghats
 - (b) Microscopic multicellular organism
 - (c) Special kind of Bamboo found in North-east India
 - (d) Species of Banana found in Andaman and Nicobar islands
46. The national motto of India, ‘Satyameva Jayate’ inscribed below the Emblem of India is taken from:
- (a) Katha Upanishad
 - (b) Chandogya Upanishad
 - (c) Aitareya Upanishad
 - (d) Mundaka Upanishad
47. Nord Stream route crosses the Exclusive Economic Zones of which of the following countries?
- 1. Russia
 - 2. Sweden
 - 3. Ukraine
 - 4. Denmark
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (d) 1,2,3 and 4
48. Consider the following statements regarding Sarfaesi Act
- 1. It was brought in to guard financial institutions against loan defaulters.
 - 2. Co-operative banks and NBFCs cannot invoke Sarfaesi Act.
 - 3. The law is applicable throughout the country and covers both movable and immovable assets.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
49. Consider the following statements:
- 1. India is projected to surpass China as the world’s most populous country in 2023 according to the World Population Prospects, 2022.
 - 2. National Family Health Survey 5, 2017 found that India’s total fertility rate has increased in the last decade.

- 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
50. Consider the following statements regarding Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020:
- 1. It will apply to factories where manufacturing activity is carried out and employs more than 20 workers.
 - 2. Recognition is also given to transgender rights through this code.
 - 3. It allows women to work in all establishments except at hazardous factories.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
51. Which of the following are the primary objectives of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)?
- 1. To provide irrigation facilities to the drought-affected farmers.
 - 2. To stabilize the income of farmers.
 - 3. To encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices
 - 4. To address nutritional deficiencies in fertilization practices.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
52. Which among the following agencies are associated with development of the James Webb Space Telescope?
- 1. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
 - 2. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
 - 3. European Space Agency (ESA)
 - 4. Canadian Space Agency (CSA)
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (c) 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 3 and 4 only
53. What is the Cas9 protein that is often mentioned in the news?
- (a) A molecular scissors used in targeted gene editing.
 - (b) A biosensor used in the accurate detection of pathogens in patients.
 - (c) A gene that makes plants pest-resistant.
 - (d) A herbicidal substance synthesised in genetically modified crops.

54. With reference to Parliamentary Committees, consider the following statements:
1. Each Departmentally Related Standing Committee comprises 45 members, 30 nominated from Lok Sabha and 15 from the Rajya Sabha.
 2. The estimates committee has 30 members, all from the Lok Sabha.
- 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
55. With reference to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, consider the following statements:
1. It was established by the Chemical Weapons Convention, 1997.
 2. It works under the aegis of the United Nations.
 3. India is not a member country.
- Which of the statements given above are not correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1,2 and 3
 - (d) 3 only
56. Which of the following best describes the Troika of Group of 20 (G20)?
- (a) The country holding the presidency, together with the previous and next presidency-holder.
 - (b) Three permanent member countries holding veto power in decision making of G 20.
 - (c) Personal representatives of a head of state or head of government.
 - (d) Both a and b
57. With reference to Red Pandas, consider the following statements:
1. They live in high-altitude forests of India and China only .
 2. They are currently listed as Vulnerable species by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- 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
58. Consider the following statements regarding Green Grids Initiative — One Sun, One World, One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG):
1. It was launched by India and USA at the COP26 climate talks.
 2. It will reduce the need for storage and increase the viability of solar projects.
 3. The initiative also outlines specific strategies to recycle solar panels.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

59. Consider the following statements regarding Global Gender Gap Index, 2022:
1. It is published by UN's Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE).
 2. India's score is above the global average in Political Empowerment dimension.
 3. India is ranked the last among all the countries in Health and Survival dimension.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
60. With reference to Gravitational Lensing, consider the following statements:
1. It is an effect of Stephen Hawking's Theory.
 2. The phenomenon occurs when a huge amount of matter creates a gravitational field that distorts and magnifies the light from objects behind it.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
61. Which of the following statements are incorrect regarding the Global Minimum Tax deal?
1. It aims to ensure that big companies pay a minimum tax rate of 15% and do not avoid taxation
 2. The rate would apply to all the overseas profits of multinational firms irrespective of their global sales.
- 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
62. With reference to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, consider the following statements
1. It is implemented by states with 100% central assistance.
 2. There is a provision of direct benefit transfer in the scheme.
 3. Nearly 80 percent of funds for the scheme has been used for advertising.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1 and 3 only
63. With reference to NITI Aayog, consider the following statements:
1. President is the chairperson of NITI Aayog.
 2. It provides relevant strategic and technical advice to the Center, states, and Union Territories.

- 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. With reference to Monkeypox consider the following statements:
- 1. It is a viral zoonotic disease that occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of Central and West Africa .
 - 2. Human-to-human transmission does not occur.
 - 3. The first case of monkeypox was reported in 1958 in humans .
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 Only
 - (b) 2 Only
 - (c) 1 and 3 Only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
65. Which of the following countries are members of I2U2 grouping recently seen in the news?
- 1. India
 - 2. Israel
 - 3. Australia
 - 4. Japan
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 2, 3 and 4 only
66. Consider the following statements:
- 1. Casual workers are engaged in non-farm enterprises and receive wages according to the terms of the daily work contract.
 - 2. Contractual Workers are persons who are hired, supervised and remunerated by a contractor.
- 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
67. With reference to the “Asiatic black bear”, consider the following statements
- 1. The Asiatic black bear is herbivorous in nature.
 - 2. They are spread across Asia from the Himalayas to the Russian Far East.
 - 3. They have been categorised as Endangered on the IUCN red list.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) None of the above

68. Consider the following statements regarding The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):
1. The data is provided by the institutions themselves and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
 2. IIT-Madras topped the overall category for the fourth consecutive year in the 2022 ranking.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
69. Which of the following is/are provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021?
1. It decreases the gestation period of women seeking abortion up from 24 weeks to 20 weeks.
 2. It allows unmarried women to terminate a pregnancy in case of failure of the contraceptive method or device.
- 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
70. Which of the following statements is/are not correct regarding Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?
1. Its Secretariat is located in Tashkent.
 2. Varanasi will be the first “Cultural and Tourism Capital” of SCO
 3. 2021 SCO summit in Dushanbe agreed for Iran to join the group.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1 and 3 only
71. They are drought-resistant crops and can grow in poor soil conditions with less water, fertiliser and pesticides. They can withstand higher temperatures, making them the perfect choice as ‘climate-smart cereals’. Which crop is being talked about?
- (a) Jute
 - (b) Maize
 - (c) Millet
 - (d) Sugarcane
72. With reference to Kala Azar, consider the following statements:
1. It is a slow progressing indigenous disease caused by a protozoan parasite of genus Leishmania.
 2. It is transmitted through the bites of infected female phlebotomine sandflies.

- 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
73. Which of the following are the benefits of the creation of Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ)?
- 1. In-situ conservation
 - 2. Reduction in man-animal conflict
 - 3. Mitigating climate change
 - 4. Protection of tribal rights
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
74. Consider the following statements regarding Internet and Mobile Association of India
- 1. It is a not-for-profit industry body representing the interests of the online and mobile value added services industry.
 - 2. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
75. Which of the following institutions/meetings recently called on global governments to adopt a 'Fire Ready Formula' to combat wildfires?
- (a) Glasgow Climate Meet (26th Conference of Parties)
 - (b) Global Footprint Network
 - (c) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
 - (d) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
76. With reference to Padmanabhaswamy Temple, consider the following statements:
- 1. It is one of the most famous Vaishnava Shrines of South India.
 - 2. It represents an amalgamation of the Dravidian style of architecture and the features of the architecture of Kerala.
- 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

77. Consider the following statements regarding Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2022):
1. The outcome of GP2022 was summarised as the “Bali Agenda for Resilience”.
 2. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was first proposed by India during GP2022.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
78. Consider the following statements regarding Cloud seeding:
1. It works only if there are clear skies in the forecast.
 2. Silver iodide, the compound used for cloud seeding, is listed as hazardous for human health.
 3. It can help in reducing the level of PM_{2.5} in the air.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 3 only
79. With reference to Leaders at different places during Revolt of 1857, consider the following pairs:
1. Barrackpore - Mangal Pandey
 2. Jagdishpur - Kunwar Singh
 3. Allahabad and Benaras - Maulvi Liyakat Ali
 4. Faizabad - Maulvi Ahmadullah
- How many pairs given above are correctly matched?
- (a) Only one pairs
 - (b) Only twopair
 - (c) Only three pairs
 - (d) All four pairs
80. Arrange the following mountains/ranges from North to South direction.
1. Kunlun
 2. Ladakh
 3. Karakoram
 4. Zaskar
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
- (a) 1-2-3-4
 - (b) 2-1-3-4
 - (c) 1-3-4-2
 - (d) 1-3-2-4

81. Which of the following are the possible disadvantages of Genetically Modified Crops?
1. Possible disruption of ecosystem and biodiversity
 2. Increase in the cost of cultivation
 3. Comparatively lesser production than natural cultivation
 4. Greater use of pesticides and insecticides during farming
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 3 and 4 only
82. Aragalaya recently seen in the news ,it is related to which of the following ?
- (a) Currency
 - (b) Struggle
 - (c) Monsoon
 - (d) Electoral commission
83. Recently, which organisation released the “India Innovation Index”?
- (a) The Reserve Bank of India
 - (b) Indian Economic Trade Organisation
 - (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India
 - (d) NITI Aayog
84. Consider the following statements regarding minorities in India:
1. A Special Officer for linguistic minorities is appointed by the National Commission for Minorities.
 2. All members of the National Commission for Minorities must belong to communities enlisted as minorities.
- 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 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
86. What are Legal matters in which advice can be taken through Tele-Law service ?
1. Rights regarding property and land.
 2. Equal wages for males and females.

3. Maternity benefits and prevention of foeticide.
 4. Implementing the right to education.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
87. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):
1. It can be converted or exchanged at par with similarly denominated cash.
 2. It can be transacted using wallets backed by the blockchain
 3. It will enable the user to conduct cross-border transactions without the requirement of a third party or bank.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
88. "Triple test" which was recently in news is related to which of the following?
- (a) National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) tests for assessing Educational Institutions.
 - (b) Testing the efficiency of Parliamentary functioning.
 - (c) Providing reservations for OBCs in local body polls.
 - (d) Yardstick for testing levels of pollutants in the air.
89. With reference to examples of modernisation of state police force to fight Left Wing Extremism, consider the following pairs:
1. Andhra Pradesh: Greyhounds
 2. Maharashtra: Jaguars
 3. Jharkhand: C60 force
- How many pairs given above are correctly matched?
- (a) None of the pairs
 - (b) Only one pair
 - (c) Only two pairs
 - (d) All three pairs
90. Which of the following statements is /are correct regarding the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme?
1. Gold Bonds are issued by the Scheduled Commercial Banks on behalf of the Union Government.
 2. Interest on Gold Bonds are tax exempted under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- 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

91. Which of the following are provisions of Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act 2021?
1. It increased the upper limit of the gestation period to which a woman can seek a medical abortion to 24 weeks from 20 weeks permitted in the 1971 Act.
 2. Abortion can be carried out at any time by a single registered medical practitioner where it is immediately necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman.
 3. Under it, an unmarried woman can also access abortion under the above-mentioned condition.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
92. Which of the following government Projects are managed by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)?
1. Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project
 2. National Digital Police Portal
 3. National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO)
 4. Online Cyber-Crime Reporting Portal
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 2 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
93. A report titled 'A proposal for Digital Banks in India: Licensing and Regulatory Regime' was recently released by which of the following?
- (a) Reserve Bank of India
 - (b) NITI Aayog
 - (c) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
 - (d) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)
94. Which of the following are the right bank's tributaries of Sabarmati River?
1. Dhamni
 2. Siri
 3. Watrak
 4. Hathmati
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 3 and 4 only
95. Arrange the following mountain passes from the north to the south direction.
1. Khardung La
 2. Baralacha La

3. Shipki La

4. Bomdi La

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 3-1-2-4

(b) 4-3-2-1

(c) 1-2-3-4

(d) 2-1-4-3

96. Consider the following statements regarding the National Flag of India:

1. It was adopted in its present form during India's independence from the British on 15 August 1947.

2. The Chakra on the white band of the flag is depicted as the "wheel of the law" in the Sarnath Lion Capital made by the 3rd-century BC Mauryan Emperor Ashoka.

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

97. He was arrested by the British on the charges of sedition in 1908 and sentenced to six years of imprisonment in Mandalay (Burma). He also launched two weeklies, Kesari (in Marathi) and Mahratta (in English), which criticised British policies of the time. In 1916, he concluded the Lucknow Pact with Mohammed Ali Jinnah, which provided for Hindu-Muslim unity in the nationalist struggle. Mahatma Gandhi called him "The Maker of Modern India"

He was

(a) Subhash Chandra Bose

(b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

(c) Lala Lajpatrai

(d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

98. India has ratified which of the following treaties/protocols?

1. Antarctic Treaty

2. Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

3. Madrid Protocol

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

99. Consider the following statements regarding Chandrashekhar Azad:

1. He was given the nickname 'quicksilver' by Ramprasad Bismil.

2. He along with Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev formed the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).

