

**NEXT IAS**

**TEST YOURSELF**

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**JUNE, 2022**

1. With reference to “Astra Mk-1 missile system”, consider the following statements
  1. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
  2. It is a beyond visual range, surface-to-air missile.
  3. The missile can travel at speeds more than four times that of sound.Which of the following statements is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
2. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, consider the following statements:
  1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme .
  2. Under the scheme an income support of 12,000/- per year in three equal instalments will be provided.
  3. All landholder farmers' families are eligible to obtain the benefits.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 and 2 Only
  - (b) 2 and 3 Only
  - (c) 3 Only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
3. With reference to World Summit of Information Society (WSIS), consider the following statements:
  1. It is co-organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.
  2. It represents the world's largest annual gathering of the ICT for development community.Which of the statements given above is /are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. Which of the following is /are objectives of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)?
  1. Create Awareness about generic Medicines
  2. Generate employment by engaging individual entrepreneurs
  3. Availability of medicines at price less than 50%-90 than that of the open marketSelect the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 1 and 2 only
  - (c) 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
5. Provisional Estimates of National Income 2021-22 recently released by which of the following?
- (a) Reserve Bank of India(RBI)
  - (b) Ministry of Finance
  - (c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
  - (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
6. With reference to Unicorn , consider the following statements:
- 1. The term was first popularised by Satoshi Nakamoto in 2013.
  - 2. It is used in the venture capital industry to describe a startup company with a value of over \$10 billion.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. The 1972 United Nations Stockholm conference recently completed its 50 years. Consider the following statements regarding this conference:
- 1. It has marked the beginning of a global level dialogue between industrialized and developing countries.
  - 2. It gave birth to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
  - 3. Indira Gandhi was the only head of government other than that of the host country Sweden to attend and speak at the meeting.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 1 and 3 only
  - (c) 2 only
  - (d) None of the above
8. With reference to Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT), consider the following statements:
- 1. It was launched by France and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019.
  - 2. It supports governments and industries to co-produce stakeholder-led pathways to low carbon industry transformation.
  - 3. It is aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

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

9. Who proposed the “Build Back Better World (B3W)” Initiative which was seen recently in the news?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) World Economic Forum
- (c) European Union
- (d) G7

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The sky on Earth looks blue due to the Total Internal Reflection (TIR) phenomenon of light.
2. In distance, Neptune is closer to the Sun than Uranus.
3. An aerosol is a suspension of fine droplets or particles in a gas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

11. With reference to the tax-to-GDP ratio, consider the following statements:

1. A low tax-to-GDP ratio indicates more spending on infrastructure creation, hence a better financial position for the country
2. Developed nations typically have lower tax-to-GDP ratios than developing nations.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

12. With reference to Ribbon weed, consider the following statements:

1. It has been discovered in the United States of America .
2. It is the world’s largest plant .
3. It has double the number of chromosomes than other similar plants.

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
- 13.** In the context of which of the following do we sometimes find the terms 'Amber box, Blue box and Green box' in the news?
- (a) WTO affairs
  - (b) SAARC affairs
  - (c) UNFCCC affairs
  - (d) India-EU negotiations on FTA
- 14.** Which of the following defence equipments of India are imported from Israel?
1. Phalcon AWACS (Airborne Warning And Control Systems).
  2. Heron drones
  3. INS Chakra submarine
  4. Barak anti-missile defence systems
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
  - (b) 3 and 4 only
  - (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 15.** Consider the following statements regarding the Caste Census in India:
1. The last comprehensive data on caste was collected was in the 1931 Census.
  2. Census in independent India conducted from 1951 to 2011 never published data on castes like SC's, ST's or OBC's.
  3. Socio-economic caste census (SECC) of 2011 was full of discrepancies and was never published.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 1 and 3 only
  - (c) 2 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 16.** With reference to International Telecommunication Union (ITU), consider the following statements:
1. It is the United Nations specialised agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).
  2. It allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits.
  3. India is contesting elections to the ITU Council for the first time.

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

**17.** Which of the following are the part of the Pacific Island Countries?

- 1. Cook Islands
- 2. Fiji
- 3. Republic of Marshall Islands
- 4. Papua New Guinea
- 5. Solomon Islands
- 6. Tonga

Select the correct option

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

**18.** Consider the following statements with reference to Kaziranga National Park

- 1. It is the oldest park in Assam
- 2. It is famous for the Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros.
- 3. It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by IUCN.

