

1. The term 'HRMN 99', recently seen in the news, is related to:

- (a) Animal
- (b) Bird
- (c) Fruit
- (d) Disease

2. Consider the following territories which became the integral part of India after 15th August, 1947:

- 1. Goa
- 2. Sikkim
- 3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
- 4. Pondicherry

Which of the following is the correct chronological order (beginning with the earliest) of their becoming part of India?

- (a) 1-2-3-4
- (b) 3-2-1-4
- (c) 3-1-4-2
- (d) 1-3-4-2

3. YUVA Programme, recently seen in news, is related to:

- (a) Skill development project for the youth under age 35
- (b) Creating awareness among the adults related to diverse cultures of states
- (c) Author mentorship programme to train young and budding authors
- (d) Strengthening e-learning infrastructure among the educational institutes

4. With reference to the Chief Secretary of State, consider the following statements:

- 1. He/she is the Chairman of State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA).
- 2. The tenure of Chief Secretary is fixed by an executive order.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Endosulfan, frequently seen in the news, is:

- (a) a fertiliser
- (b) an insecticide
- (c) a drug for diabetes
- (d) a herbicide

6. With reference to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a non-statutory body.
- 2. The chairperson of NHRC is the Prime Minister of India .

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

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

7. What is the purpose of the 'evolved Laser interferometer Space Antenna (eLISA)' project?

- (a) To detect neutrinos
- (b) To gravitational waves
- (c) To detect the effectiveness of missile defence system
- (d) To study the effect of solar flares on our communication systems

8. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Government e-Marketplace (GeM) recently seen in the news?

- 1. It operates under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- 2. It ensures public procurement of goods and services in India (done by government bodies) worth more than Rs. 5 lakh crore annually.

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

9. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative:

- 1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- 2. It establishes an ecosystem for the production of Compressed BioGas from various waste and biomass sources in the country.

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

**10.** Recently, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was seen in the news, it is a

- (a) Statutory body
- (b) Constitutional body
- (c) Quasi-judicial body
- (d) Judicial body

**11.** With reference to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a permanent intergovernmental organisation preceded by the Shanghai Five mechanism.
- 2. Its chairmanship rotates on a biannual basis.
- 3. India, Pakistan and Afghanistan are observer states.

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

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

**12.** Banrawats, recently seen in the news, is an endangered tribe from which of the following states?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Rajasthan

**13.** With reference to the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an advanced nuclear fission experimental research device.
- 2. It is part of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor facility.

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

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

**14.** Recently, World Health Organisation (WHO) validated the Sinovac-CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, it is produced by

- (a) Russia
- (b) Singapore
- (c) Saudi Arabia

(d) China

**15.** Consider the following statements with reference to H10N3 bird flu recently seen in the news

1. It causes relatively less severe disease in poultry.
2. Human-to-human transmission is very high.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**16.** With reference to the SAGE Project, consider the following statement:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It aims to select, support and create a one-stop access of elderly care products and services by start-ups.

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.** Tulsa Race Massacre, recently seen in the news, took place in which state of the USA?

- (a) Oklahoma
- (b) Florida
- (c) Utah
- (d) Montana

**18.** With reference to the India Cycles4Change challenge, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.
2. The India Programme of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy is its knowledge partner.
3. All cities with a population of more than 1 lakh can participate.

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

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

**19.** With reference to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:

1. It provides only technical assistance to its members for social and economic development.
2. China holds the largest proportion of shares in ADB.

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

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

**20.** Consider the following statements with reference to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) :

- 1. It was created at the Yalta Conference in September 1960.
- 2. It ensures fair and stable prices for petroleum producers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**21.** With reference to the Blue-Finned Mahseer, consider the following statement:

- 1. It is mainly found in the rivers of the Deccan Plateau.
- 2. It is a migratory species which moves upstream during rains.
- 3. It is classified as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

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

**22.** Devika river, recently seen in the news, merges with which of the following rivers?

- (a) Chenab
- (b) Jhelum
- (c) Beas
- (d) Ravi

**23.** With reference to the Disaster Management Act, 2005, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was invoked for the first time in India during the tsunami of 2004.
- 2. Violations of Section 51 (b) can lead to imprisonment, extendable to one year only.

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

**24.** With reference to the variant Delta variant (B.1.617.2) of SARS-CoV-2 consider the following statement:

1. It is more transmissible than contemporary lineages.
2. The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) categorised it as a Variant of Concern (VOC).

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

**25.** Consider the following statements with reference to the Discovery Program recently seen in the news

1. It was launched by European Space Agency (ESA).
2. It advances scientific knowledge and exploration of the elements of the Solar System.

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

**26.** Consider the following statements:

1. Saltwater Crocodiles are the largest living crocodiles on the Earth.
2. They can be found in brackish and freshwater regions of eastern India, Southeast Asia and northern Australia.
3. Odisha is the only state in India where all of the crocodile species can be found.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**27.** 'I-Familia' is a database to identify missing persons through family DNA. It has been launched by which of the following organisations?

- (a) United Nations Police
- (b) International Association of Chiefs of Police
- (c) International Criminal Police Organization
- (d) Central Bureau of Investigation

**28.** 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) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**29. Consider the followings :**

1. World Energy Outlook
2. Energy Technology Perspectives
3. World Energy Balances
4. World Energy Investment report

Which of the following reports is /are published by the International Energy Agency (IEA)?

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

**30.** Recently Burkina Faso was seen in the news, it shares borders with which of the following countries ?

- (a) Algeria
- (b) Libya
- (c) Chad
- (d) Benin

**31.** The Raimona National Park has been in the news recently. It is situated in?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Assam
- (c) Nagaland
- (d) Tripura

**32.** With reference to Ethanol, consider the following statements:

1. Ethanol is an organic chemical compound.
2. It can only be naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts.
3. It is considered as a renewable fuel.
4. India aims for 20 per cent ethanol-blended fuel by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

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

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

**33.** Lynetteholm Island, recently seen in the news, is an artificial island off the coast of Copenhagen. It is located near which of the following water bodies?

- (a) Black Sea
- (b) North Sea
- (c) Baltic Sea
- (d) Mediterranean Sea

**34.** With reference to Alzheimer's Disease, consider the following statements:

1. It is a progressive and irreversible brain disorder.
2. It disrupts neurotransmitters leading to cognitive decline.
3. It is curable by the Aducanumab drug.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**35.** With reference to the Performance Grading Index (PGI), consider the following statements:

1. PGI with a set of 70 parameters and 3 domains works to catalyse transformational change in the field of school education.
2. It is released by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**36.** Recently, T478K seen in the news, it is related to:

- (a) Asteroid
- (b) Mountain Peak
- (c) New variant of COVID-19
- (d) Supercomputer

**37.** With reference to the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner has more say in the decision making of the Commission among the Election Commissioners.
2. The decisions of the ECI can be challenged in the High Court and the Supreme Court of India.
3. In respect of election for the office of the President of India, review petitions can only be filed before the High Court.

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



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

**38.** With reference to Chhatrapati Shivaji, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. He ruled contemporary to the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.
2. He appointed a Council of Ministers for advice on the matters of the state.
3. He promoted the usage of Marathi, Sanskrit as well as Persian.
4. He built India's first-ever navy in the modern era.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**39.** Sea of Marmara, recently seen in the news, connects which of the following water bodies?

- (a) Black Sea and Aegean Sea
- (b) Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
- (c) North Sea and Baltic Sea
- (d) Caspean Sea and Adriatic Sea

**40.** With reference to the Bose-Einstein Condensation (BEC), consider the following statements:

1. Under it, particles become locked together in the lowest quantum state of the system at sufficiently low temperatures.
2. The phenomenon only happens to Boson particles.

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.** India signed over- ₹ 16,000 crore deal to buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from which of the following countries?

- (a) France
- (b) Israel
- (c) Russia
- (d) United States of America

**42.** With reference to Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 consider the following statements:

1. The urban local bodies (ULBs) should ban less than 50 micron thick plastic bags.

2. It allows usage of recycled plastics for packing food, beverage or any other eatables.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**43.** With reference to the United Nations Global Compact Initiative, consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to encourage businesses to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies.
- 2. Its suggestions are binding on the participating countries.
- 3. India is a part of the initiative.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**44.** With reference to Carbon Nanotubes (CNTs), consider the following statements:

- 1. These are cylindrical molecules consisting of a hexagonal arrangement of hybridized carbon atoms.
- 2. All kinds of CNTs are superconductors of electricity.
- 3. They are chemically stable and can resist chemical impacts on them.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**45.** Operation Pangea XIV, recently seen in the news, is related to?

- (a) Identifying missing persons globally
- (b) Curbing sale of fake and illicit medicines
- (c) Improving water and sanitation agendas
- (d) Cleaning the Sea Snot

**46.** Consider the following statements:

- 1. CAR T-cell therapy targets leukaemia and lymphoma.
- 2. CAR T-cells are genetically engineered to produce natural T-cell receptors.
- 3. In India, lentiviral technology is used while administering the therapy.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only

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

**47.** With reference to Sclater's Monal, consider the following statements:

1. The mid-altitude bird can be seen frequently below 1,500 metres.
2. In India, it can only be found in Arunachal Pradesh.
3. It has been classified as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**48.** Pakke Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

**49.** With reference to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), consider the following statements:

1. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It promotes women empowerment by providing the ownership of houses in the name of female members.

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.** CORPAT Exercise, recently seen in the news, is held bi-annually between which of the following countries?

- (a) Japan and China
- (b) Russia and Pakistan
- (c) Sri Lanka and Maldives
- (d) India and Thailand

**51.** Consider the followings:

1. Ease of Doing Business
2. World Development Report

3. Global Economic Prospects

4. Global Gender Gap Report

Which of the following reports is/are released by the World Bank?

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

**52.** With reference to Index of Industrial Production, consider the following statements:

- 1. It shows the growth rates and performance of different sectors of industry in the economy.
- 2. It is compiled and published yearly by the Central Statistical Organisation.

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

**53.** With reference to Padma Awards, consider the following statement:

- 1. The awards are presented by the Prime Minister of India.
- 2. The award does not amount to a title.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**54.** The term 'dendrochronology', recently seen in the news, is a method of determining the age of:

- (a) Pottery
- (b) Fossils
- (c) Trees
- (d) Planets

**55.** With reference to the Global Liveability Index, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is released by the United Nations Development Programme.
- 2. It examines cities based on stability, healthcare, education and infrastructure.
- 3. It does not quantify the challenges presented to an individual's lifestyle in the past year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**56.** With reference to Olive Ridley Turtles, consider the following statements:

1. Their habit of mass nesting is called arribadas.
2. In India, their nests can be found only on the Odisha coast.
3. They are protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
4. Indian Coast Guard carries out Operation Olivia for their protection while nesting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**57.** The deal for Kanopus--V Satellite, recently seen in the news, has been finalised between which of the following countries?

- (a) Russia and Iran
- (b) China and Pakistan
- (c) USA and Israel
- (d) India and Bangladesh

**58.** With reference to Semiconductors, consider the following statements:

1. These are crystalline solids intermediates between a conductor and an insulator.
2. All semiconductors can become superconductors, at low temperatures.
3. Cadmium sulfide is an example of semiconductors.