- 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
100. Which of the following were annexed by applying Doctrine of Lapse?
- 1. Nagpur
 - 2. Udaipur
 - 3. Sambalpur
 - 4. Jhansi
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 and 4
 - (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 - (d) 2 and 4 only
101. Consider the following statements regarding the Public Safety Act (PSA):
- 1. The Act allows detention for up to two years without a trial.
 - 2. It has separate provisions for Minor and Major Offences.
 - 3. The detention of a person below the age of 18 was strictly prohibited
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
102. Consider the following statements regarding News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA):
- 1. It is a statutory body situated under the IT Rules 2011.
 - 2. It is a self-regulatory body that governs through agreements.
 - 3. It is empowered to warn, censure, express disapproval and fine the broadcaster.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
103. With reference to 5G, consider the following statements:
- 1. 5G has high latency when compared to 4G that will support new applications such as AI, and IoT.
 - 2. Mobile phone users can ensure a faster connection with more bandwidth after choosing a 5G network.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

104. “Bishkek Declaration” seen sometimes in the news, is related to which of the following species?
- (a) Tiger
 - (b) Indian rhinoceros
 - (c) Snow leopard
 - (d) Asian elephant
105. Which of the following states are covered under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution?
- 1. Assam
 - 2. Meghalaya
 - 3. Tripura
 - 4. Nagaland
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 1,3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1,2 and 3 only
106. With reference to Lumpy Skin Disease, consider the following statements:
- 1. It is a bacterial disease of cattle and water buffalo .
 - 2. It easily spreads by blood-sucking insects like mosquitoes, flies and ticks .
 - 3. It has remained confined to Africa only .
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2
 - (b) 2 Only
 - (c) 2 and 3
 - (d) 3 Only
107. Recently seen in the news, the Jasmine Revolution is related to which of the following countries?
- (a) Egypt
 - (b) Bahrain
 - (c) Syria
 - (d) Tunisia
108. Consider the following statements regarding National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe):
- 1. It is a nodal agency for the promotion and regulation of space activities of both government and private entities.
 - 2. It facilitates the usage of ISRO facilities by private entities.
- 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

109. Which of the following statements regarding China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not correct?
- (a) It is an infrastructure project that seeks to create economic and trade hubs with road and rail infrastructure.
 - (b) It is a part of China's larger Belt and Road Initiative.
 - (c) The corridor will link the capital cities of China-Pakistan.
 - (d) Both (a) and (c)
110. The Chairman of public sector banks are selected by the
- (a) Banks Board Bureau
 - (b) Reserve Bank of India
 - (c) Union Ministry of Finance
 - (d) Management of concerned bank
111. Regarding the Modhera Sun Temple , consider the following statements:
- 1. It is on the banks of Pushpavati River in Tamil Nadu .
 - 2. It was built in the 11th century during the Chalukya dynasty .
- 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
112. The Model Tenancy Act will apply to which of the following?
- 1. Residential purpose
 - 2. Commercial purpose
 - 3. Educational purpose
 - 4. Industrial purpose
 - 5. Hotels & lodging houses
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (b) 4 and 5 only
 - (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
113. Consider the following statements regarding Pichavaram Mangrove Forest:
- 1. It is located in West Bengal and is a part of Sundarbans National Park.
 - 2. It is recently added in the Ramsar sites of wetlands.
 - 3. It is also a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (Man and Biosphere Reserve).
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) 2 and 3 only

114. With reference to Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO), consider the following statements
1. The Mission is under the European Space Agency.
 2. It aims to search for evidence that water persisted on the surface of Mars.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
115. He is regarded as a cultural icon by Tamils. He has influenced a wide range of scholars through the years in disciplines like ethics, politics, economics, philosophy and spirituality. His most popular work is based on a collection of couplets on ethics, politics, economy and love. In the early 16th century, a temple dedicated to him was built within the Ekambareswarar temple complex in Mylapore, Chennai.
- He was
- (a) Nagarjuna
 - (b) Banabhatta
 - (c) kalidasa
 - (d) Thiruvalluvar
116. The MIST is an international submarine cable communication network that will traverse undersea to connect India with which of the following countries?
1. Myanmar
 2. Thailand
 3. Maldives
 4. Switzerland
- Which of the following options is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 3
 - (c) 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 2, 3 and 4
117. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' campaign:
1. It is a 75 days-long coastal clean-up campaign that will culminate on International Coastal Clean Up Day.
 2. A mobile app "Eco Mitram" has been launched to spread awareness about the campaign.
- 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
118. Consider the following statements:
1. Article 239AA provides that the administrator of Delhi shall be known as Lt. Governor.
 2. Article 239AB resembles Article 356 i.e., the President's Rule.

- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
119. Consider the following statements regarding the Financial Intelligence Unit - India (FIU-IND):
1. It collects financial intelligence about offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
 2. It can impose fines on banking companies if they fail to comply with the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
 3. It reports to the Enforcement Directorate.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
120. Recently, Dahla Dam was in the news, it is located in which of the following countries?
- (a) Pakistan
 - (b) Tajikistan
 - (c) Afghanistan
 - (d) Turkmenistan
121. Consider the following statements regarding the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA):
1. Enforcement Directorate (ED) is classified as a 'police agency' by the Act since it has powers of summons, arrests, and raids.
 2. Under the PMLA, the burden of proof of innocence lies with the accused and not the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- 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
122. Consider the following initiatives of the Government of India:
1. Distribution of Nayi Pehel kits
 2. Saas Bahu Sammelan
 3. Saarthi vans
- These initiatives are part of which of the following?
- (a) Ayushman Bharat -National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM)
 - (b) Atmanirbhar Narishakti se Samvad
 - (c) Mission Shakti Yojana
 - (d) Mission Parivar Vikas (MPV)

123. He played an important role in introducing the philosophies of Yoga and Vedanta to the West. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called him the “Maker of Modern India”. In his honour, the Government of India in 1984 declared his birthday National Youth Day. He was:
- (a) Kabir das
 - (b) Tulsi Das
 - (c) Swami Vivekananda
 - (d) Ramakrishna Paramahansa
124. Consider the following statements:
1. India currently hosts the largest tiger population.
 2. The Nagarjunsagar-Srisaïlam Tiger Reserve is the largest in 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
125. With reference to, consider the following statements:
1. Hepatitis is caused by a variety of infectious viruses and noninfectious agents.
 2. Antiviral medications can treat both acute and chronic forms of hepatitis E.
- 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
126. 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 currently calculated using 2004-05 as the base year
 3. It is compiled and published by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on a yearly basis.
- Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
127. Clofazimine, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following diseases?
- (a) Diabetes
 - (b) Malaria
 - (c) Dementia
 - (d) Leprosy
128. Which of the following statements is correct regarding Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?
1. India will take over the SCO Presidency in 2023 and will host the SCO Summit in New Delhi.

2. India has proposed to create a new single currency for carrying out trade among SCO members.
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
129. Which of the following statements regarding Whistle Blowers Protection Act 2014 is correct?
(a) The complaint need not include the identity of the whistleblower for the sake of his/her security.
(b) The Act is silent on knowingly making false complaints.
(c) The 2015 amendment to the Act prohibits the reporting of information related to Cabinet proceedings.
(d) None of the Above.
130. With reference to Coffee Board of India, consider the following statements:
1. It is a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
2. The activities of the Board are broadly aimed at export promotion as well as supporting development of the coffee market in the market.
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

Explanation

1. [ANS] d

[SOL] Clofazimine which had been in short supply in the Indian market for several months, is now “not available”, with the situation turning into a crisis over the past three months.

- It is a fat soluble, brick red dye that is used in combination with other agents in the therapy of leprosy.
- Clofazimine, by itself, has not been associated with serum aminotransferase elevations during therapy or to instances of clinically apparent acute liver injury.

2. [ANS] d

[SOL] Social audit report states Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) fund deviated and misappropriated worth Rs 22 crore in Kerala.

Statement 1 is correct: The mandate of the MGNREGA is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Statement 2 is correct: The core objectives of the MGNREGS are:

- (a) Providing not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand, resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability;
- (b) Strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor;
- (c) Proactively ensuring social inclusion and
- (d) Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Statement 3 is correct: The goals are:

- i) Social protection for the most vulnerable people living in rural India by guaranteeing wage employment opportunities.
- ii) Enhance livelihood security of the rural poor through generation of wage employment opportunities in works leading to creation of durable assets.
- iii) Rejuvenate the natural resource base of rural areas.
- iv) Create a durable and productive rural asset base.

Statement 4 is not correct: No, it is implemented in all rural districts of the country. MGNREGA was implemented in 200 districts in the first phase with effect from February 2006 and extended subsequently, to additional 113 and 17 districts with effect from April 1st 2007 and May 15th 2007, respectively. The remaining districts were included under the Act with effect from April 1st, 2008. Currently, the Act is under implementation in 644 districts of the country with substantial rural population.

3. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the UN rights office released a Report which states, Internet shutdowns hurt much more than we realise.

Statement 1 is not correct: It's a campaign launched by Access Now in 2016. It now represents 243 organisations from 105 countries across the globe.

Statement 2 is not correct: Its objective is to help unite and organise the efforts of activists and organisations across the world to end internet shutdowns. Internet shutdowns are being used as a tool for repression across the globe, and the coalition is advancing the fight to stop them using a wide range of approaches, including grassroots advocacy, direct policy-maker engagement, technical support, corporate accountability, and legal intervention.

4. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) released the Financial Stability Report (FSR) which said that the Bank NPA ratios are at 6-year low.

- Financial Stability Report is published by RBI bi-annually on behalf of the Financial Stability and Development Council, an umbrella group of regulators which gives an overview of the health of India's financial system.
- It reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system in the context of contemporaneous issues relating to development and regulation of the financial sector.
- The RBI looks at the state of both the global as well as domestic economy.
- It focuses on public and private banks with the following aspects:
 - Capital availability for working
 - Cost of NPAs and whether they are manageable
 - Credit flow in different sectors of the economy
 - Credit flow at personal levels (households)
 - Macro-financial risks in the economy
 - Macro-financial risks refer to the risks that originate from the financial system but affect the wider economy as well as risks to the financial system that originate in the wider economy.
 - Stress tests are also performed by RBI as part of FSR

5. [ANS] b

[SOL] Option (B) is correct. UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)'s released World Drug Report 2022.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was established in 1997 and was named as a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2002.

It acts as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by combining the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

6. [ANS] d

[SOL] The Election Commission announced that the election to the office of the vice-president of India would be held on August 6.

Statement 1 is not correct : The Vice-President of India is the second highest constitutional office in the country.

- He serves for a five-year term, but can continue to be in office, irrespective of the expiry of the term, until the successor assumes office.

- The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting in such election is by secret ballot(Article 66 (1)).

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : The Election Commission of India conducts the election to the office of the Vice-President.

- The Election Commission is mandated to ensure that the election to the office of the Vice-President of India must be a free and fair election and the Commission is taking all necessary steps for discharging its constitutional responsibility
- All doubts and disputes arising in connection with the election of the Vice-President are enquired into and decided by the Supreme Court of India whose decision is final.
 - A petition challenging the election of the Vice-President is heard by a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India.

7. [ANS] d

[SOL]

- These are a set of savings instruments managed by the central government with an aim to encourage citizens to save regularly irrespective of their age.
- Higher returns: they are popular as they not only provide returns that are generally higher than bank fixed deposits but also come with a sovereign guarantee and tax benefits.
- The schemes can be grouped under three heads: Post office deposits, savings certificates and social security schemes.

[In News - The recent move of the government to keep interest rates on small savings instruments unchanged comes as a setback for small investors.]

8. [ANS] c

[SOL]Fedchenko Glacier:

- It is an extensive valley glacier, situated in the Central Asian Pamirs range, central Tajikistan.
- It is the world's largest glacier found outside the polar regions. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- It is about 45 miles (70 km) long and covers up to some 350 square miles (900 square km).

Farkhor Air Base:

- It is a military air base located near the town of Farkhor in Tajikistan.
 - It is operated by the Indian Air Force in collaboration with the Tajik Air Force. Hence statement 2 is correct.
 - Farkhor is India's first military base outside its territory.

9. [ANS] c

[SOL] Multi-Agency Maritime Security Group (MAMSG):

- In 2021 November, the proposal for the creation of the NMSC post was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).
- The NMSC office is under the National Security Council Secretariat headed by NSA.

- Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar (Retd) is appointed as the first National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC). Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
 - Role of National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC) is to ensure cohesion among various stakeholders – Indian Navy, the Coast Guard, security agencies, the coastal states and the UTs. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- With the setting up of the NMSC, a longstanding recommendation of the 2001 Group of Ministers (GOM) Report on 'Reforming the National Security System' has finally been implemented. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

10. [ANS] c

[SOL] The United Nations-Habitat's World Cities Report 2022 Report stated that India's urban population is estimated to stand at 675 million in 2035, the second highest behind China's one billion.

Statement 1 is correct: The United Nations-Habitat promotes urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty.

Statement 2 is correct: The Urban Agenda Platform is an online portal for sharing knowledge, monitoring and reporting on progress to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, and to the achievement of the SDGs and targets, including Goal 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The platform provides a centralised, virtual reporting mechanism of the New Urban Agenda implementation and urban related SDGs.

11. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Recently the Hon PM of India has launched year-long celebrations to remember the contributions of Alluri Sitarama Raju.

Statements 1 and 3 are not correct : Alluri Sitarama Raju was born in present day Andhra Pradesh on 4th July 1897 to Alluri Venkata Rama Raju and Suryanarayamma.