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

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

**19.** With reference to the Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ), consider the following statements:

- 1. These are areas around Protected Areas, National Park and Wildlife sanctuaries.
- 2. Activities like commercial mining and tourism are permitted in a regulated way in the zone.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

20. 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
21. With reference to Fishing Cats, consider the following statements:
- 1. They occur in wetlands like marshlands, mangroves and flooded forests in major South and Southeast Asian river basins.
  - 2. These are categorised as Critically Endangered as per the IUCN Red List.
- 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
22. Which of the following are Literary Works of Kabir Das?
- 1. Anurag Sagar
  - 2. Bijak
  - 3. Sakhi Granth
  - 4. Raghuvarsa
  - 5. Panch Vani
- Select the correct answer using the code given below
- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
  - (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
  - (c) 2, 4 and 5 only
  - (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
23. What are the factors that contribute to "Stagflation"?
- 1. High Prices
  - 2. High spending
  - 3. High inflation
  - 4. Low Economic growth
  - 5. Low unemployment
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3
  - (b) 1, 3 and 4
  - (c) 4 and 5
  - (d) All of the above

24. Consider the following statements regarding recently published 'Report on International Religious Freedom':

1. The report gives its perspective on the status and violations of religious freedom in different countries.
2. It is published by Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
3. It is an annual report.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. With reference to Electric Vertical Take off and Landing (eVTOL), consider the following statements:

1. It is beneficial for Short Range Urban Transportation.
2. They can take off and land anywhere.
3. They have zero carbon print and are noise free, unlike Helicopters.

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

26. With reference to Agni-4 missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is a surface to surface missile having 4000 km strike range .
2. It is equipped with modern and compact avionics to provide a high level of reliability.
3. It is developed by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau.

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

27. Which of the following are the criterias for couples to obtain 'eligibility certificate' under Surrogacy (Regulation) Act?

1. Indian citizens who have been married for at least five years.
2. They cannot have more than one, physically fit, surviving child.
3. The female must be between 23 to 50 years and the male, 26 to 55 years.



Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 28.** With reference to the Indian economy, 'Open Market Operations' are:
- (a) Borrowing by scheduled banks from the RBI
  - (b) Lending by commercial banks to industry and trade
  - (c) Purchase and sale of government securities by the RBI
  - (d) None of the above
- 29.** State of Environment Report is published by which of the following?
- (a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
  - (b) Global Environment Facility (GEF)
  - (c) Global Footprint Network
  - (d) Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- 30.** Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth Seekers) was founded by?
- (a) Annie Beasant
  - (b) Jyotirao Govindrao Phule
  - (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
  - (d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- 31.** As recent notifications of the Ministry of Defence, which of the following are eligible for appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff CDS?
- 1. Lieutenant General
  - 2. Vice Admiral
  - 3. Air Chief Marshal
- Select the correct answer using the code given below
- (a) 1 and 2 Only
  - (b) 2 and 3 Only
  - (c) 1 and 3 Only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 32.** Mela Kheer Bhawani temple recently seen in the news, it is situated in which of the following ?
- (a) Himachal Pradesh
  - (b) Uttarakhand
  - (c) Jammu and Kashmir
  - (d) Bihar

33. Consider the following statements:

1. Manufacture, import, sale and use of carry bags made of plastic less than seventy-five microns is banned in India.
2. India Plastics Pact is a joint initiative between the World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

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

34. Recently, “Yellow-billed hornbill” was in the news, consider following statements regarding it:

1. These birds are near endemic to the dry savannas of southern Africa.
2. It is listed as Endangered in the IUCN red list.
3. They struggle to breed above certain temperatures as they face greater difficulty in foraging and lose weight.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

35. In 1899, he established the Belur Math, which became his permanent abode. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called him the “Maker of Modern India”. He has been credited with raising interfaith awareness and bringing Hinduism to a global platform in the 19th century. He preached ‘neo-Vedanta’, an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens and believed in combining spirituality with material progress.

He was

- (a) Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
- (b) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- (c) Swami Vivekananda
- (d) Ramakrishna Paramahansa

36. Which of the following are covered under National Air Sports Policy 2022?

1. Aerobatics
2. Ballooning
3. Drones
4. Gliding and powered gliding

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**37.** With reference to Indian Agriculture, consider the following statements:

1. The area under oilseed cultivation has been on a steady rise over the last few years.
2. Coffee, Cotton and Rubber are some of the commercial crops under MSP.
3. Jowar, Maize and Millet are some Common kharif crops.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**38.** Consider the following statements with respect to Government Securities (G-Secs).