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

**59.** Consider the following statement with reference to Monoclonal antibody:

1. It occurs naturally and targets one specific antigen.
2. It is to be given only to mild COVID-19 patients who are not requiring oxygen.

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

**60.** With reference to Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme consider the following statements :

1. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has been administering the FAME India Scheme.

2. It promotes the manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicle(xEVs) technology .

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

**61.** EnVision Mission recently announced by which of the following agencies?

- (a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA)
- (b) European Space Agency(ESA)
- (c) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency(JAXA)
- (d) Indian Space Research Organisation(ISRO)

**62.** Consider the following statement with reference to Anchor Investors :

1. They are institutional investors who are invited to subscribe the shares after the Initial Public Offers (IPOs).

2. They are required to take up the share at a fixed price to make other investors confident.

3. They are not allowed to sell shares for at least 30 days after the allotment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**63.** Recently, Jiyo Parsi Scheme was seen in the news, it was formulated by

- (a) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)
- (b) Ministry of Minority Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

**64.** With reference to Dalbergia latifolia species of Rosewood, consider the following statements:

1. It occurs in deciduous tropical and subtropical forests with deep, well-drained and moist soils.

2. It is native to India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

3. Its coloured and fragrant timber is used to make musical instruments.

4. It is protected under the Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**65.** With reference to the iDEX Challenge, consider the following statements;

1. It was established by the Department of Science and Technology.
2. It promotes innovation and indigenisation in the aerospace at start-up level.
3. It is funded and managed by a Defence Innovation Organisation.

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

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

**66.** With reference to the Raja Parba Festival, consider the following statements:

1. It is observed in the Indian state of Assam.
2. It aims to combat prejudices around the menstrual cycle and celebrates a girl's womanhood.

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 Consumer Price Index, consider the following statements:

1. It monitors retail prices at a certain level for a particular commodity at all-India levels.
2. It gives an idea of the cost of the standard of living and helps understand the purchasing power of the nation's currency.
3. It is calculated by multiplying 100 to the fraction of the cost price of the current period and the base period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**68.** Jivan Vayu, recently seen in the news, is a?

- (a) Indigenously developed Covid-19 kits
- (b) Oxygen support for manned missions to space
- (c) Continuous Positive Airway Pressure device
- (d) Initiative to control air pollution

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**70.** With reference to ALLIANCE 8.7, consider the following statements:

1. It is a global partnership for eradicating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour around the world.
2. UNICEF currently serves as Secretariat for Alliance 8.7.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**71.** With reference to Forex Reserves, consider the following statements:

1. They are assets held by the Central Bank in foreign currencies as reserves.
2. India's Forex Reserves include Foreign Currency Assets and Gold Reserves only.

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

**72.** With reference to the Atlantic Charter, consider the following statements:

1. It was a joint declaration signed by the Prime Ministers of Italy and Britain in 1941.
2. It aimed to promote worldwide collaboration for better labour standards and economic progress.

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.** With reference to New Shephard, consider the following statements:

1. It is a rocket system which will take space tourists past the Karman line.
2. It has been fully developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
3. The rocket can perform an autonomously controlled vertical landing back to Earth.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only



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

74. Ballooning, recently seen in the news, is a survival tactic used by which of the following animals?

- (a) Butterflies
- (b) Squirrels
- (c) Bats
- (d) Spiders

75. With reference to the Generalised Scheme of Preference, consider the following statements:

1. It was instituted under the aegis of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
2. All countries of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue can grant GSP.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

76. With reference to Gelatin Sticks, consider the following statements:

1. They are cheap explosive materials used by industries for the purpose of mining.
2. They can be used without a detonator.

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. Recently, Jalgaon district was seen in the news, it is located in?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Goa
- (d) Maharashtra

78. With reference to the WISA Woodsat satellite Consider the following statements

1. It will test the applicability of wooden materials.
2. It will orbit at around 500-600 km altitude in a roughly polar Sun-synchronous orbit.

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

**79.** With reference to the International Seabed Authority (ISA), consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous international organisation under the United Nations.
2. All States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea are ipso facto members of ISA.
3. It is empowered to allot ocean areas for exploitation of Polymetallic Nodules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**80.** With reference to the SilverLine Project, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to link all major tourist locations of South India with a semi high-speed railway corridor.
2. It is being executed by the Union Ministry of Railways.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**81.** With reference to the Competition Commission of India, Consider the following statements

1. It is a quasi-judicial body.
2. It prevents activities that have an adverse effect on competition in India.

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

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

**82.** Consider the followings:

1. Japan
2. France
3. Spain
4. Italy

Which of the following countries is /are participating in the EUNAVFOR exercise?

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

**83.** With reference to EQUIP Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Department of Science & Technology (DST).
2. It is aimed at ushering transformation in India's higher education system during 2020-2025.

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

**84.** Recently, Lothal was seen in the news, it is situated in

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Punjab

**85.** With reference to Census in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is conducted every ten years by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
2. The decennial Census of India has been conducted 16 times till date.

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

**86.** The Mekedatu dam project, recently seen in the news, is being constructed across which of the following rivers?

- (a) Ganga
- (b) Mahanadi
- (c) Cauvery
- (d) Godawari

**87.** With reference to the NISHTHA Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is launched under the Centrally sector Scheme of Samagra Shiksha.
2. It is the world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind.

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

**88.** With reference to periodical cicadas, consider the following statements:

1. In any given place, they come out only once every 13 or 17 years.
2. They spend most of their lives underground and feed on root xylem.

3. These are not found in the Indian subcontinent.

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

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

**89.** With reference to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a rare but severe zoonotic disease.
- 2. Inmazeb and Ebanga are monoclonal antibodies approved for its treatment.

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

**90.** Strategy 2030, sometimes seen in the news, is long-term corporate strategy by?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) Asian Development Bank
- (c) International Monetary Fund
- (d) World Bank Group

**91.** With reference to Black Softshell Turtle, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a rare saltwater species of turtles.
- 2. It is confined only to northeastern India and Bangladesh.
- 3. Inbreeding depression is a major threat to semi-captive subpopulations.
- 4. It is protected under Schedule I of Indian Wildlife Protection Act.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**92.** With reference to turbidity current, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a rapid, downhill flow of sediment-laden water.
- 2. It is caused when mud and sand on the continental shelf are loosened.
- 3. It cannot be measured by satellite imagery.

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

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**93.** With reference to the Indira Gandhi Canal, consider the following statements?

1. It originates at the Harike barrage at the confluence of Sutlej and Beas.
2. In Rajasthan, it passes through Hanumangarh, Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**94.** With reference to the Nipah virus, consider the following statements:

1. It is a zoonotic virus and can also be transmitted through contaminated food.
2. Human-to-human transmission of the Nipah virus has not been reported yet.

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

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

**95.** All India House Price Index (HPI) is released by:

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- (c) State Bank of India
- (d) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

**96.** With reference to the Land for Life Award, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP10 in the Republic of Korea as part of the Changwon Initiative.
2. The UNCCD organizes the Land for Life Award every year.

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

**97.** Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the SVAMITVA scheme?

1. It is a Central Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
2. It provides the 'record of rights' to village household owners in rural areas and issuance of Property cards.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only

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

**98.** Yellow Gold 48, recently seen in the news, is a variety of?

- (a) Watermelon
- (b) Banana
- (c) Lemon
- (d) Cantaloupe

**99.** With reference to Rubber plants, consider the following statements:

1. It is a native of warm humid Amazon forests.
2. Growth of young rubber plants remains suspended during winters.

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.** With reference to Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), consider the following statements:

1. It functions under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
2. It is a non-statutory body formed by an executive resolution for regulating Genetically modified organisms 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

**101.** With reference to the Inter State Transmission System (ISTS), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a system for conveyance of electricity by transmission lines from one State to another.
2. Conveyance of electricity within the State is not incidental to such a system.
3. Only a Central Transmission Utility can own such a system.
4. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission determines the ISTS tariff.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**102.** Tax Inspectors without Borders Programme, recently seen in the news, is a joint initiative of?

- (a) UN Industrial Development Organization and International Labor Organization
- (b) World Bank and International Trade Centre
- (c) UN Development Programme and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- (d) International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization

**103.** With reference to Pygmy Hog, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an indicator species and is the smallest of the pig family.
- 2. Its only known population lives in Assam, India.
- 3. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies it as extinct in the wild.

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

**104.** With reference to Coral Reefs, consider the following statements:

- 1. The optimum temperature required for their growth is below 20 degree celsius.
- 2. Salinity negatively impacts the growth of corals.

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

**105.** With reference to Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), consider the following statements:

- 1. The scheme is for pregnant women and Lactating Mothers only.
- 2. It is a central Sector scheme.
- 3. It is eligible only for the first child of the family.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**106.** With reference to the Toycathon 2021, consider the following statements:

- 1. It gives an opportunity to Students, Teachers and Startups in the world to submit their innovative toys to win prizes worth Rs. 50 lakhs.
- 2. It is organised by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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

**107.** With reference to the Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project, consider the following statements

1. It is signed between the World Health Organisation and the Government of India.
2. It will strengthen the effectiveness of the state health insurance programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**108.** He was a 15th-century Indian mystic, social reformer and poet. He was one of the most influential saints. He was best known for his two-line couplets. His teachings openly ridiculed all forms of external worship of both Brahmanical Hinduism and Islam. According to him, every life has a relationship with two spiritual principles (Jivatma and Paramatma). His view about the moksha is that it is the process of uniting these two divine principles. He was

- (a) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
- (b) Namadeva
- (c) Tukaram
- (d) Kabir Das

**109.** With reference to Project Seabird, consider the following statements:

1. It is a naval infrastructure project located on the east coast of India.
2. Upon completion, it will be the largest such base east of the Suez Canal.
3. The Ministry of Defence is managing and overseeing the project.

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

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

**110.** With reference to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, consider the following statements:

1. It was established to help rebuild Europe after World War II.
2. It joins with the International Development Association to form the World Bank.

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

**111.** Poson Poya festival is related to which of the following countries?

- (a) India



- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Nepal

**112.** Consider the followings:

1. Ukraine
2. Russia
3. Turkey
4. Iran

Which of the following countries has /have shared borders with the Black Sea?

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

**113.** With reference to the International Labour Organisation, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was established by the Treaty of Versailles.
2. It is the only tripartite UN agency bringing together governments, employers and workers.
3. India is one of the founding members.
4. It releases the World Social Protection Report and the World of Work Report.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**114.** With reference to Saiga Antelope, consider the following statements:

1. It inhabits open dry steppe grasslands and semi-arid deserts of Central Asia.
2. The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List classifies it as Vulnerable.

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

**115.** Ambergris, recently seen in the news, is a solid waxy substance which is extensively used in perfume making. It is produced by?

- (a) Musk Deer
- (b) Agarwood
- (c) Sperm whales

(d) Rosewood

**116.** With reference to inflation, consider the following statements:

1. Core inflation includes food and energy prices.
  2. Headline inflation does not include food and energy prices because of their volatility
- 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

**117.** Nesher Ramla, recently seen in the news, is related to:

- (a) fossils of a kind of dinosaurs
- (b) a new kind of early human
- (c) a cave system found in South India
- (d) a place of worship related to the mythology of the Indian subcontinent

**118.** With reference to celestial bodies, consider the following statements:

1. Meteoroids are objects in space that range in size from dust grains to small asteroids.
2. When meteoroids enter Earth's atmosphere at high speed and burn up, the fireballs are called meteors.
3. When a meteoroid survives a trip through the atmosphere and hits the ground, it's called a meteorite.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**119.** With reference to International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), consider the following statements:

1. It provides India with an alternative route to the Suez Canal for connecting to Europe.
2. It is prone to increase carriage cost between India and Russia.