- After putting up a massive effort for nearly two years, the British managed to capture Alluri in the forests of Chintapalli.
 - He was then tied to a tree and executed by shooting on 7 May 1924 in the village of Koyyuru.
- The fierce revolutionary laid down his life for the freedom of the motherland at the young age of 27 years.

Statement 2 is correct :

- The British government passed the Madras Forest Act in 1882.
- It banned the villagers from practising their traditional agricultural system of shifting cultivation known as Podu cultivation, forcing them to raise particular types of crops.
- It had also laid severe curbs on their movement in the forest area.
- Alluri Seetarama initiated the famous "Rampa Rebellion" or Manyam Rebellion in 1922-1924 against the Forest Act in Visakhapatnam-Godavari agency area of the then Madras Presidency.

- He galvanised the tribals to fight against the injustices of the British.
 - He also utilised sporting traditional weaponry like bow-and-arrow and spears, and employing tactics like using whistles and beating drums to exchange messages amongst themselves.
12. [ANS] b
- [SOL] Context
- As the war in Ukraine stretches over four months with no end in sight, it has given rise to apprehensions on Russia's ability to adhere to timely deliveries of spares and hardware.
- India is also looking to receive the third Akula class nuclear attack submarine (SSN) sometime in 2025, from Ukraine.
 - India had signed a separate deal with Ukraine for eight Zorya-Mashproekt gas turbine engines for the frigates.
 - The engines, gear boxes and specialist support will cost around \$50 mn a ship.
13. [ANS] b
- [SOL] In News : Recently ,The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out the maiden test flight of a new Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) named Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator, from the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- Statement 1 is not correct : The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is designed & developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, a premier research laboratory of DRDO.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct : It is powered by a small turbofan engine.
- The airframe, undercarriage and entire flight control and avionics systems used for the aircraft were developed indigenously.
 - The design has the potential to deliver high fuel efficiency and stealth, if executed with precision, as demonstrated by some of advanced bombers in the USA's arsenal like B-2 bomber.
14. [ANS] c
- [SOL] In News : After finding several carcasses of wild boar, Kerala health officials confirmed the presence of anthrax.
- Statement 1 is not correct : Anthrax, also known as malignant pustule or woolsorter's disease. It is a serious infectious disease caused by gram-positive, rod-shaped bacteria known as *Bacillus anthracis*.
- Statement 2 and 3 are correct : It occurs naturally in soil and commonly affects domestic and wild animals around the world.
- It is a zoonotic disease, meaning that it is naturally transmissible from animals (usually vertebrates) to humans.
 - It has usually been found in India's southern states and is less frequently found in the northern states.
 - Over the past years, it has been reported in Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Orissa and Karnataka.

15. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News - Recently, all 198 members of the United Nations unanimously adopted the Lisbon Declaration on ocean conservation.]

- Aim: is to follow science-based and innovative actions on an urgent basis. It sends a strong signal to urgently improve the health, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean.
- Need: It was recognised that developing countries, particularly small island developing states and least developed countries, need assistance with capacity building.
- Participants at the conference also agreed to work on preventing, reducing and controlling marine pollution. It includes:
 - Nutrient pollution
 - Untreated wastewater
 - Solid waste discharges
 - Hazardous substances
 - Emissions from the maritime sector, including shipping, shipwrecks
 - Anthropogenic underwater noise

16. [ANS] a

[SOL] Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA):

- Regulate foreign donations:
 - It is a slew of new measures to regulate foreign donations.
 - The Act, first enacted in 1976 was amended in the year 2010 and then 2020.
- Application:
 - The FCRA is applicable to all associations, groups and NGOs which intend to receive foreign donations.
 - It is mandatory for all such NGOs to register themselves under the FCRA. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- Validity:
 - The registration is initially valid for five years and it can be renewed subsequently if they comply with all norms.
- Purpose:
 - Registered associations can receive foreign contributions for social, educational, religious, economic and cultural purposes.
- Mandatory IT filing:
 - Filing of annual returns, on the lines of Income Tax, is compulsory.

Who cannot receive foreign donations?

- Prohibition:
 - Members of the legislature and political parties, government officials, judges and media persons are prohibited from receiving any foreign contribution. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

- Political parties:
 - In 2017 the MHA, through the Finance Bill route, amended the 1976-repealed FCRA law paving the way for political parties to receive funds from the Indian subsidiary of a foreign company or a foreign company in which an Indian holds 50% or more shares.

17. [ANS] b

[SOL] Agnikul:

- A Chennai start-up, Agnikul Cosmos, is on its way to build India's first private small satellite rocket and will seek help from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for conducting tests.
- The rocket is named 'Agnibaan' and according to their website it will be a two-stage LOX/Kerosene vehicle with a third 'baby stage'.

Skyroot:

- The company sky root plans to build technologies for 'responsive, reliable and economic access to space'.
- It hopes to make spaceflight as regular, reliable and affordable as air flight.
- It is founded by former engineers of the rocket design centre of ISRO.
- The company's rocket is 'Vikram'. It is named after Dr Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian Space Program.
- It is a series of launch vehicles especially crafted for the small satellite market.

18. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: It is a giant, complex machine built to study particles that are the smallest known building blocks of all things.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. ATLAS is the largest general-purpose particle detector experiment at the LHC

19. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, TamilNadu has sent soil samples for a project relating to the new Parliament building.

Statement 1 is not correct: According to Tamil legends, there were three Sangams held in ancient South India popularly called Muchchangam. The first Sangam is believed to be held at Madurai, attended by gods and legendary sages. No literary work of this Sangam is available.

Statement 2 is not correct: The second Sangam was held at Kapadapuram, only Tolkappiyam survived this.

Statement 3 is correct: The third Sangam was also held at Madurai. A few of these Tamil literary works have survived and are useful sources to reconstruct the history of the Sangam period.

20. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the seventh Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in Bagan, Myanmar.

- The LMC consists of six countries: China, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- Multilateral format: Lancang-Mekong Cooperation is a multilateral format established in 2016 for cooperation between the riparian states of the Lancang River and Mekong River.

- The Lancang River originates on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in southwestern China. It is called the Mekong River as it flows through the other five countries before emptying into the sea.
- Purpose: The central purpose of the format is for China to manage water flow from its hydropower dams with the other riparian states.
 - As a platform for discussion and sharing ideas, it aims to push forward pragmatic projects to benefit the six countries.
 - China has built seven megadams on the Lancang-Mekong and according to the US-based NGO International Rivers 20 are under construction or planned in Yunnan, Tibet and Qinghai.
- LMC Special Fund: A fund was created in 2016 to aid in small and medium-sized projects by the Lancang-Mekong countries.

21. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the G7 launched an infrastructure investment plan to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative. Hence statement 2 is correct and 1 is incorrect.

More about the plan:

- The recent G7 Leaders' Summit in Germany, has officially launched the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII).
 - It is a joint initiative to fund infrastructure projects in developing countries.
- The project, launched is being seen as the bloc's counter to China's 'Belt and Road Initiative'.
- Infrastructure investment:
 - G7 and EU have noted the infrastructure projects being undertaken and funded by China at a global level and decided to present their alternative mechanism for it.
 - Funding:
 - Collectively, the group aims to mobilise nearly \$600 billion from the G7 by 2027.
 - The funding will be utilised to invest in critical infrastructure that improves lives and delivers real gains for all of our people.
 - However, the fund does not mean "charity or aid", but loans, and will be beneficial for both the countries lending and receiving them. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

22. [ANS] b

[SOL] Four mathematicians were awarded prestigious Fields medals.

- It is an honour that is often described as the Nobel Prize in mathematics.
- It is awarded every four years to one or more mathematicians under the age of 40 in recognition of "outstanding mathematical achievement for existing work and for the promise of future achievement".

23. [ANS] d

[SOL]

Option (D) is correct. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee formed All India Bharatiya Jana Sangh which was formally launched in October 1950. He was elected to lead the new organisation as its first All-India President

24. [ANS] b

[SOL]

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is not correct. China is responsible for some 70% and 60% of global production of cobalt.
- Statement 2 is correct. Critical minerals such as lithium and graphite used in electric vehicle (EV) batteries.

25. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Government of India came up with a first-ever state ranking index under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

- The State Ranking Index under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) was released to capture the implementation of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- States and UTs Performance:
 - Odisha topped the list of 34 states and Union territories (UTs).
 - Ladakh was ranked last on the index.
 - Nine of the 14 special category states and UTs (states in the North East, Himalayan states and island regions), were ranked among the lowest.
 - Goa came last among the general category states.

26. [ANS] a

[SOL] Options 1 and 2 are correct:

The government is exploring several options to address the issue for enabling privatisation of PSBs.

Many committees had proposed bringing down the government stake in public banks below 51%.

- The Narasimham Committee proposed 33% and the P J Nayak Committee suggested below 50%.
- An RBI Working Group recently suggested the entry of business houses into the banking sector.

Options 3 and 4 are incorrect:

- Kelkar committee was set up to evaluate PPP in India was a committee set up to study and evaluate the extant public-private partnership (PPP) model in India.
- Hanumanth Rao committee was set up to review the Drought prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

27. [ANS] b

[SOL] Parliamentary Committees are an instrument of Parliament for its own effective functioning. Parliament is not bound by the recommendations of committees. Hence statement 2 is correct.

- Types of parliamentary committees:
 - Broadly, parliamentary committees are of two kinds:

- Standing Committees - They are permanent (constituted every year or periodically) and work on a continuous basis. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.
- Ad Hoc Committees - They are temporary and cease to exist on completion of the task assigned to them. For instance, to deliberate on a particular bill.
- Referring bill to the committee:
 - Currently, it is not mandatory to refer a Bill to a Committee.
 - In some Parliamentary systems like the UK, all Bills other than Money Bills are automatically referred to Committees.
 - However, in India, it depends on the decision of the Speaker or Chairman, in consultation with the Minister putting forth the Bill, whether a Bill should be referred to a Committee. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

28. [ANS] c

[SOL] Verstehen is the procedure by which sociologists gain access to the meanings behind human actions.

Concept of Verstehen:

- It translates to 'understanding' in German
- It became a critique of the positivist and naturalist approaches to sociology prevalent in the 19th century.
- It argues that human actions cannot be analysed by merely adopting the research methods followed in natural sciences with 'absolute objectivity'.

29. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Union Cabinet gave the 13th extension to the Justice Rohini Commission, giving it time until January 31, 2023, to submit its report.

- National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) is a constitutional body (123rd constitutional amendment Bill 2017 and 102nd amendment 2018 in constitution to make it constitutional body) (Article 338B of the Indian Constitution)
- According to Article 338B, It shall be the duty of the Commission—
 - to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes under this Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards;
 - to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the socially and educationally backward classes;
 - to participate and advise on the socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State;
 - to present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;
 - to make in such reports the recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes; and

- to discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes as the President may, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, by rule specify.

30. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, a study said that there is a need to save Chenkuringi from climate change.

Statement 1 and 2 are not correct: Statement Chenkuringi (*Gluta travancorica*) is a species endemic to the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve. Belonging to the Anacardiaceae family, the tree was once abundant in the hills on the southern parts of the Aryankavu Pass in Kerala's Kollam district. The Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary derives its name Chenkuringi (*Gluta travancorica*), a species endemic to the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve.

Statement 3 is correct: It is reported to have medicinal properties and is used to lower blood pressure and treat arthritis.

31. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News :A team from the National Monuments Authority submitted a report on declaring Mangarh hillock in Rajasthan as a monument of National Importance in the year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct : The hillock, situated at the Gujarat-Rajasthan border, is a site of a tribal uprising where a massacre of over 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters took place in 1913.

- Bhil social reformer and spiritual leader Govind Guru first raised the demand for a separate state for tribals back in 1913 after the Mangarh massacre.
- The place is also known as the Adivasi Jallianwala, and there has been a demand to build a memorial.

32. [ANS] a

[SOL] Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- The United Nations Document "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".
 - This agenda contains 17 goals and 169 targets.
- India's SDG rank is 120 (out of 192 UN Nations) on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda.
- India's recent overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) score was 66 out of 100.
- Comparing with South Asian Nations:
 - With the latest rankings, India is now behind all south Asian nations except Pakistan. Hence statement 1 is correct.
 - The south Asian countries ahead of India are Bhutan ranked 75, Sri Lanka at 87, Nepal at 96 and Bangladesh at 109.
- SDG India Index:
 - The Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) evaluates the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on various parameters including health, education, gender, economic growth, institutions, climate change and environment.
 - The index is developed by NITI Ayog in collaboration with the United Nations in India. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
 - It has also fostered competition among the states and UTs by ranking them on the global goals.