1. G-Secs are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.
2. State Government issues both treasury bills and bonds or dated securities

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**39.** Formosa Strait is located between which of the following?

- (a) Taiwan and Philippines
- (b) Japan and Russia
- (c) Korea and Japan
- (d) Taiwan and China

**40.** With reference to the Public Distribution System, consider the following statements:

1. It ensures the management of food scarcity through distribution free of cost.
2. It was established under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
3. It is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. India is a signatory to which of the following Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) related conventions?

1. The Berne Convention which governs copyright,
2. The Budapest Treaty,
3. The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

42. With reference to Corvette , consider the following statements:

1. The word corvette itself is derived from French and Dutch origin.
2. It is the smallest class of naval ships and it falls below the warship class of a frigate.
3. During World War II, the term Corvette was used to describe vessels which had anti-submarine roles assigned to 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

43. Which of the following is/are part of the Electoral College of the President of India?

1. MPs of both Houses of Parliament
2. MLAs of the states of Delhi and Puducherry
3. Nominated members of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

44. With reference to Magnetars, consider the following statements:

1. They have very high magnetic fields.
2. They are dull objects of space with less illuminosity.
3. They emit violent flares.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. With reference to Greater One-Horned Rhino, consider the following statements

1. The species is restricted to small habitats in Indo-Nepal terai and northern West Bengal and Assam.
2. It is listed under the Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
3. It is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red list.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

46. “The World of Work Report” which was seen recently in the news, is released by which organisation?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) World Economic Forum
- (c) Amnesty International
- (d) International Labour Organisation

47. Which of the following is not legal in India?

1. Smoking weed.
2. Consumption of Bhaang.
3. Production of Cannabidiol (CBD) oil from the leaves of the cannabis.
4. Possessing weed lesser than 10 grams.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

48. Chelonoidis phantasticus term recently seen in the news ,it is related to which of the following species?

- (a) Tortoise
- (b) Bird
- (c) Eucalyptus Tree
- (d) Snake

49. With reference to Environment Performance Index (EPI), consider the following statements:
1. It is a biennial index started by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
  2. EPI 2022 ranked India at the bottom position among 180 countries.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
50. Consider the following statements with reference to the Conditions of the Governor's office.
1. The office of governor of a state is an employment under the Central government.
  2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor shall not be diminished during his term of office.
- 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
51. Which of the following statements is not correct regarding crypto or digital-assets regulations in India?
- (a) The government in the Union Budget 2022-23 has for the first time provided taxation on crypto-assets.
  - (b) Income from the transfer of virtual digital assets or cryptocurrencies is taxable at 30 percent.
  - (c) Crypto trading platforms are regulated by the RBI under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).
  - (d) 1% TDS (tax deducted at source) is also applicable on payments made on the transfer of digital assets.
52. "Footing the Bill" report recently released by which of the following ?
- (a) Food and Agriculture Organisation
  - (b) The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
  - (c) Oxfam International
  - (d) World Health Organisation
53. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the provisions on Child artists in India?
1. No child shall be allowed to work for more than five hours in a day and for not more than three hours without rest.
  2. At least 20% of the income earned by the child should be directly deposited in a fixed deposit account in the name of the child.

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

**54.** With reference to Right to Freedom of Religion, consider the following statements:

1. There can be no taxes on the proceeds which are directly used for the promotion of any particular religious denomination.
2. The State cannot make any law for regulating or restricting any secular activity which may be associated with religious practice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. The Election Commissioners enjoy the same status as available to the Chief Justice of the High Court.
2. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament.
3. The decisions of the ECI can be challenged only in the the Supreme Court of India by appropriate petitions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. It is a multi-mode network of ship, rail and road routes for moving freight only.
2. It links the Indian Ocean to the Black Sea via the Persian Gulf.