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

**120.** With reference to the SAGE Project, consider the following statement:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It aims to select, support and create one-stop access of elderly care products and services by start-ups.

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

**121.** With reference to National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), consider the following statements:

1. It is a technical agency under the Ministry of Defence.
2. It operates India's ocean surveillance ship named INS Dhruv, with the Indian Navy.

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.** With reference to National Statistics Day, consider the following statements:

1. Dadabhai Naoroji is considered the father of Indian Statistics.
2. The theme of Statistics day 2021 is Sustainable Development Goal-2.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**123.** With reference to “Kadaknath chicken ”, was seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. Kadaknath breed is especially famous in Maharashtra and was accorded Geographical Tag in 2017.
2. The breed is black in colour and reared by mainly Jhabua tribes.
3. It has a very high level of protein and fats along with other nutrients.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**124.** Consider the followings:

1. Ukraine
2. Russia
3. Turkey
4. Iran

Which of the following countries has /have shared borders with the Black Sea?

- (a) 1,2, and 3 only

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

**125.** Baihetan Dam was seen in the news recently, it is located in:

- (a) Iran
- (b) Egypt
- (c) China
- (d) Indonesia

**126.** Which of the following articles are correct?

1. Article 25: Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.
2. Article 26: Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any particular religion.
3. Article 27: Freedom to manage religious affairs.
4. Article 28: Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**127.** Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar was related to which of the following organisations/events?

1. Poona Pact
2. Surat Split
3. Kalaram Temple Movement
4. Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**128.** With reference to Blackhole, consider the following statements:

1. It is a region in space where the pulling force of gravity is so strong that neither matter nor light can escape.
2. This phenomenon occurs when a new star is forming.

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

**129.** Which of the following viruses causes Swine Flu?

- (a) H1N1
- (b) H5N1
- (c) H3N2

(d) H5N8

**130.** With reference to African Swine Fever, consider the following statements:

1. It only affects domestic pigs of all ages.

2. It is zoonotic in nature.

Which of the given above statements are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**1. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, a farmer from Himachal Pradesh has developed an innovative self-pollinating apple variety namely, HRMN 99. The variety has been named in the name of the farmer, Hariman Sharma. The farmer is known as the 'Apple man of India'.

In 2017, he had been conferred with a National award by the President of India

Commercial cultivation of this apple variety has been initiated in Manipur, Jammu, low lying areas of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka Chhattisgarh, and Telangana, and fruit setting has been expanded to 23 states & UTs so far. It can be grown in plain, tropical, and subtropical areas.

Does not require chilling hours for flowering and fruit setting.

**2. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] Option c is correct:** Goa, Daman and Diu liberated in 1961, Goa became a separate state in 1987. Pondicherry was acquired in 1954 and later became UT in 1962. Dadra and Nagar Haveli were liberated in 1954 and became UT in 1961. Sikkim became a protectorate after independence and by 36th CAA (1975) Sikkim became a full-fledged state of Indian Union.

**3. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] Option c is correct:** Recently, 'YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors' has been launched. YUVA stands for 'Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors'. It is a part of India@75 Project Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Implementation by: National Book Trust, Ministry of Education Aim: To encourage young writers to write about India's freedom struggle. It is an author mentorship programme to train young and budding authors below the age of 30.

**4. [ANS] d**

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

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

**5. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] Option B is correct:** Endosulfan is a highly toxic insecticide that produces tonic-clonic convulsions, headache, dizziness and ataxia. The toxicity of endosulfan is well known on non-target organisms and has been responsible for many severe poisonings, including several fatal cases. It can also cause life threatening metabolic disturbances. The Supreme Court banned the manufacture, sale, use and export of endosulfan throughout India, citing its harmful health effects.

6. **[ANS] c**

**[SOL] Statements 1 and 2 are not correct:** National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is a **statutory body**, constituted under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, to protect and promote human rights related to life, liberty, equality and dignity of individuals. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is composed of a Chairperson and eight other members.

The chairperson is retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.

Those eight members are: Four full-time members. Four deemed members.

The Commission shall have all the powers of a civil court namely: Summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them on oath; Discovery and production of any document; Receiving evidence on affidavits; Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office.

7. **[ANS] b**

**[SOL] Option B is correct:** eLISA aims to measure gravitational waves in the frequency range from 0.1mHz to about 100 mHz. Indian teams have worked on the theoretical aspects of eLISA: in the theoretical aspects of measurement of cosmological parameters; using eLISA to set constraints on the dark energy equation of state; developing techniques for time delay interferometry, and so on.

8. **[ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News :** The Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs called upon the Government **e-Marketplace (GeM)**, to expand its scope and include more participants in the GeM portal for public procurement.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** It was launched in 2016 and operates under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It has been developed by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposal (DGS&D) with technical support of the National E-Governance Division (NEGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It ensures that public procurement of goods and services in India (done by government bodies) worth more than Rs. 5 lakh crore annually is carried out through the online platform. The procurement of goods and services by ministries and the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is mandatory for goods and services available on GeM. The portal provides a wide range of products from office stationery to vehicles. Automobiles, computers and office furniture are currently the top product categories.

9. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct** :The initiative was launched in October 2018 by the Ministry of **Petroleum & Natural Gas** in association with Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

**Statement 2 is correct** : It is an initiative aimed at setting up of Compressed Biogas production plants and making them available in the market for use in automotive fuels by inviting Expression of Interest from potential entrepreneurs.

- It will **establish an ecosystem for the production of Compressed BioGas** from **various waste and biomass sources** in the country leading to multiple benefits viz. reduction of natural gas import, reduction of GHG emission, reduction in burning of agriculture residues, remunerative income to farmers, employment generation, effective waste management etc. The initiative is in line with the goals of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Swachh Bharat Mission and boosting the MSME sector.

10. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct**: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, an Act of Parliament (December 2005). It is a **statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development**. This commission has a chairperson and six members of which at least two should be women. The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

11. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct**: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation. Its creation was announced on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2001 in Shanghai (China) by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and was preceded by the Shanghai Five mechanism.

**Statement 2 is not correct**: Its chairmanship rotates on an annual basis and Tajikistan is the chair for 2021.

**Statement 3 is not correct**: India and Pakistan became members in 2017 and Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia are observer states.

12. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Option C is correct**: Banrawats are a native endangered tribe originating and living in Uttarakhand and also called Banrajis, Vanrawats, Vanrajis. They are basically nomadic hunter-gatherers but also work as agriculture and forest labourers and practise shifting cultivation. They speak Tibeto-Burman language generally called 'Rawat'.

**13. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) has set a new record after it ran at 120 million oC for 101 seconds.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** EAST is an advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device located at the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ASIPP) in Hefei, China. Fission is the splitting of a heavy, unstable nucleus into two lighter nuclei, and fusion is the process where two light nuclei combine together releasing vast amounts of energy, without generating large quantities of waste.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The EAST project is part of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) facility, which will become the world's largest nuclear fusion reactor when it becomes operational in 2035. ITER includes contributions from several countries like India, South Korea, Japan, Russia and the US.

**14. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] Option D is correct:** The World Health Organisation (WHO) validated the **Sinovac-CoronaVac** COVID-19 vaccine for **emergency use, giving countries**, funders, procuring agencies and communities the assurance that it meets **international standards** for safety, efficacy and manufacturing.

- The vaccine is produced by the **Beijing(China)-based pharmaceutical company Sinovac.**
- Sinovac-CoronaVac is an **inactivated vaccine**.
  - It works by using killed viral particles to expose the body's immune system to the virus without risking a serious disease response.
- Its easy storage **requirements make it very manageable** and particularly suitable for **low-resource settings**.
- In the case of the Sinovac-CoronaVac vaccine, the WHO assessment included **on-site inspections of the production facility**.
- WHO has already listed the Pfizer/BioNTech, Astrazeneca-SK Bio, Serum Institute of India, AstraZeneca EU, Janssen, Moderna and Sinopharm vaccines for emergency use.

**15. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News :**China has reported the first case of human infection with the H10N3 strain of bird flu from the country's eastern Jiangsu province.

**Statement 1 is correct:** H10N3 is low pathogenic, which means it **causes relatively less severe disease** in poultry and is unlikely to cause a large-scale **outbreak that appears to be rare in birds** and does not **cause severe disease**. According to The World Health Organization (WHO), the source of the patient's exposure to the **H10N3 virus was not known** and no other cases were found **among the local population**.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** There **was no indication of human-to-human transmission** yet. The risk of further infection with H10N3 is currently believed to be **very low, with experts** describing the case as "**sporadic**".Such cases occur **occasionally in China** which has huge populations of both farmed and **wild birds of many species**.

**16. [ANS] b**



**[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct:** The Senior care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) Project has been launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It was shaped on the recommendations of the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) report on start-ups for elderly.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It aims to select, support and create a “one-stop access” of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups. There is an urgent need to create a more robust elder care ecosystem in India, especially in the post-Covid-19 phase.

**17. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the US President Joe Biden has become the first sitting American Head of State to officially recognise the violent racial hate of Tulsa Race Massacre.

**Option A is correct:** Tulsa is a city on the Arkansas River, in the US state of Oklahoma. Tulsa was an unofficial sanctuary for African Americans suffering from harsh segregation in pre-civil rights America. Most of the city's 10,000 Black residents lived in Greenwood, which included a business district referred to as Black Wall Street. Under racial tensions, a white mob attacked Greenwood from 31st May to 1st June 1921. 2021 marks its 100th anniversary. The event remains one of the worst yet least-known incidents of racial violence in US history.

**18. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] IN News:** Recently, it has been highlighted that the India Cycles4Change challenge is beginning to gain momentum in Indian cities.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The India Cycles4Change challenge was by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 with an aim to inspire Indian cities to implement cycling-friendly interventions.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It comes under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) and the India Programme of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) is the knowledge partner of the SCM to assist the Mission in conducting the challenge and guiding cities in developing and implementing their proposals.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** It is open to eligible cities which can register and submit their applications on the designated portal. All cities under the SCM, capital cities of States/Union Territories and all cities with a population of more than 5 lakh can participate in it.

**19. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News :** Recently ,Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a pact with the union government for USD 2.5 million (approx Rs 18.23 crore) loan assistance to upgrade road infrastructure in the north-eastern state Sikkim.

**Statements 1 and 2 are not correct:** It is a regional development bank established on 19th December 1966. It is Headquartered in Manila, Philippines. There are 68 Members. Japan holds the largest proportion of shares in ADB followed by the USA, because Japan is one of the largest shareholders of the bank, the president has always been Japanese. ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote

social and economic development. It is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

**20. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News :** Recently , OPEC+ decided to stick to its plan to gradually restore supply to the market.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization. It was created at the Baghdad Conference in September 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It coordinates and unifies petroleum policies among member countries. It secures fair and stable prices for petroleum producers. It ensures an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.