33. [ANS] c

[SOL] Nominated Members in Rajya Sabha

- The president nominates 12 members to the Rajya Sabha from people who have special knowledge or practical experience in art, literature, science and social service.
 - A nominated member can join a political party within six months of taking his/ her seat in the House. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
- Role of nominated members:
 - Powers and privileges:
 - Nominated members of Rajya Sabha enjoy all the powers and privileges to which the elected MPs are entitled.
 - They can take part in the proceedings of the House in a normal manner. Hence statement 3 is correct.
 - Election of President and Vice-President:
 - Nominated members are not allowed to vote in the election of the President.
 - However, they do have the right to vote in the election of the Vice-President. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

34. [ANS] c

[SOL] Pair 1 is correctly matched:

SDG 1: No Poverty

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

SDG 3 : Good Health And Well-Being

SDG 4 : Quality Education

SDG 5 : Gender Equality

SDG 6 : Clean Water And Sanitation

Pair 2 is correctly matched:

SDG 7 : Affordable And Clean Energy

SDG 8 : Decent Work And Economic Growth

SDG 9 : Industry, Innovation And Infrastructure

SDG 10 : Reduced Inequalities

Pair 3 is not correctly matched:

SDG 11 : Sustainable Cities And Communities

SDG 12 : Sustainable Consumption and Production

SDG 13 : Climate Change

SDG 14 : Life Below Water

SDG 15 : Life On Land

SDG 16 : Peace, Justice And Strong Institutions

SDG 17 : Partnerships For The Goals

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

35. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, a trend has been observed where Foreign Portfolio Investors are exiting the Indian market.

All the statements are not correct: It consists of securities and other financial assets held by investors in another country.

- FPI holdings can include stocks, ADRs, GDRs, bonds, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds.
- It does not provide the investor with direct ownership of a company's assets and is relatively liquid depending on the volatility of the market.
- Along with foreign direct investment (FDI), FPI is one of the common ways to invest in an overseas economy.
 - FDI and FPI are both important sources of funding for most economies.
- FPI is part of a country's capital account and is shown on its Balance of Payments (BOP).
- FPI is more liquid, volatile and therefore riskier than FDI.

36. [ANS] b

[SOL] Context : In News : Recently, India got elected to the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Statement 1 is correct: Intangible Cultural Heritage are living cultural heritage which are expressed in one of the following forms: Oral Traditions, Performing Arts, Social Practices, Rituals and Festive events, Knowledge and Practices concerning nature and the universe, Traditional Craftsmanship.

Statement 2 is not correct: Though religions provide communities with a sense of identity and continuity, they are not included as such in the Convention. However, the Convention refers to cultural practices and expressions inspired by religions. For instance, social practices, rituals and festive events are considered domains of the intangible cultural heritage. The Convention does not include language in itself or as a whole (grammar, vocabulary, syntax), but underscores that it is a fundamental vehicle for transmitting intangible cultural heritage.

37. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News - Recently, there was a cloudburst near the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas which triggered flash floods damaging the property and also killed several people.]

- Flash Floods: It is defined as floods which occur within six hours of the beginning of heavy rainfall. In case of flash floods, warnings for timely evacuation may not always be possible.
- River Floods: They are caused by precipitation over large catchment's areas. These floods normally build up slowly or seasonally and may continue for days or weeks as compared to flash floods.
- Coastal Floods: They are associated with cyclonic activities like Hurricanes, tropical cyclones etc.

38. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Recently, US Democratic Representative stated that the US government must not impose sanctions on India under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for its purchase of the S-400 missile weapons system from Russia.

Statement 1 is correct :The 'Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act' (CAATSA) was passed by a Republican-controlled U.S. Congress in July 2017

- It is a law that came into effect in the US in 2017.

Statement 2 is not correct :

- It is meant to punish countries having deep engagements with Russia, North Korea, and Iran using economic sanctions.
 - The US flagged issues of Russia's alleged interference in the 2016 Presidential elections, and its role in the Syrian war as some of the reasons for punishing engagement with it.
- Ordinary transactions will not invite sanctions, and the decision of who has sanctions imposed on them comes down to the interpretation of "significant transaction".
- This is one of the various waivers or exemptions mentioned, such as the transaction not affecting US strategic interests, not endangering the alliances it is a part of, etc.

39. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : States of Nebraska, Minnesota and Illinois in the US were hit by a storm system called a derecho .

- According to the US's National Weather Service, a derecho is "a widespread, long-lived, straight-line windstorm" that is associated with a "band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms".
- The name comes from the Spanish word 'la derecha' which means 'straight'.
 - Straight-line storms are those in which thunderstorm winds have no rotation unlike a tornado.
- These storms travel hundreds of miles and cover a vast area.
- Being a warm-weather phenomenon, a derecho generally – not always – occurs during summer time beginning May, with most hitting in June and July.
 - However, they are a rare occurrence as compared to other storm systems like tornadoes or hurricanes.

40. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : In the recently concluded BJP national executive conclave in Hyderabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a special mention for the Pasmanda community and their social upliftment.

Statement 1 is correct :

- A Persian word, 'Pasmanda', means the 'ones left behind', and is used to describe depressed classes among the Muslims, while underlining their deliberate or conscious exclusion.

Statement 2 is not correct : "The term 'Pasmanda Muslims' was first used in 1998 by Ali Anwar Ansari when he founded the Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz.

- Pasmanda has become an umbrella identity used by backward, Dalit, and tribal Muslims to push back against caste-based discrimination against them within the community.

41. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, India's foreign exchange reserves fell to their lowest level in over 14 months as the central bank sold dollars to prop up the currency.

- The reserves fell \$5.01 billion to \$588.3 billion.
 - The decline in the reserve comes amid the rupee hitting record lows.
- Reasons:
 - The central bank has been selling dollars to curb excessive volatility in the exchange rate and prevent runaway depreciation in the rupee.
 - In 2022 overseas investors had net sold \$30.29 billion worth of Indian assets.
- India's trade deficit too is a record monthly high of \$25.63 billion last month.
- The country which has the highest forex reserves in the world is China.
 - Because it wants its exports to be attractive in the global market.
- RBI Act and the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 govern the foreign exchange reserves.
- It can be broken into four categories:
 - The first and largest component is foreign currency assets; it constitutes about 80% of the total portfolio.
 - Investment in gold.
 - Special drawing rights from the IMF.
 - Reserve Tranche Position.

42. [ANS] d

[SOL] Microfinance companies are expecting greater growth in rural markets than urban, following new guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India .

- Micro Finance Institutions offers a form of financial service which provides small loans and other financial services to poor and low-income households
 - Microcredit is delivered through a variety of institutional channels viz.
 - Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) (including small finance banks (SFBs) and regional rural banks (RRBs)) lending both directly as well as through business correspondents (BCs) and self-help groups (SHGs)
 - Cooperative banks
 - Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and
 - Microfinance institutions (MFIs) registered as NBFCs as well as in other forms.

43. [ANS] b

[SOL] Sri Lanka is facing a massive economic collapse with dramatic events seen on its political stage.

Impacts on India

- Export:

- Sri Lanka's share in India's total exports has declined from 2.16 percent in FY15 to just 1.3 percent in the first 10 months of FY22. Hence option 1 is correct.
- Shipping:
 - If the current situation in the island nation persists, it could cause a major disruption to the normal functioning of the Colombo Port.
 - This would be detrimental to India's interest.
 - The port handles over 30 percent of India's container traffic and 60 percent of its trans-shipment. Hence option 2 is correct.
- Migration:
 - Also, the continuing Sri Lankan crisis could compel many Sri Lankans to leave for India for their survival. Hence option 3 is correct.
 - Already, scores of them have fled from the island nation to India.
- Silver lining:
 - Several flights of Sri Lankan Airlines, Air Arabia, Jazeera Airways, Gulf Air and Air Asia Malaysia are depending on Indian airports starting from May onwards, giving additional revenue to Oil Marketing Companies(OMCs) airport operators and respective state governments.
 - It has boosted aviation turbine fuel (ATF) sales in South Indian airports like Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin and Chennai. Hence option 4 is incorrect.

44. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the startup ecosystem in India has started bracing itself for a long and bitter winter.

Statement 1 is not correct: Project Chunauti: It is a start-up challenge under the Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS) initiative. Selected startups are provided human resources, legal, intellectual property rights (IPR) and Patent matters guidance as well as other incubation and mentorship facilities.

Statement 2 is not correct: National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI): It is an umbrella programme for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups.

45. [ANS] b

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

46. [ANS] d

[SOL] Prime Minister unveiled the National Emblem cast on the roof of the new Parliament building.

Option d is correct: The national motto of India, 'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below the Emblem of India is taken from Mundaka Upanishad. This motto means 'Truth Alone Triumphs'. It is written in Devanagari script.

47. [ANS] c

[SOL] The Nord Stream 1, Germany's main source of gas from Russia, was shut down on July 11 for 10 days of scheduled maintenance work.

- The Nord Stream twin pipeline system through the Baltic Sea runs from Vyborg, Russia to Lubmin near Greifswald, Germany.
- The pipelines were built and are operated by Nord Stream AG.
- The Nord Stream route crosses the Exclusive Economic Zones of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany, as well as the territorial waters of Russia, Denmark, and Germany.
 - Nord Stream 1, completed in 2011 (From Vyborg in Leningrad to Lubmin near Greifswald, Germany).
 - Nord Stream 2, completed in September 2021 (From Ust-Luga in Leningrad to Lubmin).

48. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, Banks have invoked the Sarfaesi Act against telecom infrastructure provider GTL to recover their pending dues.

- Aim:
 - It was brought in to guard financial institutions against loan defaulters.
 - Taking control of the secured assets
 - Take over management of the secured assets, as well as the right to transfer the secured assets via lease, assignment, or sale
 - Designate someone to administer the secured assets
 - To recover their bad debts, the banks under this law can take control of securities pledged against the loan, manage or sell them to recover dues without court intervention.
- Coverage:
 - Co-operative banks can also invoke Sarfaesi Act.
 - The non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) can initiate recovery in Rs 20 lakh loan default cases.
- Application:
 - The law is applicable throughout the country and covers all assets, movable or immovable, promised as security to the lender.
- Powers:
 - The Act comes into play if a borrower defaults on his or her payments for more than six months.
 - The lender then can send a notice to the borrower to clear the dues within 60 days.
 - In case that doesn't happen, the financial institution has the right to take possession of the secured assets and sell, transfer or manage them.
 - The defaulter, meanwhile, has recourse to move an appellate authority set up under the law within 30 days of receiving a notice from the lender.
- Modes of recovery under the SARFAESI Act
 - Securitisation
 - Asset reconstruction
 - Enforcement of security without the interruption of the court

49. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the 27th edition of the World Population Prospects, 2022 was released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.

- Comparing India and China:
 - India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023. Hence statement 1 is correct.
 - In 2022, China remains the most populous country in the world with 1,426 million, but India has caught up with a marginally less population of 1,412 million.
- Global scenario:
 - The global population will reach 8 billion on November 15, 2022, more than three times the population of 2.5 billion in 1950.
 - The UN projections suggest that the global population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050, and 10.4 billion in 2100.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR):

- In India, where National Family Health Survey 5 was released in 2021 found that India attained a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.0 for the first time, less than the replacement level of 2.1, and falling from a TFR of 2.2 in NFHS 4. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
- Increased use of contraceptive methods, spacing of pregnancies, access to health care and an impetus provided to family planning contributed to the decrease, including increasing wealth and education.

50. [ANS] a

[SOL] Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020:

- It amalgamates 13 labour laws regarding standards for working conditions, health and safety of workers.
- Key Features:
 - It will apply to factories where manufacturing activity is carried out and employs more than 20 workers. Hence statement 1 is correct.
 - The code will apply to hazardous factories too irrespective of the number of workers employed.
 - No worker will be allowed to work for more than 8 hours a day or 6 days a week.
 - For overtime, an employee would be paid twice the rate of his or her wage.
 - It ensures gender neutrality by allowing women to work in all establishments for all types of work, with consent to work before 6 am or after 7 pm. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.
 - It recognises the rights of contractual workers and for the first time, transgender rights are recognized. Hence statement 2 is correct.

51. [ANS] b

[SOL] Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):

- PMFBY insures farmers against all non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest.

- Objectives:
 - To provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases.
 - To stabilize the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
 - To encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
 - To ensure the flow of credit to the agriculture sector.
- Payment of premium:
 - Farmers have to pay a maximum of 2 percent of the total premium of the insured amount for Kharif crops, 1.5 percent for rabi food crops and oilseeds as well as 5 percent 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.

Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme:

- The objectives of the Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme are to issue soil health cards to farmers every two years so as to provide a basis to address nutritional deficiencies in fertilization practices.
- Soil testing is developed to promote soil tests based on nutrient management.

52. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : NASA's James Webb Space Telescope has delivered the deepest and sharpest infrared image of the distant universe so far.

- James Webb Space Telescope is an international program led by NASA with its partners, ESA (European Space Agency) and CSA (Canadian Space Agency).
- The telescope launched on an Ariane 5 from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana.
- It will solve mysteries in our solar system, look beyond distant worlds around other stars, and probe the mysterious structures and origins of our universe and our place in it.

53. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the gene-editing technology which has led to innovations in medicine, evolution and agriculture has completed 10 years of innovation.

- The protein Cas9 is an enzyme that acts like a pair of molecular scissors, capable of cutting strands of DNA.
- It allows researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.
- Gene/genome editing refers to technology that permits to change an organism's DNA.
 - These technologies allow genetic material to be added, removed, or altered at particular locations in the genome.
 - Its applications include correcting genetic defects, treating and preventing the spread of diseases and improving crops etc.
- Discovery:
 - A decade ago, scientists in Germany and the US discovered a technique which allowed them to 'cut' DNA strands and edit genes.