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

57. Consider the following statements regarding collegium system:
1. The provisions related to the collegium system are mentioned in Art 217 of the constitution.
  2. The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India.
  3. Government can not seek clarification on the collegium's choice of selected judge.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 2 and 3 only
  - (d) 3 only
58. Mission Buniyaad recently seen in the news ,it is related to which of the following?
- (a) Water Conservation
  - (b) Elderly care
  - (c) Learning skills of children
  - (d) Rehabilitation of Sex workers
59. With reference to Pardoning Power Governor, consider the following statements:
1. The pardoning power of the Governor extends to the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against State law only.
  2. The Governor cannot pardon against the death sentence and sentence of a Court Martial.
- 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 Web 3-0, consider the following statements:
1. Web 3:0 technology enables people to control their own data.
  2. In the Web 3-0 world, there can be blockchain based social networks.
  3. Web 3:0 is operated by users collectively rather than a corporation.
- 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
61. With reference to Agnipath Recruitment Scheme, consider the following statements:
1. Under the scheme, soldiers (Agniveers) will be recruited annually at both the level of commissioned and non-commissioned levels.
  2. Recruitment will be carried out on an 'All India All Class' basis with the eligibility age ranging from 17.5 to 25 years.



3. Agniveer can not apply for regular employment in the armed forces after completing their four-year service.

4. There shall be entitlement to gratuity and pensionary benefits for Agniveer.

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

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

**62.** Consider the following statements regarding Seafloor Spreading Theory:

- 1. As per this, the ocean floor is always moving from the trench towards the mid-oceanic ridges.
- 2. The older rocks move farther away from the spreading zone while younger rocks are found nearer to the spreading zone.
- 3. This theory invalidated the Plate Tectonics Theory.

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

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

**63.** Consider the following statements:

- 1. Labour Force Participation Rate is the percentage of the working-age population that is asking for a job.
- 2. Working-age here means someone 15 years or older.
- 3. It includes those who are employed and those who are unemployed both.

Which of the given above statements are correct?

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

**64.** Recently seen in news, Migration in India Report is released by-

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Ministry of statistics and programme Implementation
- (c) Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs

65. Consider the following statements regarding Pravasi Bharatiya Divas:

1. The convention has been organized every year since 2003.
2. On this day Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa.
3. It aims to reconnect the Non-Resident Indian community with their original roots.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

66. Which of the following are the outcomes of the La Nina event?

1. Cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures over the central Pacific Ocean.
2. Cold winter and spring seasons for India.
3. Suppression of monsoon rainfall

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

67. Which of the following missiles developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)?

1. Prithvi
2. Agni
3. Trishul
4. Nag
5. Akash

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

68. Lake Sawa, recently seen in the news, it is situated in which of the following countries ?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) Lebanon
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Yemen

**69.** With reference to Red sanders wood, consider the following statements

1. The species is endemic to Seshachalam Hills in Andhra Pradesh.
2. It is in the Vulnerable category of IUCN Red List.
3. They are usually growing in the rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil and a hot and dry climate.

Which of the above given statements is/ are correct?

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

**70.** Consider the following statements:

1. Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the central bank of a country lends money to commercial banks.
2. Marginal Standing Facility measures changes in the price level of a weighted average market basket of consumer goods and services purchased by households.

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.** Which of the following platforms are shared by India with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?

1. East Asia Summit
2. ADMM-Plus
3. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)
4. Delhi Dialogue

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**72.** Which of the following countries are members of the I2U2 initiative?

1. Israel
2. Japan
3. India
4. China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**73.** What are the possible impacts of the US Federal Reserve's rate hike on the Indian economy?

- 1. Foreign Portfolio Investors will earn more in India.
- 2. Weakening of the domestic currency.
- 3. Widening of the current account deficit.
- 4. Gold prices may soar.
- 5. Higher Job cuts.

Which of the given above options are correct?

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

**74.** Which of the following are part of the principles of the Rule of Law?

- 1. Supremacy of Law
- 2. Equality before law and equal protection of Law
- 3. Primacy of individual's rights
- 4. Due procedure of law

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, 2 and 4 only

**75.** Which of the following is/are provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021?

- 1. It decreases the gestation period of women seeking abortion up from 24 weeks to 20 weeks.
- 2. It allows unmarried women to terminate a pregnancy in case of failure of the contraceptive method or device.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

76. Which of the following is proposed under the Draft National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP)?

1. Establishment of India Data Management Office (IDMO)
2. Monetisation of non-personal data gathered from citizens.
3. Establishment of Data Management Units (DMUs) headed by Chief Data Officer
4. Encouragement to private companies to share non-personal data with startups.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

77. 'Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and

- (a) European Union
- (b) Gulf Cooperation Council
- (c) Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- (d) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

78. Which of the Councils is/are created by the President of India under Article 263 of the Indian Constitution?

1. Central Council of Health.
2. Central Council of Local Government and Urban Development.
3. Zonal Councils
4. Inter-State Council

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

79. Consider the following statements with reference to Osteocytes :

1. They are the most abundant type of cell in mature bone tissue.
2. They form a network similar to the neurons in the brain.
3. They are involved in bone remodelling by transmitting signals.