**21. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, Blue-Finned Mahseer has been moved to the 'least concern' status in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Endangered Species.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Blue-Finned Mahseer (Scientific Name: *Tor khudree*) is majorly found in the rivers of the Deccan Plateau and mainly in Mota Mola river east of Pune.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is a migratory species which moves upstream during rains. It prefers clean, fast flowing and well oxygenated waters. It acts as a freshwater ecosystem indicator due to high sensitivity to dissolved oxygen levels, water temperature and climatic changes.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Currently, it is classified as 'least concern' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Endangered Species.

**22. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, suggestions have been welcomed on the Devika Project in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir.

**Option D is correct:** Devika River originates in the hills near the Sudh Mahadev temple in Udhampur and flows down towards west and merges with the Ravi river. It holds religious significance as it is revered by Hindus as the sister of river Ganga. The Devika River Project was started in March 2019 under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), with an outlay of Rs. 190 crore.

**23. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the former Chief Secretary of West Bengal has been served a show cause notice by the Union Home Ministry under Section 51 of the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The DM Act came into existence after the 2004 tsunami and was invoked for the first time in the country in the wake of the Covid-19 in 2020.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The Section 51 (b) prescribes "punishment for obstruction" for refusal to comply with orders. The violation shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term that may

extend to one year or with a fine or both upon conviction. Imprisonment may be extended to two years if refusal to comply orders result in loss of lives or imminent danger.

**24. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently ,The scientists noted B.1.617.2 is capable of creating “very fast-rising outbreaks.

**Statement 1 is correct:** SARS-CoV-2 variant's B.1.617 lineage, detected in India earlier this year)2021. Its sub-lineage B.1.617.2, known as the Delta variant, is more transmissible than contemporary lineages.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The World Health Organization (WHO), which has given it the label Delta, has categorised it as a variant of concern (VOC). WHO classifies a variant as a VOC when it is associated with an increase in transmissibility or detrimental change in Covid-19 epidemiology; increase in virulence; or decrease in the effectiveness of public health measures or available diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics.

**25. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently ,The National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA) announced plans to launch a pair of missions to Venus between 2028 and 2030 under Discovery Program

**Statement 1 is not correct:** It was launched by National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA ) in 1992 and it has supported the development and implementation of over 20 missions and instruments. It conducts space science investigations in the Planetary Science Division of NASA’s Science Mission Directorate.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The goal of NASA’s Discovery Program is to provide frequent flight opportunities for high quality, high value, focused, planetary science investigations that can be accomplished under a not-to-exceed cost cap. The Discovery Program strives to advance scientific knowledge and exploration of the elements of our Solar System.

**26. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, a saltwater or estuarine crocodile has been found dead in the Patasala river near Silapokhari village within the Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) in Odisha.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Saltwater Crocodiles are the Earth’s largest living crocodiles, with average-size males reaching 17 feet and 1,000 pounds.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Their primary habitats are brackish and freshwater regions of eastern India, Southeast Asia and northern Australia. In India, they are found in and around BNP, Odisha, the Sundarbans, Bengal and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Odisha is the only State in India with all crocodile species namely, Gharial, Mugger and Saltwater crocodiles.

**27. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) has launched a new global database named “I-Familia” to identify missing persons through family DNA and help the police solve cold cases in member countries.

**Option C is correct:** I-Familia has been launched by the International Criminal Police Organization. I-Familia is the first global database to automatically control for such differences without requiring knowledge of the missing person's genetic ancestry and provide standardised guidelines on what constitutes a match. It applied cutting-edge scientific research and used the DNA of relatives to identify missing persons or unidentified human remains around the world.

**28. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has briefed the United Nations (UN) Security Council about the usage of chemical weapons (CWs) by Syria.

**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 193 members including India, which is a signatory and party to the Chemical Weapons Convention as well.

**29. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News :** Recently, the International Energy Agency released the **World Energy Investment 2021 report**.

- The IEA is an **autonomous inter-governmental organisation** within the OECD framework.
- The IEA was **established as the main international forum** for energy co-operation on a variety of issues such as security of supply, long-term policy, information transparency, energy efficiency, sustainability, research and development, technology collaboration and international energy relations.
- The IEA works with **governments and industry** to shape a secure and sustainable energy future for all.
- **Other important reports published by IEA are:**
  - World Energy Outlook
  - Energy Technology Perspectives
  - World Energy Balances
  - World Energy Statistics

**30. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News :** The death toll from the worst militant attack in **Burkina Faso** has risen to 132 in recent years.

- Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in **western Africa**.
- The country occupies an extensive plateau, and its geography is characterized by a **savanna** that is grassy in the north and gradually gives way to **sparse forests in the south**.

- It is bounded by **Mali to the north** and west, Niger to the northeast, **Benin to the southeast**, and Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo to the south.
- It is situated on an extensive plateau, which is slightly inclined toward the south.
- It is a **low-income Sahelian country with limited natural resources**.
- Its economy is largely based on **agriculture**, which **employs 80%** of the workforce, although gold exports have increased.

31. [ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, Raimona in Kokrajhar district has become Assam's sixth national park.

**Option b is correct:** The Raimona National Park is located within the Bodoland Territorial Region in Assam. It is an integral part of the Manas Biosphere Reserve and the Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve. It is bounded on the west by the Sonkosh river along the Assam-West Bengal border running southward from the India-Bhutan border and the Saralbhangra river on the east till it touched the India-Bhutan border on the north and the southern part of the Ripu Reserve Forest. It also shares contiguous forest patches of the Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and the Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park in Bhutan creating a transboundary conservation landscape.

32. [ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Prime Minister has launched the E-100 pilot project in Pune to mark World Environment Day 2021.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Ethanol is an organic chemical compound, produced from biomass. It is also called ethyl alcohol, grain alcohol, drinking alcohol or simply alcohol.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It is naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration. In India, ethanol is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by the fermentation process.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Since ethanol is produced from plants that harness the power of the sun, ethanol is considered a renewable fuel. Ethanol can be mixed with the gasoline to form different blends. As the ethanol molecule contains oxygen, it allows the engine to more completely combust the fuel, resulting in fewer emissions and thereby reducing the occurrence of environmental pollution.

**Statement 4 is not correct:** India is targeting to have 20 per cent ethanol-blended fuel by 2025, in a push towards a robust biofuel policy. Earlier, 2030 was the deadline to hit the targets but seeing the kind of improvement made in the last few years, the timeline has been reduced by five years.

33. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, Denmark has approved the building of Lynetteholm, an artificial island off the coast of Copenhagen.

**Option c is correct:** Copenhagen is the capital of Denmark and is located near Baltic Sea. The artificial Lynetteholm Island is a 275-hectare project designed as a housing and business district for around 35,000 people. It will be built using soil from construction projects in Copenhagen and the surrounding area. It will be located between Nordhavn and Refshaleøen and will protect the city's harbour from rising water masses and from more frequent storm surges.

[NOTE: Kindly, check the map for location-based questions]

34. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), US's pharma regulator, has conditionally approved the use of Aducanumab.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that typically affects people older than 65 and it is also irreversible.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It slowly destroys brain cells and nerves, disrupting the message-carrying neurotransmitters which lead to compromised memory, thinking ability and cognitive decline.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Drugs can delay cognitive decline by months but there is no cure for the diseases because the exact cause is not known yet. Aducanumab drug, a monoclonal antibody, is given monthly via injection to patients who suffer from early stages of Alzheimer's with mild cognitive challenges, delaying the effects.

35. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Government has introduced the PGI with a set of 70 parameters and 4 domains to catalyse transformational change in the field of school education. The PGI is structured in two categories namely, Learning Outcomes and Governance and Management. Domains under these categories include access, infrastructure and facilities, equity and governance process.

**Statement 2 is correct:** PGI is released by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education.

36. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, Italian researchers have identified a new coronavirus mutation, whose scientific name is T478K. An analysis of more than one million SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences has led to the identification of a new variant. Like other strains, this presents a mutation in the spike protein. This variant covers more than 50% of the existing viruses in this area. The variant spreads evenly across males and females and age ranges. This variant has been increasingly spreading among people in North America, particularly in Mexico.

37. [ANS] c

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

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

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

38. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Goa government released a short film on Chhatrapati Shivaji on the occasion of the anniversary of the Maratha king's coronation day.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Shivaji was formally crowned as the Chhatrapati (Monarch) of his realm at Raigad in 1674. At that time the Mughal throne was occupied by Aurangzeb (Alamgir) (1658-1707).

**Statement 2 is correct:** He had a Council of Ministers (*Asht Pradhan*) to advise him on the matters of the state, however, he was not bound by its suggestions and he could appoint or dismiss the members. Asht Pradhan is one of the unique features of the Maratha empire.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** He revived ancient Hindu political traditions, court conventions and promoted the usage of Marathi and Sanskrit, rather than Persian, in court and administration.

**Statement 4 is correct:** India's first-ever navy in the modern era was built by Shivaji to protect the coast of Maharashtra. The Maratha Navy guarded the Jaigad, Sindhudurg, Vijaydurg and other forts along the coast of Maharashtra.

39. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, Turkey's Sea of Marmara has witnessed the largest outbreak of sea snout.

**Option A is correct:** The Sea of Marmara connects the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea. Sea Snout is marine mucilage (thick, gluey substance) or a slimy layer of grey or green sludge, which can cause considerable damage to the marine ecosystem.

40. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, scientists have come up with an understanding of the emergence of order in chaotic systems by drawing an analogy with Bose-Einstein Condensation (BEC).

**Statement 1 is correct:** Under BEC, Albert Einstein generalized Satyendra Nath Bose's theory and predicted that at sufficiently low temperatures particles would become locked together in the lowest quantum state of the system.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The phenomenon only happens for Bosons, which are elementary particles having spins that take integer values, such as 0, 1 or 2.

41. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News:** The Indian Navy is set to receive its first set of multi-role helicopters.

**Option D is correct:** India and the USA have signed over- ₹ 16,000 crore deal to buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from Lockheed Martin in 2020 under fast track procedures on a government-to-government deal to hasten the process. The First batch of the Indian pilots has reached the US for training on the helicopters and we would be receiving three of these helicopters in the US in July. The 24 MH-60 Romeos would be equipped with multi-mode radars and night-vision devices as well as armed with Hellfire missiles, torpedoes and precision-guided weaponry. The MH-60 would be replacing Sea Kings which would be on their way out of the force very soon.

**42. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:** The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 clearly stipulate that urban local bodies (ULBs) should ban less than 50 micron thick plastic bags.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It does not allow usage of recycled plastics for packing food, beverage or any other eatables. The Rules also require that local bodies should provide separate collection, storage and processing of plastic waste in their areas. The Ministry has issued a draft notification in March 2021 for amending the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, with respect to prohibiting identified 12 single use plastic items such as disposable plastic cutlery etc. The draft Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021 is proposed to be implemented in three stages starting this year and culminating in mid-2022. The rules propose that each sheet of non-woven plastic carry bag shall not be less than 60 (GSM per square metre) or 240 microns in thickness. A carry bag made of virgin or recycled plastic shall not be less than 120 microns, with effect from the same date

**43. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, NTPC Ltd, India's largest power utility under the Ministry of Power, has become a signatory to the CEO Water Mandate.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The United Nations Global Compact Initiative aims to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies and to report on their implementation.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It is a non-binding pact.