- For agriculture scientists this process allowed them to bring about desired changes in the genome by using site directed nuclease (SDN) or sequence specific nuclease (SSN).
- Nuclease is an enzyme which cleaves through nucleic acid — the building block of genetic material.
- Advanced research has allowed scientists to develop the highly effective clustered regularly interspaced palindromic repeat (CRISPR) -associated proteins based systems.
 - This system allows for targeted intervention at the genome sequence.
 - This tool has opened up various possibilities in plant breeding. Using this tool, agricultural scientists can now edit the genome to insert specific traits in the gene sequence.
- Depending on the nature of the edit that is carried out, the process is divided into three categories — SDN 1, SDN 2 and SDN 3.
 - SDN1 introduces changes in the host genome's DNA through small insertions/deletions without introduction of foreign genetic material.
 - In the case of SDN 2, the edit involves using a small DNA template to generate specific changes.
 - Both these processes do not involve alien genetic material and the end result is indistinguishable from conventionally bred crop varieties.
 - The SDN3 process involves larger DNA elements or full length genes of foreign origin which makes it similar to genetically modified organisms (GMO) development.

54. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice, headed by veteran BJP leader, has recommended substantial changes to the Mediation Bill.

Statement 1 is not correct: Until the 13th Lok Sabha, each Departmentally Related Standing Committee (DRSC) comprised 45 members — 30 nominated from Lok Sabha and 15 from the Rajya Sabha. However, it got restructured in July 2004, each DRSC now has 31 members — 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha, to be nominated by Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha chairman, respectively.

Statement 2 is correct: The estimates committee, a financial Committee, has 30 members, all from the Lok Sabha.

55. [ANS] b

[SOL]

Statement 1 is correct: The OPCW is an international organization established by the Chemical Weapons Convention, 1997.

Statement 2 is not correct: OPCW is not a UN organization. However, under its 2001 Relationship Agreement with the UN, it reports on its inspections and other activities to the UN through the office of the Secretary-General.

Statement 3 is not correct: It has 113 members including India, which is a signatory and party to the Chemical Weapons Convention as well.

56. [ANS] a

[SOL] The G20 was formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular.

- Its aim was to secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries.
- Presidency of G20 & Troika:
 - The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among members.
 - The country holding the presidency, together with the previous and next presidency-holder, forms the 'Troika' to ensure continuity of the G20 agenda.
 - Italy, Indonesia, and India are the Troika countries right now.
- Working of G20:
 - The G20 has no permanent secretariat.
 - The agenda and work are coordinated by representatives of the G20 countries, known as 'Sherpas', who work together with the finance ministers and governors of the central banks.
 - India recently said ex-NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant would be the G20 Sherpa after Piyush Goyal.

57. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, Singalila National Park launched a programme that aims to release about 20 red pandas in a period of five years.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct :Red Panda is largely vegetarian, eating chiefly young leaves and shoots of bamboo.

- It also takes fruit, roots, succulent grasses, acorns, lichens, birds' eggs and insects
- They are shy, solitary and arboreal animals and considered an indicator species for ecological change.
- Red pandas live in high-altitude forests of Nepal, India, Bhutan, Myanmar and China.
- Red pandas are currently listed as endangered species by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and their numbers are believed to be less than 10,000 individuals in the wild.
 - However, the exact figure remains unknown.

58. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, India, in partnership with the United Kingdom, announced the Green Grids Initiative — One Sun, One World, One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG). Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

More about the initiative

- Declaration and recognition:
 - The "Green Grids Initiative" was announced at the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland.
 - More than 80 countries backed it.
 - The announcement was accompanied by the "One Sun Declaration", which stated that, "realising the vision of 'One Sun One World One Grid' through interconnected green grids can be transformational.

- Origin:
 - The concept of a single global grid for solar was first outlined at the First Assembly of the ISA in late 2018.
- Storage:
 - It will reduce the need for storage and increase the viability of solar projects. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- New avenues:
 - It will not only reduce carbon footprint and cost of energy but open up new avenues for cooperation between different regions and different countries.
- The initiative also does not define strategies to recycle and repurpose existing infrastructure, which can be an exciting avenue to view through the circular economy lens. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

59. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently the 2022 Global Gender Gap Index was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

- Political Empowerment:
 - This includes metrics such as: The percentage of women in Parliament, the percentage of women in ministerial positions etc.
 - Of all the sub-indices, this is where India ranks the highest (48th out of 146).
 - However, notwithstanding its rank, its score is quite low at 0.267.
 - The silver lining is that despite the reduction, India's score is above the global average in this category. Hence statement 2 is correct
- Economic Participation and Opportunity:
 - This includes metrics such as: The percentage of women who are part of the labour force, wage equality for similar work, earned income etc.
 - Here, too, India ranks a lowly 143 out of the 146 countries in contention even though its score has improved over 2021 from 0.326 to 0.350.
- Educational Attainment:
 - This sub-index includes metrics such as: Literacy rate and the enrolment rates in primary, secondary and tertiary education.
 - Here India ranks 107th out of 146, and its score has marginally worsened since last year.
- Health and Survival:
 - This includes two metrics: The sex ratio at birth (in %) and healthy life expectancy (in years).
 - In this metric, India is ranked the last (146) among all the countries. Hence statement 3 is correct.

60. [ANS] b

[SOL]

Context

Recently, LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) in South Dakota in the U.S. is being considered as the most sensitive dark matter detector in the world.

Explanation

Statement 1 is not correct: Gravitational lensing is an effect of Einstein's theory of general relativity – simply put, mass bends light.

Statement 2 is correct: Gravitational lensing is the phenomenon that occurs when a huge amount of matter, such as a massive galaxy or cluster of galaxies, creates a gravitational field that distorts and magnifies the light from objects behind it, but in the same line of sight.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

61. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Recently the 'G20 Ministerial Symposium on Tax and Development' was held in Bali, Indonesia.

Statement 1 is correct : Global minimum tax deal : It is a global deal to ensure big companies pay a minimum tax rate of 15% and make it harder for them to avoid taxation.

Statement 2 is not correct : The global minimum tax rate would apply to overseas profits of multinational firms with 750 million euros (\$868 million) in sales globally.

- Governments could still set whatever local corporate tax rate they want, but if companies pay lower rates in a particular country, their home governments could "top up" their taxes to the 15% minimum, eliminating the advantage of shifting profits.
- A second track of the overhaul would allow countries where revenues are earned to tax 25% of the largest multinationals' so-called excess profit – defined as profit in excess of 10% of revenue.

62. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News - According to the recent guidelines issued by the Women and Child Development Ministry Beti Bachao Beti Padhao will now be extended across the country.]

Statements 1 and 3 are correct : It is a flagship scheme of the Government of India, launched by the Prime Minister in 2015 in Haryana to arrest the declining Child Sex Ratio and related issues of empowerment of Women over a lifecycle continuum.

- It's a convergent initiative of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.
- It is implemented by states with 100% central assistance.
- Nearly 80 percent of funds for the BBBP scheme has been used for advertising, and not on sectoral interventions such as women's health and education.

Statement 2 is not correct : BBBP scheme has provision for awards and recognitions but no provision for direct individual cash transfer for any strata of society including daughters of poor women. It is not a DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) scheme. Under the scheme, combined data of urban and rural areas are considered for the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB).

63. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Parameswaran Iyer, who had spearheaded the implementation of the flagship USD 20 billion Swachh Bharat Mission, took charge as the CEO of NITI Aayog.

Statement 1 is not correct : National Institution for Transforming India, better known as NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015.

- The government constituted NITI Aayog to replace the Planning Commission, which had been instituted in 1950.
- The Prime Minister is the chairperson of NITI Aayog

Statement 2 is correct :It is the premier policy think tank of the government of India, providing directional and policy inputs.

- It also provides relevant strategic and technical advice to the Centre, states, and Union Territories.

64. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : India's first confirmed monkeypox case has been reported in a 35-year-old male in Kerala, who reached the State capital three days ago from the UAE.

Statement 1 is correct :Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease that occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of Central and West Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions.

- Monkeypox is caused by monkeypox virus, a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae.

Statements 2 and 3 are not correct : Monkeypox virus is mostly transmitted to people from wild animals such as rodents and primates, but human-to-human transmission also occurs.

- Monkeypox virus is transmitted from one person to another by contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding.
- The first case of monkeypox was reported in 1958 in monkeys and in humans in 1970 in the western Africa.
- Nigeria witnessed the biggest outbreak of the disease in 2017.
- Thereafter, the disease has been reported in many countries including the USA, Singapore, UK.

65. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News :The first-ever I2U2 Virtual Summit was held comprising India, Israel, the UAE, and the US.

- I2U2 stands for India, Israel, the UAE, and the US, and was also referred to as the 'West Asian Quad'.
- The group was first conceptualised in October 2021, during a meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries in Israel.
 - At that time, the grouping was called the 'International Forum for Economic Cooperation'.
- Aim:
 - Its stated aim is to discuss "common areas of mutual interest, to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in our respective regions and beyond".
 - Six areas of cooperation have been identified by the countries mutually.
 - The aim is to encourage joint investments in
- Water,
- Energy,

- Transportation,
- Space,
- Health, and
- Food security.

66. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Vice President of India expressed concern over low female participation in the formal labour force in India.

Statement 1 is correct: Casual Worker: A person, who is casually engaged in non-farm enterprises and, in return, receives wages according to the terms of the daily or periodic work contract, is a casual worker.

- This Category of Workers excludes Regular and Contract workers.

Statement 2 is correct: Contract Worker: As per the definition of a contract worker, a worker is deemed to be employed as a contract worker when he/she is hired in connection with the work of an establishment by or through a contractor.

- Contract workmen are indirect employees; persons who are hired, supervised and remunerated by a contractor who, in turn, is compensated by the establishment.

67. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Asiatic black bear is one of eight extant species of the bear family: along with the American black bear, the sun bear, the spectacled bear, the brown bear, the polar bear, the sloth bear and the giant panda.

- Omnivorous: The Asiatic black bear is omnivorous, eating insects, fruit, nuts, bees and honey, small mammals, and birds as well as carrion.
- Habitat: Asiatic black bears live predominantly in forested areas, especially in hills and mountainous areas.
- Distribution: Asiatic black bears are found over a wide area of southern Asia.
 - They occur along the mountains from Afghanistan, through Pakistan and northern India, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, into Burma and northeastern China.
 - They are also found in southeastern Russia, and on Taiwan and the Japanese islands of Honshu and Shikoku.
 - The bears are found in 83 protected areas of India spread across five states and 2 Union Territories in the Himalayas.
 - It is one of the large carnivore species having negative interactions with humans in the Indian Himalayas.
- IUCN red list: It has been categorised as Vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species and is also listed under Appendix I of CITES and Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

68. [ANS] b

[SOL] The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) of universities and colleges for the year 2022 was recently released by the Ministry of Education (MoE).

- NIRF ranking is based on six parameters —

- Teaching-learning and resources,
- Research and professional practice,
- Graduation outcomes,
- Outreach and inclusivity and
- Perception about the institution.
- The overall score is computed based on the weightage allotted to each parameter and sub-parameter.
- Some data is provided by the institutions themselves and the rest is sourced from third-party sites.
- There is no coherence with NAAC and NBA Scores:
 - Several universities have earned a NAAC A grade but figure poorly in the ranking system.
 - NIRF must take into consideration the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and National Board of Accreditation (NBA) scores. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
- Overall Rankings:
 - IIT-Madras topped the overall category for the fourth consecutive year, and in engineering for the seventh straight year. Hence statement 2 is correct.
 - The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), which topped the latest round of QS rankings among Indian institutes was placed second in the NIRF rankings like last year.

69. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021 amended the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP Act) and follows the earlier MTP Bills of 2014, 2017 and 2018, all of which previously lapsed in Parliament.

Extended length for termination of pregnancy: The Act increases the gestation period of women seeking abortion up from 20 weeks to 24 weeks.

- It allows abortion to be done on the advice of one doctor up to 20 weeks, and two doctors in the case of certain special categories of women between 20 and 24 weeks.
- The “special categories of women” include rape survivors, victims of incest, the differently-abled and minors.
- In case of the gestational period beyond 24 weeks, pregnancy may be terminated only in cases of substantial foetal abnormalities diagnosed by the Medical Board or if there is a threat to the life of the mother.
- Opinion of only one provider will be required up to 20 weeks of gestation and two providers for termination of pregnancy of 20-24 weeks of gestation.

Statement 2 is correct: It allows unmarried women also to terminate a pregnancy in case of failure of the contraceptive method or device. The ground of failure of contraceptives can now be used for abortion for up to 20 weeks.

70. [ANS] d

[SOL] Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation of Eurasian Nations with a secretariat in Beijing.
- Aim:
 - It is a political, economic and military organisation that aims at maintaining peace, security and stability in the region.
- Its Secretariat is located in Beijing. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
- Iran and Belarus:
 - 2021 SCO summit in Dushanbe agreed for Iran to join.
 - Belarus has also begun the membership process for SCO.
 - The legal process regarding Belarus' application for SCO membership will soon start, and the accession of Belarus will require the consensus of all member states. Hence statement 3 is correct
 - The upcoming SCO Summit will be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan where the issues with the expansion of the group will be discussed among other issues.
 - India will host the SCO summit in 2023.
- Varanasi - Cultural and Tourism Capital of SCO:
 - The holy city of Varanasi, showcasing India's culture and traditions over the ages, will be declared the first "Cultural and Tourism Capital" of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation for 2022-23. Hence statement 2 is correct.