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

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

80. Down Syndrome is a genetic disorder which causes physical and mental developmental delays and disabilities in children born with it. It is caused by.
- (a) Additional copy of chromosome 21
  - (b) Deletion of chromosome 4
  - (c) Additional copy of chromosome X
  - (d) Deletion of chromosome 5
81. River Sharda joins which River at Brahmaghat in India to form the river Ghaghar?
- (a) Seti River
  - (b) Trishuli River
  - (c) Badigad River
  - (d) Karnali River
82. Juneteenth recently seen in the news, it is related to which of the following?
- (a) Yoga Celebration
  - (b) Film Festival
  - (c) Ending of slavery
  - (d) Geophysical phenomena
83. The UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize recently seen in the news ,it is related to
- (a) Sports
  - (b) Music
  - (c) Defence
  - (d) Education
84. With reference to “Sunderbans”, consider the following statements:
1. It is the world’s largest mangrove delta forest.
  2. It is spread over India and Bangladesh and lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers.
  3. It is enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
85. Consider the following statements regarding the World Trade Organization (WTO):
1. The Ministerial Conference is the WTO’s decision-making body which usually meets every two years.
  2. All powers of the WTO are vested in the Board of Governors, who takes all its decisions by consensus.

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.** Spiny Horntail recently seen in the news, it is related to:

- (a) Frogs
- (b) Duck
- (c) Snake
- (d) Dragonfly

**87.** With reference to Surety Bonds and Insurance, consider the following statements:

1. Surety is a three party arrangement and insurance is a two party arrangement.
2. A surety bond is required by, and protects the interest of, the insured.

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

**88.** With reference to plastic waste, consider the following statements

1. Bangladesh was the first country to ban thin plastic bags.
2. Plastic bags have the highest life span among all the plastic waste.
3. India is a signatory to the International Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**89.** Consider the following statements regarding black swan event:

1. It is a rare and unpredictable event.
2. Covid-19 pandemic is an example of black swan event.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

90. Consider the following statements regarding the World Trade Organization (WTO):
1. The Ministerial Conference is the WTO's decision-making body which usually meets every two years.
  2. All powers of the WTO are vested in the Board of Governors, who takes all its decisions by consensus.
- 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
91. Which of the following statements regarding Anti-defection law are correct?
- (a) Anti- defection law is not practiced anywhere else in the world except in India.
  - (b) A nominated legislator can join a political party anytime without attracting the defection.
  - (c) The decision of a presiding officer regarding defection can not be challenged in the court.
  - (d) All are incorrect.
92. Pink Bollworm recently seen in the news ,it is mainly related to which of the following crops ?
- (a) Wheat
  - (b) Rice
  - (c) Cotton
  - (d) Sugarcane
93. With reference to Indian economy, consider the following statements:
1. A fiscal deficit is a budget shortfall.
  2. A current account deficit means a country is sending more money overseas for goods and services than it is receiving.
  3. Stagflation means when inflation rate is low, the economic growth rate is slow, and unemployment is also low.
- Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 3 only
  - (d) 1 and 2 only
94. Consider the following statements regarding recently launched NIPUN scheme:
1. It covers all types of workers involved in informal sector like migrant workers, street vendors, domestic workers, etc.
  2. It aims for international placements of concerned workers.
  3. It will provide trainees with accidental insurance 'Kaushal Bima'.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**95.** A rise in the general level of prices may be caused by

- 1. An increase in the money supply
- 2. A decrease in the aggregate level of output
- 3. An increase in the effective demand

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**96.** Consider the following statements regarding Alpide belt, which was recently in news:

- 1. It includes the Alps and Atlas mountain ranges.
- 2. It runs through the Himalayas.
- 3. It is one of the seismically active regions in the world.
- 4. Mount Kilimanjaro, which is an active volcano, is a part of this belt.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**97.** With reference to Election Commission India, consider the following statements

- 1. It is a constitutional body.
- 2. The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Panchayats and Municipalities.
- 3. EC has powers to register and deregister political parties.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**98.** With reference to Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNK), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is located in the south western part of the Wular lake.
- 2. It is the only floating park in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**99.** Snake Island recently seen in the news, it is located in which of the following seas ?