**Statement 3 is correct:** India is also a part of it. It is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, with more than 12,000 corporate participants and stakeholders from more than 140 countries.

**44. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have discovered a new way to generate electricity by Carbon Nanotubes (CNTs).

**Statement 1 is correct:** CNTs are cylindrical molecules consisting of a hexagonal arrangement of hybridized carbon atoms, formed by rolling up sheets of graphene.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Armchair Nanotubes are highly desired for their perfect conductivity but Zigzag Nanotubes may be semiconductors. Turning a graphene sheet a mere 30 degrees will change the nanotube it forms from armchair to zigzag or vice versa.

**Statement 3 is correct:** CNTs are highly chemically stable and can resist virtually any chemical impact making them extremely resistant to corrosion.

**45. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) has coordinated Operation Pangea XIV.

**Option B is correct:** Operation Pangea XIV is a collaborative effort against the sale of fake and illicit medicines and medical products. It involved police, customs and health regulatory



authorities from 92 countries including India. It resulted in 113,020 web links (websites and online marketplaces) being closed down or removed, arrest of 277 suspects and seizure of potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals worth over USD 23 million, the highest number since the first Operation Pangea in 2008.

**46. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the clinical trial of an indigenously developed CAR T-cell therapy for blood cancer treatment has begun at Mumbai's Tata Memorial Centre.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The therapy targets leukaemia and lymphoma, and the team has applied for national and international patents for the research. Leukaemia is cancer of blood-forming tissues, including bone marrow. Lymphoma is a cancer of the lymphatic system, which is part of the body's germ-fighting network.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cells are cells that are genetically engineered to produce an artificial T-cell receptor.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The design developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) uses lentiviral technology. In gene therapy, this is a method of inserting, modifying, or deleting genes in organisms using lentivirus, a family of viruses responsible for diseases such as AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

**47. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, local wildlife enthusiasts have sighted two species of monal, a colour pheasant, together in Upper Siang district of central Arunachal Pradesh.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Sclater's Monal is a high-altitude bird and rarely comes down below 1,500 metres.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is an endemic bird of the Eastern Himalaya and is mostly recorded from the junction of India, Myanmar, Tibet and Yunnan province of China. It is restricted to Arunachal Pradesh on the Indian side.

**Statement 3 is correct:** It has been classified as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List. It is also protected under the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

**48. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News:** More than 200 contingency workers of the Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh went on an indefinite strike over non-payment of wages.

**Option A is correct:** Pakke Tiger Reserve lies in the foothills of the Eastern Himalaya in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. It falls within the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot and lies to the east and the Bhareli River to the west and the north. It is considered one of the best protected national parks in the country and is also the only Hornbill sanctuary in India.

**49. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has approved 708 proposals for construction of 3.61 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U).

**Statement 1 is not correct:** It is a flagship Mission of Government of India being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and was launched on 25th June 2015. PMAY(U) adopts a demand driven approach wherein the Housing shortage is decided based on demand assessment by States/Union Territories.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Mission promotes women empowerment by providing the ownership of houses in the name of female members or in joint name. All houses under PMAY(U) have basic amenities like toilets, water supply, electricity and kitchen.

50. [ANS] d

**[SOL] In News:** The Navies of India and Thailand started their three-day, bi-annually India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) in the Andaman Sea.

**Option D is correct:** The Indo-Thai CORPAT, which began in 2005, serves to reinforce maritime links between Thailand and India and forge strong bonds of friendship between the two navies, besides helping consolidate interoperability. It ensures an exchange of information pertaining to the prevention of smuggling, illegal immigration and in the conduct of search and rescue operations at sea, thereby enhancing the operational synergies.

51. [ANS] d

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the World Bank released its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects.

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

52. [ANS] b

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) rose by a sharp 134.44% in April 2021.

**Statement 1 is correct:** IIP is an index that shows the growth rates and performance of different sectors of industry in the economy. Broadly, it is a composite indicator of the general level of industrial activity.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme. It measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under Broad sectors (mining, manufacturing and electricity) and Use-based sectors (basic goods, capital goods and intermediate goods).

53. [ANS] b

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the government opened online nominations and recommendations for Padma Awards 2022.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day. The Awards are given in three categories namely, Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service). The awards are presented by the President of India every year where the awardees are presented a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The names of the awardees are published in the Gazette of India on the day of the presentation ceremony. The award does not amount to a title and cannot be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees' name.

**54. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the Maharashtra government has decided to make amendments to the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act of 1975, to introduce provisions for the protection of 'heritage trees'.

**Option C is correct:** The most common method of determining the age of the tree is Dendrochronology (or tree-ring dating). Each year, roughly a tree adds to its girth, the new growth is called a tree ring. By counting the rings of a tree, the age can be determined. However, the process is invasive as core samples are extracted using a borer that's screwed into the tree and pulled out, bringing with it a straw-size sample.

**55. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the Global Liveability Index 2021.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Global Liveability Index is released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), which is the research and analysis division of Economist Group providing forecasting and advisory services through research and analysis.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Each city is assigned a livability score for more than 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five categories: stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** It also examines cities worldwide to quantify the challenges presented to an individual's lifestyle in the past year, for the first time taking into account the disrupting global event of Covid-19 pandemic.

**56. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has finished the execution of Operation Olivia.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Olive Ridley Turtles have one of the most extraordinary nesting habits in the natural world, including mass nesting called arribadas.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** In India, Odisha coast has three arribada beaches at Gahirmatha, the mouth of the Devi river, and in Rushikulya. A new mass nesting site has also been discovered in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** These turtles are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Apart from this, they have been enlisted as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List and come under Appendix I of CITES.

**Statement 4 is correct:** Operation Olivia was initiated in the early 1980s and has been carried out every year by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ever since. It helps protect Olive Ridley turtles as they congregate along the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December.

57. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Russia has been preparing to give Iran a Kanopus-V satellite.

**Option A is correct:** Kanopus--V Satellite is an advanced satellite system and will be given with a high-resolution camera. It would be launched in Russia and contain Russian-made hardware. Russian trainers have helped ground crews who would operate the satellite from a new site near the northern Iranian city of Karaj. It would allow Iran greater monitoring of the Persian Gulf, Israeli bases and America's troop presence in Iraq.

58. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the US Senate has approved a bill titled the US Innovation and Competition Act (USICA).

**Statement 1 is correct:** Semiconductor is any of a class of crystalline solids intermediate in electrical conductivity between a conductor and an insulator.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Solid-state materials are commonly grouped into three classes: insulators, semiconductors, and conductors. At low temperatures some conductors, semiconductors and insulators may become superconductors but not all of them become so.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Cadmium sulfide, Germanium, Silicone, Gallium arsenide and Gallium phosphide are major semiconductors.

59. [ANS] b

[SOL] **In News :** Monoclonal antibody treatment is now seen as a **relatively effective and safer alternative in treating COVID-19** patients

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Monoclonal Antibodies are clones of an antibody that targets one specific antigen.

- They are **artificially created** in the **laboratory** and bind to the spike **protein of the SARs-COV-2 virus**, blocking the **entry to the healthy cells** and protecting the body from the same.
  - Monoclonal antibodies have previously been used to treat infections such as **Ebola and HIV**.

**Statement 2 is correct :** The therapy is now said to help avoid **hospitalisation in high-risk groups**, progression to severe disease, and to reduce the usage of steroids.

- It is to be given only to mild COVID-19 patients who are not requiring oxygen, and there

is high risk of progression or hospitalisation due to existing comorbidities..

- "It seems to be a **useful molecule**, effective against mutant strains as well, and **prevents progression of COVID** if given at the right time.
- During monoclonal antibodies treatment **there is less requirement of steroids and other immune-suppressive drugs**.
- Monoclonal antibody treatment could prove to be a **game changer in times to come if used at the appropriate time**.
- Monoclonal antibody therapy cost ₹ 60,000-70,000 and significantly reduced hospital stay.
- It may reduce the burden of **cost on the healthcare sector**.

60. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News :Recently ,TVS Motor Company Limited's Joint Managing Director welcomed the revision of **FAME II** subsidies for electric two-wheelers.

**Statement 1 is not correct:**The Department of Heavy Industries under the **Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises** has been administering the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme.

- The Phase-I of this Scheme was **initially launched for a period of 2 years**, commencing from 1st April 2015, which was subsequently extended from time to time and the last extension was allowed up to 31st March 2019.
- Phase-II of FAME India Scheme is being implemented for a **period of 3 years with effect from April 1, 2019**, with total budgetary support of Rs **10,000 crore**.

**Statement 2 is correct :**It reflects the **Centre's commitment to reduce dependence** on fossil fuel and address the issues of vehicular emissions .

It promotes the **manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicle(xEVs)** technology and to ensure sustainable growth of the same.

It **encourages Faster adoption of Electric and hybrid vehicles** by way of offering upfront Incentive on purchase of Electric vehicles.

- The scheme helps in addressing the issue of **environmental pollution and fuel security**.

61. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Recently, **the European Space Agency (ESA)** has selected EnVision as its next orbiter that will visit.

- EnVision is an ESA led mission with **contributions from NASA**. It is likely to be launched **sometime in the 2030s**.
  - The earliest launch opportunity for EnVision is 2031, followed by 2032 and 2033.
- It will be launched on an Ariane 6 rocket and the spacecraft will take about 15 months to **reach Venus** and will take **16 more months to achieve orbit circularisation**.
- The spacecraft will **carry a range of instruments to study the planet's atmosphere** and surface, **monitor trace gases** in the atmosphere and analyse its surface composition.
- A radar provided by NASA will help to **image and map the surface**.

62. [ANS] b

**[SOL] In News:** The government plans to bring in a clutch of anchor investors to invest up to ₹ 25,000 crore in the shares of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in its planned mega initial public offering (IPO).

**Statement 1 is not correct :**Anchor investor is a concept launched by Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in 2009.

They are institutional investors who are invited to subscribe the shares **before the Initial Public Offers (IPOs)**.

**Statements 2 and 3 are correct :**They are required to take up the **share at a fixed price to make other investors confident** and improve the demand of the share.

- This process also helps to improve the investment opportunity for retail investors with the company.
- Each anchor investor needs to invest a minimum of Rs 10 crore in the issue.
- There is a lock-in of 30 days on shares for **every anchor investor**
  - The **anchor investor is not allowed to sell his/her share for at least 30 days after the allotment.**
  - Investors who want to flip shares on the listing are advised not to use this anchor route.

**63. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News :**The work from home norm during Covid-hit 2020 delivered some good news for the Parsi community which saw a record 61 births, assisted through the Centre's Jiyo Parsi scheme.

- The Government of India through the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** had formulated the Jiyo Parsi Scheme in September 2013.
- The scheme is meant for the notified minority community i.e. Parsi/Zoroastrian only.
- It aims to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions to stabilize their population and increase the population of Parsis in India.

**64. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, steep demand in the international market for musical instruments and furniture fashioned out of rosewood (*Dalbergia latifolia*) has increased its widespread illegal felling.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The species occurs in evergreen or deciduous tropical or subtropical forests with deep, well-drained and moist soils, within an elevational range of 300 to 1,000 m above sea level.