71. [ANS] c

[SOL] NITI Aayog and the World Food Programme (WFP), India, will launch the 'Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices' initiative for mainstreaming millets in Asia and Africa.

Option c is correct: Millets is a common term to categorise small-seeded grasses that are often termed Nutri-cereals or dryland-cereals and includes sorghum, pearl millet, ragi, small millet, foxtail millet, proso millet, barnyard millet and Kodo millet, among others.

- They are also hardier and drought-resistant crops.
- Millets can grow in poor soil conditions with less water, fertiliser and pesticides.
- They can withstand higher temperatures, making them the perfect choice as 'climate-smart cereals.'

<https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/18-07-2022/initiatives-for-mainstreaming-of-millets>

72. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News: According to reports, eleven districts of Bengal have reported at least 65 cases of black fever or kala azar in the last couple of weeks

Statements 1 and 2 are correct :It is a slow progressing indigenous disease caused by a protozoan parasite of genus Leishmania.

- Kala azar or leishmaniasis is one of the most dangerous neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) which is endemic in 76 countries, with approximately 200 million people at risk of infection. Leishmania parasites are transmitted through the bites of infected female phlebotomine sandflies, which feed on blood to produce eggs.

73. [ANS] d

[SOL] Supreme court has directed all states to have a mandatory 1-km ESZ from the demarcated boundaries of every protected forest land, national park and wildlife sanctuary.

Significance of Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ):

- Conservation:
 - ESZs help in in-situ conservation, which deals with the conservation of an endangered species in its natural habitat. Hence option 1 is correct.
 - For example, the conservation of the One-horned Rhino of Kaziranga National Park, Assam.
 - They minimize forest depletion and man-animal conflict. Hence option 2 is correct.
- Buffer zone:
 - The protected areas are based on the core and buffer model of management, through which local area communities are also protected and benefitted.
 - ESZs are created as “shock absorbers” for the protected areas, to minimize the negative impact on the “fragile ecosystems” by certain human activities taking place nearby.
 - These areas are meant to act as a transition zone from areas requiring higher protection to those requiring lesser protection.
- Mitigating climate change:
 - Biodiversity and climate change are interconnected. The creation of SEZs may help in reducing the rise in temperature. Hence option 3 is correct.
- Significance of Recent Judgement:
 - It can lead to more sustainable development.
 - Tribal rights will also be protected with the recent judgment i.e., their culture, diversity etc will be preserved. Hence option 4 is correct.

74. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), the industry body representing top Internet companies and tech platforms, has dissolved a key unit set up four years ago to do public advocacy for the cryptocurrency and blockchain sector, citing regulatory uncertainty.

- The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) was established in 2004. It is a not-for-profit industry body representing the interests of the online and mobile value added services industry. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Its mandate is to expand and enhance the online and mobile value added services sectors. IAMAI also put forward the problems and requirements of the businesses to the consumers, shareholders, investors and the government of India.

75. [ANS] d

[SOL] The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - “Fire Ready Formula”

- UNEP recently called on global governments to adopt a new ‘Fire Ready Formula,’ as it warned that incidences of wildfires would rise in the future.

- The UNEP has called for strengthening international and regional cooperation on wildfires.
- Development of an international standard for wildfire management has also been recommended.
- The formula:
 - The new formula envisages that 66 percent of spending be devoted to planning, prevention, preparedness and recovery.
 - The remaining 34 per cent can be spent on response.
 - Budget:
 - The direct responses to wildfires received over half of related expenditures, while planning and prevention received just 0.2 per cent of the total budget for wildfires.

76. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Supreme Court extended the time for completion of the special audit of 25 years of accounts of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple and its trusts to August 31, 2022.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : Padmanabhaswamy temple. The origin of the Temple of Sree Padmanabhaswamy is lost in antiquity.

- It is the only major temple structure in Kerala that represents an amalgamation of the Dravidian style of architecture and the indigenous features of the architecture of Kerala.
- It is one of the most famous Vaishnava Shrines of South India and is one of the few temples where Lord Vishnu is represented in the reclining form lying on Adishesha and Brahma the creator, seated on a lotus that stems from the navel of Lord Vishnu.

77. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2022 (GP 2022) took place in Indonesia.

- The theme of 2022 was 'From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development For All in a COVID-19 Transformed World'.
- It is an important first milestone in the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).
- The outcome of GP2022 was summarised in the co-chairs' Bali Agenda for Resilience. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was first proposed by India during the 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in New Delhi. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

78. [ANS] d

[SOL] Cloud seeding

- Cloud seeding includes the addition of chemicals like small particles of silver iodide to clouds.
 - Silver iodide is not currently listed as being harmful to human health in the quantities used for cloud seeding. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
- When these substances are introduced into the clouds, the water droplets cluster together, increasing the likelihood of rainfall - meaning clouds clear from the sky.

- Weather manipulation of this type is also known as “blue-skying”.
- Cloud seeding offers opportunities to limit famine, reduce drought, and create better freshwater resources.
 - Some efforts could even transform hail into rain or snow
- According to a study in China, artificial rain reduced the level of PM2.5 air pollutants by more than two-thirds. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- Specific weather conditions:
 - Cloud seeding will not work if there are clear skies in the forecast. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
 - The correct atmospheric conditions must be present for this technique to work. Clouds that are capable of rain are the only ones that respond well to this effort.
 - When airplanes fly through them, then the seeds they release provide more nuclei that help to form condensation points that can lead to rain or snow.
 - If you were to fly on a clear day to release silver or potassium iodide, then the released chemicals would simply fall to the ground without doing anything.

79. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Prime Minister of India remembered Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary.

Place Leadership

Barrackpore Mangal Pandey

Bihar (Jagdishpur) Kunwar Singh, Amar Singh

Allahabad and Benaras Maulvi Liyakat Ali

Faizabad Maulvi Ahmadullah

Therefore, all four pairs are correctly matched.

80. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, researchers have taken a significant leap toward solving the mystery of why few pockets of glaciers in the Karakoram Range are resisting glacial melt due to global warming.

Option d is correct: The correct order of the following mountains from North to South direction is: 1324, viz.

Kunlun mountains – Karakoram mountains – Ladakh range– Zaskar range



Image Courtesy: Quora

81. [ANS] a

[SOL] Genetically Modified(GM) Crops

- They are that type of plants whose DNA has been modified through genetic engineering for embedding a new trait to the plant which does not occur naturally in the species.
- Across the world, GM variants of maize, canola and soybean etc , are available.
- Advantages:
 - It improves production and raises the farmer's income. Hence option 3 is incorrect.
 - It reduces the use of pesticides and insecticides during farming which might be a great move for the betterment of the food supply. Hence option 4 is incorrect.
 - It can feed a rapidly increasing population because it shows dramatically increased yields.
 - It can produce more in small areas of land.
- Disadvantages:
 - The production imposes high risks to the disruption of ecosystem and biodiversity because the "better" traits produced from engineering genes can result in the favouring of one organism. Hence option 1 is correct.
 - Hence, it can eventually disrupt the natural process of gene flow.
 - It increases the cost of cultivation and is more inclined towards the marketization of farming that works on immoral profits. Hence option 2 is correct.

- The transgenic crops endanger not only farmers but also the trade, and the environment as well.
- Inadequate Safety Assessments: The current safety assessments are inadequate to catch most of the harmful effects of GM crops. Moreover, the regulatory regime in India regarding GM crops has never been assessed thoroughly about the GM risk assessment in Indian conditions.

82. [ANS] b

[SOL] As Sri Lanka's Parliament votes for a new President, some sections of the aragalaya have sent out the signal that they will not accept a leader who bats for the status quo.

- Aragalaya is a Sinhalese word for "struggle"
- It is being used widely to describe the daily gathering of people at Colombo that began with the demand that Gotabaya resign as President and make way for a new dispensation, even "a new system".

83. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, NITI Aayog said that it will release the third edition of its India Innovation Index.

- The first and second editions were launched in 2019 and 2021 respectively.
- Aim: To rank states and UTs based on their scores, recognize opportunities and challenges, and assist in tailoring government policies to foster innovation.
 - It examines states' innovation capacities and ecosystems at the sub-national level, highlights the recent factors and catalysts for promoting such crisis-driven innovation.
- Indicators: The new framework presents a more nuanced and comprehensive outlook for measuring innovation performance in India.
 - With the introduction of 66 unique indicators, as compared to the 36 indicators used in the preceding edition.
- Coverage: The index evaluates the innovation performance of all the states and union territories in India.
 - The states and the union territories have been divided into 17 major states, 10 northeast and hill states and 9 Union Territories and city-states for effectively comparing their performance.

84. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is incorrect.

- Article 350 A says there shall be a Special Officer for linguistic minorities to be appointed by the President.

National Commission for Minorities(NCM)

- Background: In 1978, the setting up of the Minorities Commission (MC) was envisaged in the Ministry of Home Affairs Resolution.
 - In 1984, the MC was detached from the Ministry of Home Affairs and placed under the newly created Ministry of Welfare, which excluded linguistic minorities from the Commission's jurisdiction in 1988.
 - In 1992, with the enactment of the NCM Act, 1992, the MC became a statutory body and was renamed as the NCM.

- The first National Commission for Minorities with a statutory status was formed in 1993.
- Composition of the commission:
 - The commission consists of seven members which include a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson along with five other members.
 - All members of the commission must belong to minority communities enlisted as minorities, and from amongst persons of eminence, ability and integrity. Hence statement 2 is correct.
 - Every member of the Commission holds office for a period of three years.

85. [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.

<https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/05-10-2021/world-animal-day>

86. [ANS] d

[SOL] The Union Minister of Law and Justice announced that from this year, Tele-law service was being made free of cost for the citizens in the country.

Tele-law service is a service that uses video conferencing facilities and telephone services to connect lawyers to litigants who need legal advice.

Legal matters in which advice can be taken through Tele-Law service :-

- Dowry, family dispute, divorce, protection from domestic violence.
- Sexual harassment, sexual abuse, eve teasing at the workplace.
- Maintenance of women, children and senior citizens.
- Rights regarding property and land.
- Equal wages for males and females.
- Maternity benefits and prevention of foeticide.
- Prohibition of child marriage, protection of children from sexual assault, prevention of child labour and implementing right to education.
- Arrest – (F.I.R)/ process of registering the First Information Report.
- Atrocities against scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes and their rehabilitation.

87. [ANS] d

[SOL] Central Bank Digital Currency(CBDC)

- It is a legal tender and a central bank liability in digital form denominated in a sovereign currency and appearing on the central bank's balance sheet.
- It is the same as a fiat currency and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency. Only its form is different.
- It can be converted or exchanged at par with similarly denominated cash and traditional central bank deposits. Hence statement 1 is correct.

- It can be transacted using wallets backed by the blockchain and is regulated by the central bank. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- CBDCs enables the user to conduct both domestic and cross-border transactions which do not require a third party or a bank. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- CBDC and Private virtual currencies or Cryptocurrency:
 - The CBDC will be a sovereign-backed digital currency.
 - CBDC is a digital or virtual currency but it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies or cryptocurrencies that have mushroomed over the last decade.
 - Private virtual currencies do not represent any person's debt or liabilities as there is no issuer.

88. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Supreme Court permitted Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra to provide reservations to Other Backward Classes (OBC) in Local Body Elections after clearing the Triple test formula, as mandated by the apex court.

- In 2010, the SC had laid down the 'triple test'. These triple conditions are:
 - Setting up a dedicated commission to conduct "rigorous empirical inquiry into the nature and implications of the backwardness qua local bodies, within the state".
 - Making of recommendations by the commission on the number of seats to be reserved for OBCs "local body wise".
 - Ensuring that, cumulatively, seats reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs do not exceed 50 percent.

89. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Union Government said that incidents of Naxal violence in the country have dropped by 77 percent between 2009 and 2021.

Option b is correct: Successful examples of involvement and modernisation of state police forces are:

- Andhra Pradesh: Greyhounds.
- Maharashtra: Local police and the C60 force.
- West Bengal: Ingenious strategy adopted by the state police.
- Jharkhand: Jharkhand Jaguars.
- Odisha: Broad administrative interventions in Koraput.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

90. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme launched in November, 2015 to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings (to purchase of gold) into financial savings. The Gold Bonds are issued as Government of India Stock under the Government Securities (GS) Act, 2006. These are issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the Government of India. These bonds will be sold through various Commercial banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices (as may be notified) and recognized stock exchanges viz., National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock

Exchange, either directly or through agents.

Statement 2 is not correct: A fixed rate of 2.5% per annum is applicable on the scheme, payable semi-annually. The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act, 1961. It is restricted for sale to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.

91. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News :Recently ,A 25-year-old pregnant woman moved the Supreme Court seeking an abortion after the Delhi High Court declined her plea .

Statements 1 2 and 3 are correct :The latest amendment to the MTP Act was made in 2021. Before that new rules were introduced in 2003 to allow the use of then newly discovered abortion medicine misoprostol, to medically terminate a pregnancy up to seven weeks into it. Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021, abortion is permitted after medical opinion under stipulated circumstances.