- (a) South China Sea
- (b) Arabian Sea
- (c) Caspian Sea
- (d) Black Sea

**100.** With reference to Gold refining and recycling, consider the following statements:

1. India has emerged as the largest recycler in the world.
2. The World Gold Council is an association of the world's leading gold mining companies.

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.** Which of the following statements is correct regarding Azooxanthellate Corals?

1. They are non-reef building corals.
2. These groups of corals are found in the deep sea.
3. They are found in waters around Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**102.** With reference to Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Finance.
2. It aims to promote open networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services digitally.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**103.** With reference to Global Environment Facility (GEF), consider the following statements:

1. It was established by the Paris Summit to act as a funding mechanism.
2. It is the only multilateral fund focused on biodiversity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**104.** Sao Joao festival recently seen in the news ,it is mainly related to which of the following states ?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Goa
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

**105.** With reference to Santhal Tribe, consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest scheduled tribe community in the country .
2. It is only found in Jharkhand and Odisha .

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

**106.** Which of the following could be the possible outcomes for a country leading towards Dutch disease?

1. Appreciating exchange rate of the currency
2. Unemployment
3. Increased imports
4. Decreasing price competitiveness of exports

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**107.** Which of the following statements is correct regarding river Padma?

1. It is the distributary of the Ganges.
2. It is the main river of Bihar that enters into the state from the Chausa district.
3. Gumti and Feni are its major tributaries.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**108.** Consider the following statements regarding recently brought guidelines to protect the rights of children working on the OTT platforms:

1. The producer will need to obtain the permission of the District Magistrate for the participation of a child in his/her show.
2. During the process of the shooting with infants, a registered nurse needs to be present along with the parent or legal guardian.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**109.** With reference to Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM), consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed by Dassault Aviation of France.
2. It is designed to strike at the high-speed airborne targets at the range of 40 to 50 km.
3. It has the capability of neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.

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

**110.** Which of the following activities are not permitted in Eco Sensitive Zones (ESZ):

1. Agricultural or horticultural practices.
2. Tourism
3. Commercial mining
4. Establishment of hotels and resorts

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**111.** With reference to Dandi March, consider the following statements:

1. It marked the first step of the Civil Disobedience movement.
2. Salt was chosen because it appealed to the masses as the Repressive Salt Law prohibited Indians from processing and manufacturing salt.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**112.** Consider the following statements regarding cryptocurrency:

1. It is supported by a decentralized peer-to-peer network called the blockchain.
2. It is a highly secure network that gives protection against issues like Hijacking.
3. It is cheaper and faster to transfer than conventional means of money transfer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**113.** Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021 is criticised for which of the following?

1. There is no clause for the anonymity of women as she has to register herself in the state medical board.
2. Unmarried women cannot access abortions without the consent of a guardian.
3. There is no clarity on the access to abortions for transgender persons.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**114.** Recently, India's cyber security watchdog CERT-In issued new rules regarding virtual private networks (VPNs), consider the following statements regarding it:

1. A VPN is a service that protects users online by preventing their IP address.
2. It mandates VPN providers to record and keep their customers' logs for 180 days.
3. Rules would apply only to individual VPN customers and not to enterprise or corporate VPNs.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**115.** With reference to Zika disease, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by the female Anopheles mosquito.
- 2. This disease causes microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome.

Choose the correct option using the codes given below:

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

**116.** Which of the following countries are part of the “Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP)” initiative?

- 1. USA
- 2. India
- 3. Australia
- 4. New Zealand

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

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

**117.** With reference to Zika virus, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is primarily transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito from the Aedes genus.
- 2. It was first isolated from a rhesus monkey in Uganda .
- 3. It can be transmitted sexually.

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

**118.** Consider the following statements regarding a 'Gig economy':

1. The gig workers usually receive payment on a task-by-task basis.
2. The gig work often involves connecting with clients or customers through an online platform.
3. The gig worker is a full time employee of the company with fixed work hours.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**119.** With reference to National Air Quality Resource Framework of India (NARFI), consider the following statements

1. It is developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It will address air pollution issues in different climatic zones of India.
3. Training modules tailored for different groups would be an integral part of the framework.