**Statement 2 is correct:** This species is native to India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Java and Indonesia.

**Statement 3 is correct:** It is highly utilised as a timber species and is renowned for the colour and fragrance of its wood, which is particularly prized for making musical instruments (e.g. guitars), furniture, veneer, flooring, plywood, carvings, and moulding.

**Statement 4 is correct:** The species is protected under the Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. It is also classified as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red list.

**65. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the Defence Minister of India has approved the budgetary support of Rs. 498.8 crore to the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Challenge for the next five years.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The iDEX challenge was established by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) under the Ministry of Defence.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It promotes innovation and indigenisation in the aerospace and defence sector at the start-up level and also provides financial support to start-ups, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), individual innovators and partner incubators.

**Statement 3 is correct:** It is funded and managed by a Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) formed as a not for profit company as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.

66. [ANS] b

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the Prime Minister of India has greeted the people of Odisha on the festival of Raja Parba.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** It is celebrated in Odisha and is natively pronounced as 'raw-jaw', while 'Raja' is derived from the word 'Rajaswala' which means menstruating women. During the festival, girls play around swings tied on tree branches, along with other indoor and outdoor games.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is observed to combat prejudices that surround the menstrual cycle and celebrates a girl's womanhood. A four-day festival celebrated every year in June, it calls for women to come together and acknowledge the gift of Mother Earth or Bhudevi. Each day of the festival has its own name and significance. The first day is Pahili Rajo, second day is Mithuna Sankranti, third day is Bhu Daaha or Basi Raja and fourth day is called Vasumati Snana.

67. [ANS] d

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, retail inflation has hit a six-month high of 6.3 per cent in May, due to persistent rise in fuel and edible oil prices.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Consumer Price Index (CPI) monitors retail prices at a certain level for a particular commodity; price movement of goods and services at rural, urban and all-India levels.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It gives an idea of the cost of the standard of living. Generally, CPI is used as a macroeconomic indicator of inflation, as a tool by the central bank and government for inflation targeting and for inspecting price stability, and as a deflator in the national accounts.

**Statement 3 is correct:** CPI formula:  $(\text{Price of basket in current period} / \text{Price of basket in base period}) \times 100$ .

68. [ANS] c

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar has developed a device called 'Jivan Vayu'.

**Option C is correct:** Jivan Vayu is India's first Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device which functions even without electricity and is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units like O<sub>2</sub> cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals. CPAP is a treatment method for patients

having breathing problems during sleep called sleep apnea and to treat infants whose lungs have not fully developed. Jivan Vayu is leak-proof, low-cost, customisable and can run during power failures. It has an inbuilt viral filter at the air entertainment end which has a viral efficacy of 99.99 per cent.

69. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** China's dominance in the rare Earth Metals, key to the future of manufacturing, is a cause for concern for the West.

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

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

70. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** "Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward", a report by ILO and the UNICEF, has stated that progress to end child labour has stalled for the first time in 20 years.

**Statement 1 is correct:** ALLIANCE 8.7 is an inclusive global partnership committed to achieving Target 8.7 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It works for eradicating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour around the world.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The International Labour Organization (ILO) currently serves as Secretariat for Alliance 8.7.

71. [ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** India's foreign exchange reserves have crossed the USD 600 billion mark for the first time.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Foreign exchange reserves are important assets held by the central bank in foreign currencies as reserves. Most of the reserves are usually held in US dollars given the currency's importance in the international financial and trading system. They are commonly used to support the exchange rate and set monetary policy

**Statement 2 is not correct:** India's forex reserves include Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), Gold reserves, Special Drawing Rights (SDR), Reserve Tranche Position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The forex reserves are managed by the Reserve Bank of India for the Indian government. The reserve facilitates external trade and payment and promotes orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India.

72. [ANS] b



**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the US President and the British Prime Minister have inspected documents related to the Atlantic Charter.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Atlantic Charter was a joint declaration released by the then US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and then British Prime Minister Winston Churchill on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1941, following a meeting in Newfoundland. The Charter provided a broad statement of US and British war aims.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It set out common goals for the world after the Second World War. Those goals included freer trade, disarmament and the right to self-determination of all people. The charter aimed to promote worldwide collaboration to improve labour standards, economic progress, and social security.

73. [ANS] c

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, Blue Origin has concluded the online auction for the first seat on the New Shephard rocket system.

**Statement 1 is correct:** New Shephard is a rocket system meant to take tourists to space over 100 km above the Earth and accommodation for payloads. It completed its seventh test launch successfully in October 2020 when it took off from Texas. It has been named after astronaut Alan Shephard, who was the first American to go to space.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It has been fully developed by Blue Origin, which is an American privately funded aerospace manufacturer and sub-orbital spaceflight services company founded by Jeff Bezos. In 2018, it was selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to conduct studies and advance technologies to collect, process and use space-based resources for missions to the Moon and Mars.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The rocket system consists of two parts, the cabin/capsule and the rocket/booster. After separating from the booster, the capsule free falls in space, while the booster can perform an autonomously controlled vertical landing back to Earth, making it fully reusable.

74. [ANS] d

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the Gippsland region of Victoria state (Australia) has witnessed spiders spin webs stretching across trees, road signs and paddocks.

**Option D is correct:** Heavy rains and floods have caused spiders to climb to higher ground using a survival tactic called “ballooning”, in which they throw out silk that latches on to vegetation, allowing them to escape. Spiders can produce a wide variety of silks and this ballooning silk is very thin, delicate and lighter than air. The silk latches on to objects such as tree tops, tall grass and road signs, allowing the spiders to climb up.

75. [ANS] a

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the European Parliament has urged the European Union (EU) Commission to consider the temporary withdrawal of the GSP+ status given to Sri Lanka.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Generalised Scheme of Preference (GSP) was instituted in 1971 under the aegis of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It urged

developed countries to help developing countries integrate into the world economy and has contributed over the years to creating an enabling trading environment for developing countries.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The following 13 countries grant GSP preferences: Australia, Belarus, Canada, the European Union (EU), Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA. India is the only country from the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (rest are US, Japan and Australia) which cannot give GSP.

76. [ANS] a

**[SOL] In News:** The police seized about 96 gelatin sticks from an isolated property along the forest fringes of Konni in the district.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Gelatin sticks are cheap explosive materials used by industries for the purpose of mining and construction related work, like building structures, roads, rails and tunnels etc. Only licensed explosive manufacturers can make gelatin sticks. The manufacture is regulated by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), formerly known as the Department of Explosives.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** They cannot be used without a detonator, which is a device containing a detonating charge that is used to initiate an explosion reliably, at a specified time, and, as applicable, in a prescribed sequence.

77. [ANS] d

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, a shipment of Geographical Indication (GI) certified 'Jalgaon banana' was exported to Dubai.

**Option D is correct:** In 2016, Jalgaon Banana got GI certification, which was registered with Nisargraja Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Jalgaon. Jalgaon District is located in the north-west region of the state of Maharashtra. It is bounded by Satpura mountain ranges in the north, Ajanta mountain ranges in the south. Jalgaon is rich in volcanic soil which is well suited for cotton production.

78. [ANS] d

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the European Space Agency (ESA) has planned to put the world's first wooden satellite, WISA Woodsat, on Earth's orbit by the end of this year

**Statement 1 is correct:** The mission of the satellite is to test the applicability of wooden materials like plywood in spacecraft structures and expose it to extreme space conditions, such as heat, cold, vacuum and radiation, for an extended period of time. It will be launched to space by the end of 2021 with a Rocket Lab Electron rocket from the Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The satellite, designed and built in Finland, will orbit at around 500-600 km altitude in a roughly polar Sun-synchronous orbit. WISA Woodsat is a 10x10x10 cm nano satellite built up from standardised boxes and surface panels made from plywood, the same material that is found in a hardware store or to make furniture.

79. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the long pending Deep Ocean Mission.

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

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

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

80. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Kerala cabinet has given the green light to begin acquiring land for the SilverLine project.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The SilverLine Project entails building a semi high-speed railway corridor through the state linking its southern end and state capital Thiruvananthapuram with its northern end of Kasaragod. It is proposed to be 529.45 kms long, covering 11 districts through 11 stations and is estimated to cost Rs. 63,940 crore.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It is being executed by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), a joint venture between the Kerala government and the Union Ministry of Railways, and the deadline for the project is 2025.

81. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, Walmart's Flipkart has filed a legal challenge against the restarting of an antitrust probe into the company by the Competition Commission of India.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** It is the competition regulator in India established in 2003 . It is a **statutory body established by an act of Parliament, the Competition Act, 2002.**

**Statement 2 is correct:** It promotes competition throughout India and **prevents activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India. It comprises** a chairperson and 6 other members appointed by the Central Government.

82. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News:** The maiden Indian Navy and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) exercise began in the Gulf of Aden. Five warships from **four navies** are participating in the exercise on 18-19 June, which include **Italian Navy Ship ITS Carabinere, Spanish Navy Ship ESPS Navarra, and two French Navy Ship FS Tonnerre and FS Surcouf** and INS Trikanth of Indian Navy. Ships of the four navies **will endeavour to enhance and hone their war-fighting skills** and their ability as an integrated force to promote peace, security and stability in the maritime domain,". The Indian Navy and EUNAVFOR also have regular interaction through SHADE (Shared Awareness and Deconfliction) meetings held annually in Bahrain. This engagement showcases increased levels of synergy, coordination and interoperability between

IN and EUNAVFOR. It also underscores the shared values as partner navies, in ensuring freedom of seas and commitment to an open, inclusive and rules-based international order.

83. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) is a five-year vision plan of the **Department of Higher Education** of the Ministry of Education (MoE). It sets out to deliver further on principles of Access, Inclusion, Quality, Excellence and enhancing employability in Higher Education.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** EQUIP is a vision plan aiming at ushering transformation in India's higher education system by implementing strategic interventions in the sector over **five years (2019-2024)**. It has been prepared based on reports of Ten expert groups constituted to deliberate upon important aspects of Higher Education.

84. [ANS] b

[SOL] **In News :** The Union ministry of ports, shipping and waterways and the Union ministry of culture signed an MoU for 'Cooperation in the development of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)**' in Lothal in **Gujarat**.

- The city of Lothal stood beside a **Bhogava river**, a tributary of **Sabarmati**, in Gujarat, close to the Gulf of Khambhat.
- It was situated near areas where raw materials such as **semi-precious stones** were easily available.
- This was an important centre for making objects out of stone, shell and metal.
- There was also a storehouse in the city.
- The excavated site of Lothal is the **only port-town of the Indus Valley Civilisation**.
- A **metropolis with an upper and a lower town** had in on its northern side a basin with **vertical wall, inlet** and outlet channels have been identified as a **tidal dockyard**.
- The site provides evidence of Harappa culture between 2400 BCE to 1600 BCE.

85. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** is responsible for arranging, conducting and analysing the results of the demographic surveys of India including Census of India and Linguistic Survey of India.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The decennial Census of India has been conducted **15 times**, as of 2011. The first complete census was taken in 1881.

86. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has closed proceedings against the Mokedatu dam project, which is being constructed by the Karnataka government across the Cauvery River. The project cost is estimated at Rs 9,000 crore. The proposal is aimed at providing drinking water facilities to the Bengaluru Metropolitan region and its surrounding areas (4.75 TMC) and generates 400 MW of power as an additional benefit. As per the plan, Bengaluru and other areas would get regular potable water. It would be able to help the city address its water woes.

87. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, 120 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) teachers and principals from 3 states completed a 40 days' NISHTHA-National initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement Program.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

**Statement 2 is correct:** NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training". It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage. NISHTHA is the world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind. The basic objective of this massive training programme is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students. The initiative is the first of its kind wherein standardized training modules are developed at the national level for all States and UTs.

88. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, billions of periodical cicadas have emerged across eastern parts of the USA.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Periodical cicadas, of the genus Magicicadae, are called so because of their 13- or 17-year life cycle. In any given place, they come out only once every 13 or 17 years.

**Statement 2 is correct:** These cicadas spend most of their lives underground and grow burrowed in their earthy homes by feeding on root xylem. During this time, they complete five developmental stages, known as "instars", entirely underground.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** In the USA, they are found to the east of the Great Plains and north of Florida. In Indian subcontinent, there are three species namely, *Chremistica mixta* (Sri Lanka), *C. seminiger* (Nilgiri hills) and *C. ribhoi* (Meghalaya).

89. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in Guinea is over, which started in February 2021.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans. It was formerly known as Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever. It is transmitted to people from wild animals and can spread in the human population through human-to-human transmission. It is thought that fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are natural hosts.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Two monoclonal antibodies (Inmazeb and Ebanga) were approved in late 2020 for its treatment. Also, the Ervebo vaccine and the 2-component vaccine called Zabdeno-and-Mvabea have been shown to be effective.

90. [ANS] b

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India has signed a USD 484 million loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in the state of Tamil Nadu.

**Option B is correct:** Strategy 2030 is Asian Development Bank's (ADB) long-term corporate strategy. It sets the course for the ADB to respond effectively to the region's changing needs. Under it, ADB will sustain its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and expand its vision to achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific. ADB's aspirations are aligned with major global commitments.

**91. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, Hayagriva Madhava Temple Committee, Assam has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two NGOs namely Turtle Survival Alliance India and Help Earth for long-term conservation of Black Softshell turtle.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Black Softshell Turtle (Scientific Name: *Nilssonia nigricans*) is a rare freshwater species of turtles. It is also called the Bostami turtle or Mazari.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is confined only to ponds of temples in northeastern India (Assam mainly) and Bangladesh. Until sightings along the Brahmaputra River's drainage in Assam, it was thought to be 'extinct in the wild'.

**Statement 3 is correct:** It faces the threats of hunting, wetland encroachment, changing flooding patterns and overlooked care. Also, fungal infestation and the inbreeding depression are major threats for the semi-captive subpopulations.

**Statement 4 is not correct:** It is protected under Schedule IV of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, however, it should be in the Schedule I with the highest priority to its protection.

**92. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, an underwater avalanche, also known as a turbidity current, has sent mud and sand more than 1,000 km out into the ocean on Africa's western coast, from the mouth of the Congo River.

**Statement 1 is correct:** A turbidity current is a rapid, downhill flow of sediment-laden water that occurs in lakes and oceans. Turbidity is a measure of the level of particles such as sediment, plankton, or organic by-products, in a body of water. As it increases, water becomes denser and less clear due to a higher concentration of these light-blocking particles.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Turbidity currents can be set into motion when mud and sand on the continental shelf are loosened by earthquakes, collapsing slopes, and other geological disturbances.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Current meters, attached with turbidity sensors, are used to gather data near underwater volcanoes and other highly active geological sites. Satellite imagery is used to observe turbidity by measuring the amount of light that is reflected by a section of water.

**93. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the repair and relining of the Indira Gandhi Canal has been accomplished, restoring 70 km of both the main canal and the feeder distributaries in Rajasthan and parts of Punjab.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Indira Gandhi Canal originates at the Harike barrage, Punjab at the confluence of Sutlej and Beas. It was previously known as the Rajasthan Canal and was renamed the Indira Gandhi Canal on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1984. It is India's longest canal terminating in irrigation facilities in the Thar desert.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It originates in Punjab and enters Rajasthan at Hanumangarh and passes through Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner and ends at Mohangarh in Jaisalmer. It was envisaged for utilization of 7.59 MAF water out of Rajasthan's share in surplus water of Ravi-Beas rivers.

**94. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** The Indian Council of Medical Research- National Institute of Virology has picked up samples with the presence of antibodies against the **Nipah virus** in some bat species from a cave in Mahabaleshwar to study the prevalence of the Nipah virus (NiV) in bats of India.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Nipah virus (NiV) is a **zoonotic virus** (it is transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted **through contaminated food**.

- Presumably, the first incidence of Nipah virus infection occurred when pigs in Malaysian farms came in contact with the bats who had lost their habitats due to deforestation

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The disease spreads through fruit bats or 'flying foxes,' of the genus Pteropus, who are natural reservoir hosts of the Nipah and Hendra viruses.

- The virus is present in bat urine and potentially, bat faeces, saliva, and birthing fluids.
- **Human-to-human transmission of the Nipah virus has also been reported** among family and caregivers of infected patients.

**95. [ANS] a**

**[SOL] In News: Reserve Bank of India** has released its quarterly House Price Index (HPI) (base: 2010-11=100) for Q4:2020-21, based on **transaction-level data** received from housing registration authorities in ten major cities (viz., Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai).

All-India HPI increased (year-on-year basis) by 2.7% in Q4:2020-21 vis-a-vis 3.9% growth a year ago.

HPI growth **showed large variation** across major cities, from an increase of 15.7% (Bengaluru) to a contraction of -3.6% (Jaipur).

On a sequential (q-o-q) basis, all-India HPI growth rate moderated to 0.2% in Q4:2020-21; Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Jaipur recorded a sequential decline in HPI, whereas it increased for other cities

**96. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** Shyam Sundar Jyani, a Rajasthan-based climate activist, has won the prestigious **United Nations' Land for Life Award for his environment conservation concept, Familial Forestry**.

- This year's theme is "**Healthy Land, Healthy Lives**"

**Statement 1 is correct :** The Land for Life Award was launched at the United Nations Convention

to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP10 in the Republic of Korea (in 2011) as part of the Changwon Initiative.

**Statement 2 is not correct :** Every two years, UNCCD organizes the Land for Life Award.

- The Award **recognizes excellence and innovation in efforts towards** land in balance.
- The past editions **shed light on inspiring initiatives** of recovery and restoration of degraded landscapes worldwide.
  - They all made a significant contribution towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15: "Life on Land", in particular, Target 15.3 land degradation neutrality (LDN).

97. [ANS] b

**[SOL] In News :** A **Memorandum of Understanding** was inked between Survey of India, Government of India and Government of Assam For the implementation of the SVAMITVA scheme in Assam.

**Statement 1 is not correct :** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**. It was launched on the National **Panchayati Raj Day in 2020**.

**Statement 2 is correct :** It aims to provide the '**record of rights**' to village household owners in rural areas and issuance of Property cards. It has been approved for implementation at an outlay of Rs. 566.23 crore across the country in a phased manner over five years (2020-2025). Its pilot phase was implemented during 2020-2021 in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh and a few border villages of Punjab and Rajasthan.

- The scheme will be carried out in **close coordination with the Survey of India, Panchayati Raj departments and Revenue departments** of various states.

98. [ANS] a

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, Bayer (German agrochemicals major) has launched the first-ever yellow watermelon variety Yellow Gold 48 under Seminis brand in India.

**Option A is correct:** Yellow Gold 48 is a yellow watermelon variety. It has been developed from superior germplasm and is best suited for cultivation from October to February and for harvest from April onwards and will be available in the market until mid-July. It has been commercially introduced in India following two years of local trials. It has high yield and income potential and will empower watermelon growers to diversify into new categories and meet the growing demand for exotic fruits.

99. [ANS] c

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the world's first Genetically Modified (GM) rubber sapling has been planted in Guwahati, Assam.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Natural rubber is a native of warm humid Amazon forests and is not naturally suited for the colder conditions. GM rubber has additional copies of the gene MnSOD, or manganese-containing superoxide dismutase, which has the ability to protect plants from the adverse effects of severe environmental stresses.



**Statement 2 is correct:** Growth of young rubber plants remains suspended during the winter months, which are also characterised by progressive drying of the soil. This is the reason for the long immaturity period of this crop in the region.

100. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The GEAC is the apex biotech regulatory body in India. It is a statutory body. GEAC is chaired by the **Special Secretary/Additional Secretary** of MoEF&CC and co-chaired by a representative from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). The body regulates the use, manufacture, storage, import and export of hazardous microorganisms or genetically-engineered organisms and cells in India.

101. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Ministry of Power has issued an order for extension of the waiver of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) charges on transmission of electricity generated from solar and wind sources.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Inter State Transmission System is any system for the conveyance of electricity by means of a main transmission line from the territory of one State to another State.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The conveyance of electricity across the territory of an intervening State as well as conveyance within the State which is incidental to such inter-state transmission of energy.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** ISTS may be owned by Central Transmission Utility (CTU), State Utility, Independent Power Transmission Companies.

**Statement 4 is correct:** ISTS tariff is determined as per the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) (Terms and Conditions of Tariff), Regulations, 2009. CERC is a statutory body functioning with quasi-judicial status under Section 76 of the Electricity Act 2003 and is a key regulator of the power sector in India.

102. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) has launched its programme in Bhutan.

**Option c is correct:** TIWB is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It was launched in July 2015, with an aim to transfer technical know-how and skills to developing countries' tax auditors, as well as share general audit practices. It is designed to support developing countries to build tax audit capacity by facilitating well-targeted, specialised tax audit assistance.

103. [ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, 8 of 12 captive-bred pygmy hogs have been released in the Manas National Park of western Assam.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Pygmy Hog (*Porcula salvania*) is the world's rarest and smallest members of the pig family. It is an indicator species as its presence reflects the health of its primary habitat, tall and wet grasslands.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Currently, the only known population lives in Assam, India and possibly southern Bhutan. The only viable population in the wild is in the Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies it as Endangered. Once found in the narrow strip of tall and wet grassland plains on the Himalayan foothills, from Uttar Pradesh to Assam, through Nepal's terai areas and Bengal's duars, it was thought to have become extinct in the 1960s. However, in 1971 it was re-discovered with a small population in the Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam.

104. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The temperature of the water should not be below 20°C. The most favourable temperature for the growth of the coral reefs is between 23°C to 25°C. The temperature should not exceed 35°C.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Corals can survive only under saline conditions with an average salinity between 27‰ to 40‰. Coral reefs grow better in shallow water having a depth less than 50 m. The depth of the water should not exceed 200m.

105. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) scheme is for pregnant women and Lactating Mothers only.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It is a Centrally sponsored Scheme.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Eligibility is only for the first child of the family.

**Additional Information**

- Centrally sponsored Scheme
- Started in 2017
- Rs.6,000 is transferred directly to the bank accounts of pregnant women and Lactating Mothers for availing better facilities for their delivery to compensate for wage loss
- Eligible for First Child of the family
- Implementation of the scheme is closely monitored by the central and state governments through the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana - **Common Application Software (PMMVY-CAS).**

106. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News:** Recently ,the Prime Minister of India interacted with the participants of Toyathon-2021 via video conferencing.