- The 2021 Act increased the upper limit of the gestation period to which a woman can seek a medical abortion to 24 weeks from 20 weeks permitted in the 1971 Act.
- This renewed upper limit can only be exercised in specific cases.
- MTP could now be accessed on the opinion of a single registered medical practitioner up to 20 weeks of the gestational age.
 - From 20 weeks up to 24 weeks, the opinion of two registered medical practitioners is required.
 - In the previous version of the Act, the opinion of one registered doctor was required to access a medical abortion up to 12 weeks of pregnancy, while two doctors were required to endorse the abortion up to 20 weeks.
 - Besides, if the pregnancy has to be terminated beyond the 24-week gestational age, it can only be done on the grounds of foetal abnormalities if a four-member Medical Board, as set up in each State under the Act, gives permission to do so
 - The law, notwithstanding any of the above conditions, also provides that where it is immediately necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman, abortion can be carried out at any time by a single registered medical practitioner.
- Under the 2021 Act, Unmarried women can also access abortion under the above-mentioned conditions, because it does not mention the requirement of spousal consent.
 - If the woman is a minor, however, the consent of a guardian is required.

92. [ANS] d

[SOL] National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)

- It was set up in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals.
- It was established on the recommendations of the Tandon Committee to the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Taskforce (1985).
- NCRB was entrusted with the responsibility for monitoring, coordinating and implementing the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project in the year 2009.
 - This project connects 15000+ police stations and 6000 higher offices of police in the country.

- In August 2017, NCRB launched the National Digital Police Portal, which allows search for a criminal/suspect on the CCTNS database.
- The Bureau has also been entrusted to maintain the National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO) and share it with the States/UTs on a regular basis.
- NCRB has also been designated as the Central Nodal Agency to manage technical and operational functions of the Online Cyber-Crime Reporting Portal.

93. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently the Government think tank NITI Aayog released its report titled 'A proposal for Digital Banks in India: Licensing and Regulatory Regime'.

- About:
 - The report 'focuses on avoiding any regulatory or policy arbitrage and offers a level playing field to incumbents as well as competitors
 - It offers a template and roadmap for licensing and regulatory regime for India.
- The report study and the methodology:
 - Given the need for leveraging technology effectively to cater to the needs of banking in India, this report studies the prevailing gaps, the niches that remain underserved, and the global regulatory best practices in licensing digital banks.
 - The methodology for the licensing and regulatory template offered by the report is based on an equally weighted 'digital bank regulatory index'. This comprises four factors:
 - Entry barriers
 - Competition
 - Business restrictions; and
 - Technological neutrality.
 - The elements of these four factors are then mapped against the five benchmark jurisdictions of Singapore, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Australia and South Korea.

94. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 and 2 are correct: The Sabarmati is a seasonal river with its flows dominated by the monsoon. It originates from Aravalli Hills, Rajasthan and meets in the Bay of Khambhat in the Arabian sea. It passes through districts like Udaipur in Rajasthan, and Aravalli, Sabarkantha, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and Kheda in Gujarat. Its length is 371 km. & total catchment area is 21,674 sq. km. •Sei, Siri and Dhamni are the right bank's tributaries and Wakal, Harnav, Hathmati, Khari, Watrak are left bank's tributaries.

95. [ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct: The correct sequence of mountain passes from north to south direction is:

- Khardung La: It is near Leh in the Ladakh range (Jammu and Kashmir). The world's highest motorable road passes through this pass.
- Baralacha La: It is situated in Himachal Pradesh. It connects Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

- Shipki La: It is located in the Kinnaur district in the state of Himachal Pradesh. It connects Himachal Pradesh and Tibet and mostly remains closed during the winter season.
- Bomdi La: It is located near the western boundary of Arunachal Pradesh in the Greater Himalayas. It connects Arunachal Pradesh with Bhutan.

96. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Three-quarters of a century ago on 22nd July 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the National Flag.

Statement 1 is incorrect : The National Flag of India was adopted in its present form during the meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on 22 July 1947, a few days before India's independence from the British on 15 August 1947.

- It served as the national flag of the Dominion of India between 15 August 1947 and 26 January 1950 and that of the Republic of India thereafter.
- In India, the term "tricolour" refers to the Indian national flag.
- Designed by:
 - Pingali Venkayya.

Statement 2 is correct : The National flag of India is a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (Kesari) at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion. In the centre of the white band is a navy blue wheel which represents the chakra. The Chakra on the white band of the flag is depicted as the "wheel of the law" in the Sarnath Lion Capital made by the 3rd-century BC Mauryan Emperor Ashoka.

97. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Recently Hon PM of India paid tribute to freedom fighters Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He was born on July 23, 1856, in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri. He was conferred with the title of "Lokmanya", which means "accepted by the people (as their leader)" and Mahatma Gandhi called him "The Maker of Modern India". It was under the leadership of the political triumvirate, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal and Bal Gangadhar Tilak, popularly known as Lal-Bal-Pal, Swadeshi movement gained momentum across the country. Tilak was arrested by the British on the charges of sedition in 1908 and sentenced to six years of imprisonment in Mandalay (Burma). After returning from Burma, Tilak was involved in the Home Rule Movement and joined Anne Besant's Home Rule League.

In 1916, he concluded the Lucknow Pact with Mohammed Ali Jinnah, which provided for Hindu-Muslim unity in the nationalist struggle.

He organised two important festivals, Ganeshotsav in 1893 and Shiv Jayanti in 1895.

- He also launched two weeklies, Kesari (in Marathi) and Mahratta (in English), which criticised British policies of the time.
- He published The Orion or Researches into the Antiquity of the Vedas (1893) and The Arctic Home in the Vedas (1903).
- In the Mandalay jail, he wrote his magnum opus, the Srimad Bhagavadgita Rahasya (Secret of the Bhagavadgita), an original exposition of the most sacred book of the Hindus.

98. [ANS] d

[SOL] In Context

Recently, the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022, which seeks to extend the jurisdiction of Indian courts to the icy continent, was cleared by the Lok Sabha.

Explanation

- Antarctic Treaty:
 - India signed the Antarctic Treaty on August 19, 1983. India is one of the 29 Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty.
- CCAMLR:
 - The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was signed in Canberra on May 20, 1980 to protect and preserve the Antarctic environment and, particularly, for the preservation and conservation of marine living resources in Antarctica.
 - India ratified the CCAMLR on June 17, 1985.
- Madrid Protocol:
 - The Protocol on the Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (Madrid Protocol) was signed in Madrid on October 4, 1991, to strengthen the Antarctic Treaty system and for the development of a comprehensive regime for the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems.
 - India ratified the Madrid Protocol on January 14, 1998.

99. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Recently Hon PM of India paid tribute to freedom fighters Chandrashekhar Azad: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. When Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement in December 1921, Azad, then a teenager, took part in it. He was arrested by the British during a demonstration.

- When the magistrate asked him his name, he declared his name to be 'Azad', his father's name 'Swatantra', and his residence as 'prison'.
 - It is since then that Chandrashekhar got the title of 'Azad'.
- He was given the nickname 'quicksilver' by Ramprasad Bismil for his ability to move undetected between party hideouts.
- In September 1928, Azad along with Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev formed the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).

100. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Recently, the exquisite 19th century stolen painting of Maharaja Serfoji II has been traced to a US museum. Serfoji was the last of the Bhonsle Rajas of Thanjavur which became a casualty of Lord Dalhousie's infamous 'Doctrine of Lapse'.

Doctrine of Lapse.

- The doctrine declared that if an Indian ruler died without a male heir his kingdom would "lapse", that is, become part of Company territory. One kingdom after another was annexed simply by applying this doctrine: Satara (1848), Sambalpur (1850), Udaipur (1852), Nagpur (1853) and Jhansi (1854). Finally, in 1856, the Company also took over Awadh

101. [ANS] a

[SOL] Public Safety Act (PSA):

- About:
 - The Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978 is a preventive detention law.
 - Under this, a person is taken into custody to prevent them from acting in any manner that is prejudicial to “the security of the state or the maintenance of the public order”.
 - By definition, preventive detention is meant to be preventive, not punitive.
 - This broad definition is the most common ground used by a law enforcement agency when it slaps the PSA on an individual.
- Key Provisions:
 - The act allows detention for up to two years without a trial. Hence statement 1 is correct.
 - It comes into force when the Divisional Commissioner or the District Magistrate passes an administrative order.
 - After the amendments to the PSA in 2012, the detention of a person under 18 was strictly prohibited under this Act. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- Arbitrariness:
 - PSA is used arbitrarily against activists, journalists and separatists who are considered a threat to law and order without giving the opportunity to reconsider.
 - The Act does not distinguish between Minor and Major Offences. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
 - Detaining authority need not disclose any facts about the detention

102. [ANS] c

[SOL] Electronic Media:

- Today news channels are governed by mechanisms of self-regulation.
- One such mechanism has been created by the News Broadcasters Association (NBA).
 - The NBA has devised a Code of Ethics to regulate television content.
 - The News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA), of the NBA, is empowered to warn, admonish, censure, express disapproval and fine the broadcaster a sum up to Rs. 1 lakh for violation of the Code. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- Another such organisation is the Broadcast Editors’ Association.
 - The Advertising Standards Council of India has also drawn up guidelines on the content of advertisements.
- These groups govern through agreements and do not have any statutory powers. Hence statement 1 is incorrect and 2 is correct.

103. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, India is preparing to auction off about 72 GHz of airwaves to roll out 5G services in the country.

Statement 1 is not correct: 5G has low latency when compared to 4G which will support new applications such as AI, IoT, and virtual reality efficiently. It enables mobile phone users to open a web page and browse things without any hassles.

Statement 2 is correct: Low latency of 5G increases the bandwidth that will help transfer the data as soon as possible. Mobile phone users can ensure a faster connection with more bandwidth after choosing a 5G network.

104. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, a study by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) on snow leopards has thrown up interesting insights into the elusive mountain cat and its prey species.

- International Snow Leopard Day is observed on 23rd October.
- Aim: To raise awareness of the conservation and protection of snow leopards.
- Background: The day commemorates the anniversary of the Bishkek Declaration and celebrates this endangered cat and raises awareness for its conservation and protection.
 - It was in 2013 when political leaders from 12 countries came together to endorse the 'Bishkek Declaration on the conservation of snow leopards.

105. [ANS] d

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

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

106. [ANS] b

[SOL] More than 1,500 animals, mainly cows and buffaloes, have died in Gujarat due to the infectious lumpy skin disease, which has spread in 14 districts of the State.

Statements 1 and 3 are not correct : Lumpy Skin Disease is caused by infection of cattle or buffalo with the poxvirus Lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV).

- The virus is one of three closely related species within the genus capripoxvirus, the other two species being Sheeppox virus and Goatpox virus.
- Historically, LSD has remained confined to Africa, where it was first discovered in 1929, and parts of West Asia.
- LSD was first reported in Asia and the Pacific region in 2019 in north west China, Bangladesh and India.

Statement 2 is correct :

- The LSD virus easily spreads by blood-sucking insects like mosquitoes, flies and ticks and through saliva and contaminated water and food.

107. [ANS] d

[SOL] Tunisian President Kais Saied is set to secure more power under a new constitution that is expected to pass in a referendum.

Option d is correct: The first demonstrations took place in central Tunisia in December 2010, catalysed by the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi, a 26-year-old street vendor protesting his treatment by local officials.

- A protest movement, dubbed the “Jasmine Revolution” in the media, quickly spread through the country.

108. [ANS] c

[SOL] National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe):

- About:
 - It is an autonomous and single window nodal agency in the Department of Space for the promotion, encouragement and regulation of space activities of both government and private entities. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- Mandate and responsibilities:
 - It is mandated the task of promoting, authorising and licensing private players to carry out space activities.
 - It is responsible for devising mechanisms to offer sharing of technology, expertise facilities free of cost (if feasible) to promote non-government private entities (NGPEs).
- IN-SPACe’s Monitoring and Promotion Directorate:
 - It oversees NGPE’s activities as per prescribed regulations and reports back in case any corrective actions or resolutions are required.
- ISRO facilities:
 - ISRO shares its expertise in matters pertaining to quality and reliability protocols, documentation and testing procedure through IN-SPACe’s ‘interface mechanism’.
 - It also facilitates the usage of ISRO facilities by private entities. Hence statement 2 is correct.

109. [ANS] c

[SOL] China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

- About:
 - The CPEC is a collection of infrastructure projects that have been under construction throughout Pakistan beginning 2013.
 - The CPEC is part of China's larger Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to spread Chinese investments in trade and connectivity infrastructure to bring Central Asian and European markets closer. Hence statement (b) is correct.
 - New Delhi has protested the project from its inception since it passes through large chunks of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

- Details:
 - The CPEC is a 3,000 km route of infrastructure projects that seek to create a series of contiguous economic and trade hubs with road and rail infrastructure. Hence statement (a) is correct.
 - It will link places like China's restive western province of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and the new Gwadar port in Pakistan's equally unquiet Balochistan state. Hence statement (c) is incorrect.
- Mutual Benefit for China and Pakistan:
 - For China, the project will bypass the Strait of Malacca, which can be a choke point in case of a conflict with the US or other adversaries.
 - On the other hand, Pakistan expects CPEC to be a lifeline for its deteriorating economy, leading to a multiplier effect on production and employment generation and sustainable economic growth.

110. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, it was the 53rd anniversary of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi nationalising 14 banks.

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

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

111. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Ahmedabad Railway Station at Kalupur in Ahmedabad City will be developed on the theme of Modhera Sun Temple in the next five years.

Statement 1 is not correct :Modhera Sun Temple is located in Mehsana, neighbouring Ahmedabad district of Gujarat .Situated on the banks of Pushpavati River.

Statement 2 is correct : Built in the 11th century during the Chalukya dynasty in honour of the Sun God, it is one of the major tourist destinations in North Gujarat.

- It is surrounded by a terra-formed garden of flowering trees and songs of birds.
- The remains of the Sun Temples at Modhera are relics of times gone by when reverence of the natural elements fire, air, earth, water and sky were at their peak sharing space with myriad manifestations of Vedic gods.

112. [ANS] a

[SOL] The Model Tenancy Act

- Agreement & Security deposits:
 - The Model Act requires the landlord and tenant to sign a written agreement which specifies the rent, period of tenancy and other related terms.
 - Security deposit is capped at two months' rent for residential premises, and six months' rent for non-residential premises.
 - The Act provides a model for urban & rural properties & templates for residential & commercial properties.

- Applicability:
 - It will apply to future transactions & take people from informal to specific contract arrangements b/w landlord & tenant.
 - The Act will apply to premises let out for residential, commercial or educational use, but not for industrial use. Hence option 1, 2 and 3 are correct and 4 is incorrect.
 - It also won't cover hotels, lodging houses, inns, etc. Hence option 5 is incorrect.
 - This model law will be applied prospectively and will not affect existing tenancies.

113. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, India has designated five new wetlands of international importance, taking the total number of Ramsar sites in the country to 54.

- The new sites are:
 - Karikili Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu,
 - Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest in Tamil Nadu,
 - Pichavaram Mangrove Forest in Tamil Nadu, Hence statement 2 is correct.
 - Pala wetland in Mizoram,
 - Sakhya Sagar in Madhya Pradesh.

Pichavaram Mangrove Forest:

- Pichavaram is a village near Chidambaram in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, India. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
- It is located between the Vellar estuary in the north and Coleroon estuary in the south.
- The Vellar-Coleroon estuarine complex forms the Killai backwater and the mangroves that are permanently rooted in a few feet of water.

Statement 3 is incorrect. World Network of Biosphere Reserves (Man and Biosphere Reserve). Presently, there are 18 notified biosphere reserves in India and Pichavaram is not part of it.

114. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, Scientists from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) released the first pieces of the multispectral maps made by the Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars (CRISM).

- Launch: It was launched in 2005 and reached Mars in 2006.
- NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) has been mapping minerals on the red planet for the last 16 years with the help of CRISM.
 - CRISM is a visible-infrared spectrometer whose primary goal is to look for mineralogical evidence for past water on the surface and subsurface of Mars.
- Aim: To search for evidence that water persisted on the surface of Mars for long periods of time.
 - These studies are identifying deposits of minerals that may have formed in water over long periods of time, looking for evidence of shorelines of ancient seas and lakes, and analysing deposits placed in layers over time by flowing water.

- Access: Anyone can access these maps from NASA's 'Planetary Data System website'.
 - It has managed to map 86 percent of Mars' surface with its multispectral mode, detecting nearly all of the minerals on the surface.
- Hyper spectral mode: The coverage goal for the multispectral mode was 80 percent owing to the limited lifetime of the coolers needed by its infrared detector. But it has managed to exceed that goal.
 - The hyper spectral mode, which uses the wavelengths from the visible and near-infrared (VNIR) detector, doesn't require cryogenic cooling and has attained more than 99 percent coverage.

115. [ANS] d

[SOL] Thiruvalluvar is regarded as a cultural icon by Tamils.

- Multiple accounts regarding Thiruvalluvar are available but little is known about his family background, religious affiliation or birthplace. He has influenced a wide range of scholars through the years in disciplines like ethics, politics, economics, philosophy and spirituality.
- His most popular work is Thirukkural, a collection of couplets on ethics, politics, economy and love.
 - Tirukkural is considered a very important text in Tamil literature.
- In the early 16th century, a temple dedicated to Thiruvalluvar was built within the Ekambareswarar temple complex in Mylapore, Chennai.
 - Locals believe that this was where he was born, underneath a tree within the temple complex.

116. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the union environment ministry's expert appraisal committee (EAC) on Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) matters has given its go-ahead for the construction of an 8,100km-long undersea, transnational fibre optic cable system connecting Mumbai to Singapore, via Chennai.

- Project: The MIST is an international submarine cable communication network that will traverse undersea to connect India with countries such as Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.
- Aim: It will provide secure, reliable, robust and affordable telecom facilities in Asia with the main trunk route being from Tuas in Singapore to Mumbai in India.
- NEC Corp: The project is officially known as the Myanmar/Malaysia-India-Singapore Transit (MIST) Submarine Cable System and is being executed by the global technology provider NEC Corp.

117. [ANS] c

[SOL] Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar

- It is a 75 days-long coastal clean-up campaign for cleaning at least 75 beaches along the Indian coast.
- It started July 5, 2022, and will culminate on September 17, 2022, on 'International Coastal Clean Up Day'.

- The activity is being organised by MoES jointly with the Indian Coast Guard, MoEF&CC, MoYAS, NDMA, Paryavaran Sanrakshan Gatividhi, other government departments, voluntary organisations, the public and students.
- The steps/initiatives would include support for awareness campaigns, competitions, and workshops/seminars on the issues through Earth Day, Ocean Day, and other such occasions in schools, colleges and universities.

Eco Mitram

- A mobile app “Eco Mitram” has been launched to spread awareness about the campaign and also for the common people to voluntary registration for the beach cleaning activity on the 17th of September 2022.

118. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Lieutenant Governor told the Assembly Speaker of Delhi to Comply with the new Government of National Capital Territory (GNCT) of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021.

Statement 1 is correct: Article 239AA provides that the Union Territory of Delhi be called the National Capital Territory of Delhi and its administrator shall be known as Lt. Governor.

Statement 2 is correct: Article 239AB provides that the President may by order suspend the operation of any provision of Article 239AA or of all or any of the provisions of any law made in pursuance of that article. This provision resembles Article 356 (President’s Rule).

119. [ANS] b

[SOL] Financial Intelligence Unit – India:

- It was set by the Government of India vide O.M. dated 18th November 2004 as the central national agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions.
- It collects financial intelligence about offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Hence statement 1 is correct.
 - The Act empowers the Director of FIU-IND to impose fines on banking companies, financial institutions or intermediaries if they or any of its officers fails to comply with the provisions of the Act. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- FIU-IND is also responsible for coordinating and strengthening efforts of national and international intelligence, investigation and enforcement agencies in pursuing the global efforts against money laundering and related crimes.
- FIU-IND is an independent body reporting directly to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) headed by the Finance Minister. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

120. [ANS] c

[SOL] The Dahla Dam, also known as Arghandab Dam is located in the Shah Wali Kot District of Kandahar Province in Afghanistan.

It was constructed in 1952 by the USA on the Arghandab River.

121. [ANS] b

[SOL] About Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002

- About:
 - It was enacted in January 2003 and the Act along with the Rules framed thereunder has come into force with effect from 1st July 2005.

- The Parliament enacted the PMLA as a result of international commitment to sternly deal with the menace of money laundering of proceeds of a crime having transnational consequences and on the financial systems of the countries
- Power to Enforcement Directorate (ED):
 - The Act gives the government and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) virtually unbridled powers of summons, arrest, and raids.
 - Despite having powers of investigation, the ED has not been classified as a 'police agency'. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
 - Besides, there is a lack of clarity about the ED's selection of cases to investigate.
- Bails & the burden of proof:
 - It makes bail nearly impossible while shifting the burden of proof of innocence on to the accused rather than the prosecution. Hence statement 2 is correct.
 - The Court made it clear that the State has a compelling interest in imposing stringent bail conditions for economic offences.

122. [ANS] d

[SOL] Mission Pariwar Vikas:

- For improved access to contraceptives and family planning services in high fertility districts spreading over seven high-focus states, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched "Mission Pariwar Vikas" in 2016.
 - Mission Parivar Vikas (MPV) has given further impetus to the National Family Planning Program.
- A special focus has been given to 146 high fertility Districts of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Jharkhand,
- Goal:
 - Its overall goal is to reduce India's overall fertility rate to 2.1 by the year 2025
- Under Mission Parivar Vikas (MPV), innovative strategies like the distribution of Nayi Pehel kits, Saas Bahu Sammelan, and Saarthi vans are helping in reaching out to the community and initiating dialogues on Family Planning and healthy birth spacing, and the importance of small families.

123. [ANS] c

[SOL] Swami Vivekananda was born on 12th January 1863 in a Bengali family in Calcutta and was originally named Narendranath Datta.

- In 1893, he took the name 'Vivekananda' after Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State requested him to do so, changing from 'Sachidananda' that he used before. He was one of India's greatest spiritual leaders and inspired the youth of India to become better, leading a life of purity and setting an example for the world.
 - Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called him the "Maker of Modern India".
- He played an important role in introducing the philosophies of Yoga and Vedanta to the West. He preached 'neo-Vedanta', an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens and believed in combining spirituality with material progress. In his honour, the Government of India in 1984 declared his birthday National Youth Day.

- He is best known for his speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893.
 - He started the speech with the opening remarks, "My brothers and sisters of America" and covered topics including universal acceptance, tolerance and religion.
 - He began delivering lectures at various places in the US and UK and became popular as the 'Messenger of Indian Wisdom to the Western World'.

124. [ANS] c

[SOL] International Tiger Day is celebrated every year on 29th July.

Statement 1 is correct: Currently, India has the largest tiger population in the world. It is the home for nearly 3000 tigers.

Statement 2 is correct: The largest tiger reserve in India is the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve. Located in the Nallamala forest, the reserve spreads over five districts, Kurnool District, Prakasam District, Guntur District, Nalgonda District and Mahabub Nagar district, with an area of 3,728 sq.

125. [ANS] a

[SOL] World Hepatitis Day is celebrated on July 29th, every year.

Statement 1 is correct: Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that is caused by a variety of infectious viruses and noninfectious agents leading to a range of health problems, some of which can be fatal.

Statement 2 is not correct: Hepatitis E: Currently, no specific medical therapies are available to treat hepatitis E. Because the infection is often acute, it typically resolves on its own. Doctors will typically advise people with this infection to get adequate rest, drink plenty of fluids, get enough nutrients, and avoid alcohol. However, pregnant women who develop this infection require close monitoring and care.

126. [ANS] c

[SOL]

Statement 1 is correct: The 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 and 3 are not correct: In India, the first official attempt to compute the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was made much earlier than the first recommendation on the subject came at the international level.

- With the inception of the Central Statistical Organization (now known as the National Statistics Office (NSO)) in 1951, the responsibility for compilation and publication of IIP was vested with it.
- IIP index is currently calculated using 2011-2012 as the base year.

127. [ANS] d

[SOL] option d is correct: It is a fat soluble, brick red dye that is used in combination with other agents in the therapy of leprosy.

- Clofazimine, by itself, has not been associated with serum aminotransferase elevations during therapy or to instances of clinically apparent acute liver injury.

128. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is incorrect.

- India's upcoming Presidency:
 - India will take over the SCO Presidency in 2023.
 - India will also host the upcoming SCO Summit in 2023, which will be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

- Iran has also approached the SCO with a proposal to create a new single currency for carrying out trade among SCO members, in a push to counter the increasing weaponization of the US dollar-dominated global financial system.
- 2021 SCO summit in Dushanbe agreed for Iran to join.

129. [ANS] c

[SOL] WhistleBlowers Protection Act, 2014

- Objective:
 - The Act seeks to protect whistleblowers, i.e. persons making a public interest disclosure related to an act of corruption, misuse of power, or criminal offense by a public servant.
- Role of Central & State Vigilance Commission:
 - Any public servant or any other person including a non-governmental organization may make such a disclosure to the Central or State Vigilance Commission.
- Identity of the complainant and its disclosure:
 - Every complaint has to include the identity of the complainant. Hence statement (a) is incorrect.
 - The Vigilance Commission shall not disclose the identity of the complainant except to the head of the department if deemed necessary.
 - The Act penalizes any person who has disclosed the identity of the complainant.
- False complaints:
 - The Act prescribes penalties for knowingly making false complaints. Hence statement (b) is incorrect.
- 2015 Amendment to the Whistle Blowers Protection Act:
 - The Act now prohibits the reporting of a corruption-related disclosure if it falls under any 10 categories of information given by the amendment.
 - These categories broadly include information related to:
 - Economic, scientific interests and the security of India;
 - Cabinet proceedings, Hence statement (c) is correct.
 - Intellectual property;
 - That received in a fiduciary capacity, etc.

130. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is planning to replace the 80-year-old Coffee Act with the new Coffee (Promotion and Development Bill), 2022.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Government of India established the 'Coffee Board' through a constitutional act "Coffee Act VII of 1942" under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Board comprises 33 members including the Chairman and the Secretary & Chief Executive Officer. The remaining 31 members represent the various interests such as coffee growing industry, coffee trade interests, curing establishments, interests of labour and consumers, representatives of governments of the principal coffee growing states, and Members of Parliament.

Statement 2 is correct: After pooling was discontinued in 1996, Coffee Board serves as the friend, philosopher and guide to the Coffee sector covering the entire value chain. The core activities are primarily directed towards research & development, transfer of technology, quality improvement, extending development support to growing sectors, promotion of coffee in export and domestic markets. The activities of the Board are broadly aimed at-

- (i) enhancement of production, productivity & quality;
- (ii) export promotion for achieving higher value returns for Indian Coffee and
- (iii) supporting development of the Domestic market.