**Statements 1 and 2 are not correct :** It is a special kind of **hackathon where students and teachers from schools and colleges**, design experts, toy experts and start-ups will **crowdfund ideas for developing toys and games** and submit their innovative toys/games concepts to win a large number of prizes worth Rs. 50 lakhs.

- It will be based on **Indian culture, ethos, folklores, heroes and value systems.**
- It is an inter-ministerial initiative organized by

- the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell with support from All India Council for Technical Education.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry,
- Ministry of MSME
- Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

107. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Government of India, the Government of Mizoram and the World Bank have signed a \$32 million **Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project** to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, particularly for the benefit of **under-served areas and vulnerable groups**. It will include segregation, disinfection, and collection while safeguarding the environment and improving the quality of health service and patient safety.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The project will be focused on **strengthening the effectiveness of the state health insurance programme**; build synergies with the Government of India's **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PMJAY)**; and thereby **reduce financial barriers** in accessing hospital services, prevent catastrophic out of pocket expenditure for health by **poor families and expand coverage**.

- The project will also focus on **promoting synergy** between various **schemes and augment** the capacity of the state insurance agency.
- The project will also invest in **improving the overall ecosystem** for bio-medical waste management (both solid and liquid waste).
- The project will strengthen the governance and the management structure of the **Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW)** and its subsidiaries.
- It will improve the **quality and coverage of services delivered** by the state government health systems, and invest in a **comprehensive Quality Assurance program** that would enable quality certification of health facilities.

108. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News :** Recently, The Prime Minister has paid tribute to Sant Kabir Das ji on his Jayanti on 24 June

- He was a 15th-century Indian mystic, social reformer, poet and saint who had a significant role among the people in India.
  - He was one of the most influential saints.
- He was brought up in a family of **Muslim julahas** or weavers settled in or near the city of Benares (Varanasi).  
He was best known for his two-line couplets, known as '**Kabir Ke Dohe**'
- He is a widely revered poet whose works had a tremendous influence on the **Bhakti movement**.
- Kabir's legacy is still going on through a sect known as Panth of Kabir, a religious community that considers him as the founder.
- His teachings openly ridiculed all forms of **external worship** of both **Brahmanical** Hinduism and Islam, the pre-eminence of the priestly classes and the caste system.

- Kabir believed in a **formless Supreme God** and preached that the only path to salvation was through bhakti or devotion. Kabir drew his followers from among both Hindus and Muslims
- Kabir Das' writings had a great influence on the Bhakti movement and includes titles like Kabir Granthawali, Anurag Sagar, Bijak, and Sakhi Granth, Panch Vani

109. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Defence Minister of India has visited the Karwar Naval Base, Karnataka to review the progress of ongoing 'Project Seabird'.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** It is the largest naval infrastructure project for India and involves creation of a naval base at Karwar on the west coast of India.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is a USD 3 billion programme and upon completion, it will provide the Indian Navy with its largest naval base on the west coast and also the largest naval base east of the Suez Canal.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** During the decade-long project, AECOM will manage and oversee the planning, design, contracting, construction and acceptance of the entire works, including construction of a new Naval Air Station.

110. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has sanctioned funds to the tune of Rs. 1,860 crore for implementation of Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) programme.

**Statement 1 is correct:** IBRD is an international financial institution and was established in 1944 to help Europe rebuild after World War II. It is owned by 189 member countries and is the largest development bank in the world.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is the lending arm of the World Bank Group. It joins with the International Development Association (IDA) to form the World Bank. It offers loans to middle-income developing countries.

111. [ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, Sri Lanka released prisoners, after they were pardoned by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on the occasion of **Poson Poya**.

- It is an **annual festival celebrated by Sri Lanka's Buddhist majority** to mark the arrival of **Buddhism in the country**.
- It is the most venerated day for the devout Buddhists of Sri Lanka as it marks the arrival of Arahata Mahinda Thero carrying the noble teachings of the Buddha.
- It is a festival of **great historical and religious significance** celebrated island-wide by Buddhists.

112. [ANS] a

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, Russia accused Britain of spreading lies over a warship confrontation in the Black Sea.

- The Black Sea, also known as the **Euxine Sea**, is one of the major water bodies and a famous **inland sea of the world**.
- It is bordered by **Ukraine** to the north, **Russia** to the northeast, **Georgia** to the east, **Turkey** to the south, and **Bulgaria** and **Romania** to the west.
- The roughly **oval-shaped Black Sea occupies** a large basin strategically situated at the **southeastern extremity of Europe** but connected to the **distant waters of the Atlantic** Ocean by the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, the Dardanelles, the Aegean Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Crimean Peninsula thrusts into the Black Sea from the north, and just to its east the narrow Kerch Strait links the sea to the smaller Sea of Azov.

**113. [ANS] d**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, Apurva Chandra has completed his tenure as Chair of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

**Statement 1 is correct:** ILO was established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations. It became the first affiliated specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is the only tripartite UN agency, which brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 Member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

**Statement 3 is correct:** India is one of the founding members of the ILO.

**Statement 4 is correct:** Global Wage Report, World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO), World Employment and Social Outlook, World Social Protection Report and World of Work Report are flagship ILO publications.

**114. [ANS] b**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, Kazakhstan has highlighted that the population of Saiga antelope has more than doubled since 2019.

**Statement 1 is correct:** It inhabits open dry steppe grasslands and semi-arid deserts of Central Asia. Currently, Saiga populations are found in Russia, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Kazakhstan is home to a majority of the world's Saiga.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It is classified as critically endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List. It comes under the Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Appendix II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

**115. [ANS] c**

**[SOL] In News:** Recently, the Mumbai Police has arrested five persons trying to sell Ambergris.

**Option C is correct:** Ambergris is generally referred to as whale vomit. It is a solid waxy substance originating in the intestine of the Sperm Whales (*Physeter catodon*). It floats around the surface of the water body and at times settles on the coast. It is referred to as floating gold as a kilogram of ambergris is estimated to be around Rs. 1 crore in the international market.

It is used in the perfume market to create fragrances which are in high demand in countries like Dubai. Ancient Egyptians used it as incense and is also believed to be used in some traditional medicines.

116. [ANS] d

[SOL] **In News: Statement 1 is not correct:** Food and energy are **not included in core inflation** because their prices are volatile.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The headline inflation figure includes inflation in a basket of goods that includes commodities like food and energy. It makes headline inflation a more volatile measure than core inflation.

117. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Option B is correct:** Scientists said on Thursday they had discovered a new kind of early human after studying pieces of fossilised bone dug up at a site used by a cement plant in central Israel. The fragments of a skull and a lower jaw with teeth were about 130,000 years old and could force a rethink of parts of the human family tree, the researchers from Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem said. Nesher Ramla Homo - named after the place southeast of Tel Aviv where it was found - may have lived alongside our species, Homo sapiens, for more than 100,000 years, and may have even interbred, according to the findings. The early humans, who had very large teeth and no chin, may have also been ancestors of the Neanderthals, the study added, challenging the current thinking that our evolutionary cousins originated in Europe.

118. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Meteoroids are objects in space that range in size from dust grains to small asteroids. Think of them as "space rocks."

**Statement 2 is correct:** When meteoroids enter Earth's atmosphere (or that of another planet, like Mars) at high speed and burn up, the fireballs or "shooting stars" are called meteors.

**Statement 3 is correct:** When a meteoroid survives a trip through the atmosphere and hits the ground, it's called a meteorite.

119. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is multi-modal transportation established on 12th September 2000 in St. Petersburg, by Iran, Russia and India for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States. For India, it can be considered an alternative route to the Suez Canal for connecting to Europe.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It is aimed at **reducing the carriage cost** between India and Russia by about 30 per cent and bringing down the transit time by more than half.

120. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Senior care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) Project has been launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It was shaped on the recommendations of the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) report on start-ups for the elderly.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It aims to select, support and create a “one-stop access” of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups. There is an urgent need to create a more robust eldercare ecosystem in India, especially in the post-Covid-19 phase.

121. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) is a technical intelligence agency **under the National Security Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office, India.** It was set up in 2004.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It operates India's ocean surveillance ship named INS Dhruv, with the Indian Navy. Also, a joint NTRO - IAF team operates Very Long Range Tracking Radar (VLTR) systems.

122. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** **Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis** is considered the father of Indian Statistics. “National Statistics Day” is celebrated on 29th June each year, the birth anniversary of **P C Mahalanobis.**

**Statement 2 is correct:** The **theme** of Statistics Day, 2021 is **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)- 2 (End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture).**

123. [ANS] b

[SOL] **Option B is correct:** The Kali Masi/Kadaknath chicken is a local breed of chicken that is completely black in colour: feathers, flesh and even bones. The chicken, traditionally reared by Jhabua's Adivasi communities, was granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the government registry in 2017. This chicken is mostly famous in Madhya Pradesh adjoining areas of Gujarat. Kadaknath chicken has more protein and iron content, with *lower levels of fat* and cholesterol. Thus **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

124. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct: In News:** Ukraine and the United States have launched a military exercise named Sea Breeze 2021 involving more than 30 countries in the **Black Sea** and southern Ukraine. The Black Sea, also known as the **Euxine Sea**, is one of the major water bodies and a famous **inland sea of the world.** It is bordered by **Ukraine** to the north, **Russia** to the northeast, **Georgia** to the east, **Turkey** to the south, and **Bulgaria** and **Romania** to the west. The roughly **oval-shaped Black Sea occupies** a large basin strategically situated at the **southeastern extremity of Europe** but connected to the **distant waters of the Atlantic** Ocean by the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, the Dardanelles, the Aegean Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea. The Crimean Peninsula thrusts into the Black Sea from the north, and just to its east the narrow Kerch Strait links the sea to the smaller Sea of Azov.

125. [ANS] c

[SOL] **Option c is correct:** China operationalises **Baihetan hydro project** of 16GW capacity, biggest since Three Gorges. It is located on the Border of the southwestern provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan. **Constructed on:** Jinsha, the upstream section of the Yangtze River. The Yangtze is the **longest in Asia** and the **third-longest river in the world**. It rises in the northern part of the Tibetan Plateau and flows in a generally easterly direction to the **East China Sea**.

126. [ANS] C

[SOL] Article 25: Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.

**Article 26: Freedom to manage religious affairs.**

**Article 27: Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any particular religion.**

Article 28: Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions.

127. [ANS] c

[SOL] He was related to the Poona pact, Kalaram Temple Movement and Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha. **But he was not related to Surat Split.**

128. [ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Blackhole is a region in space where the pulling force of gravity is so strong that neither matter nor light can escape.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** This phenomenon occurs **when a star is dying**.

129. [ANS] a

[SOL] Swine Flu is an infection of the respiratory tract characterized by the usual symptoms of flu cough, nasal secretions, fever, loss of appetite, fatigue, and headache. It is caused by the "swine flu virus", the H1N1.

130. [ANS] d

[SOL] **Both statements are not correct:**

African swine fever is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease affecting both domestic and feral swine of all ages. ASF is not a threat to human health and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans. It is not a food safety issue.