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

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

**120.** '2022 Resilient Democracies Statement', which was recently in news, was delivered during which of the following international event?

- (a) Group of Seven meeting
- (b) 14th BRICS Summit
- (c) BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meet
- (d) India-ASEAN conclave

**121.** With reference to Goods and Services Tax Council consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint forum of the Centre and the states which was set up by the President as per Article 286 of the Indian Constitution.
2. Governor of Reserve Bank of India is chairperson of the council .

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.** '2022 Resilient Democracies Statement', which was recently in news, was delivered during which of the following international event?
- (a) Group of Seven meeting
  - (b) 14th BRICS Summit
  - (c) BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meet
  - (d) India-ASEAN conclave
- 123.** The landscape is of sheer forest, tall elephant grass, rugged reeds, marshes & shallow pools. It is inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses, as well as many mammals, including tigers, elephants, panthers and bears, and thousands of birds. Which National Park is correctly described here?
- (a) Kanha National Park
  - (b) Bandipur National Park
  - (c) Hemis National Park
  - (d) Kaziranga National Park
- 124.** Recently seen in news, Harimau Shakti Exercise is between India and which nation:
- (a) Malaysia
  - (b) France
  - (c) Vietnam
  - (d) Sri Lanka
- 125.** Consider the following statements
1. All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.
  2. All G-7 members other than Japan are NATO members.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 126.** With reference to ABHYAS – High speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT), consider the following statements:
1. It is designed & developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
  2. It was launched using twin under-slung boosters which provide the initial acceleration to the vehicle.
  3. It is powered by a small gas turbine engine to sustain a long endurance flight at high subsonic speed.



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

**127.** With reference to Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by Japan during the United Nations Climate Action Summit in 2019 at France .
2. It has been expanding its membership consistently by attracting a wide variety of economically advanced countries, developing countries, and countries that are most vulnerable to climate change and disasters.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**128.** Consider the following statements regarding Hermit Spyware:

1. It is a spyware which recently targeted android devices in Russia.
2. This spyware is deployed just by clicking on the link sent on the device.

Which of the above statement/s are correct?

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

**129.** With reference to GST Council, consider the following statements

1. It is considered as a federal body where both the centre and the states get due representation.
2. Both the Union and the state have equal voting weightage in decision making.
3. Council's decisions are recommendatory in nature.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

**130.** With reference to CERT-In, consider the following statements:

1. It is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.
2. It is an office within the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## Explanation

1. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Recently, The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with the Hyderabad-based public-sector Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) for supply of the Astra Mark-1.]

Statements 1 and 3 are correct : The missile has been designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for deployment on fighter jets like Sukhoi-30 MKI and Tejas of the IAF and the Mig-29K of the Navy.

- The missile can travel at speeds more than four times that of sound and can reach a maximum altitude of 20 km, making it extremely flexible for air combat.
- While the range for Astra Mk-1 is around 110 km, the Mk-2 with a range over 150 km is under development and Mk-3 version with a longer range is being envisaged.

- One more version of Astra, with a range smaller than Mk-1 is also under development.

Statement 2 is not correct : The Astra Mk-1 is a beyond visual range (BVR), air-to-air missile (AAM).

- BVM missiles are capable of engaging beyond the range of 20 nautical miles or 37 kilometres.

2. [ANS] c

[SOL] Context :Recently, the PM of India released the 11th instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.

Statement 1 and 2 are not correct : PM Kisan is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India. Under the scheme an income support of 6,000/- per year in three equal instalments will be provided

Statement 3 is correct: Under this scheme, all landholder farmers' families are eligible to obtain the benefits. The landholder farmers' family is defined under the scheme guidelines as a family consisting of a husband, wife and minor children who own cultivable land as per the land records of the respective State or UT.

Definition of family for the scheme is husband, wife and minor children.

3. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : The Minister of State for Communications attended the opening ceremony of World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) 2022.

Statement 1 is not correct : The WSIS Forum, co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Co-Facilitators

- Headquarter in Geneva

Statement 2 is correct :It represents the world's largest annual gathering of the ICT for development community.

4. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) has for the first time ever crossed Rs. 100 Crore sales in the month of May, 2022



5. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the Provisional Estimates of National Income 2021-22 as well as Quarterly Estimates of GDP (Q4) 2021-22.

- The growth in GDP during 2021-22 is estimated at 8.7 percent as compared to a contraction of 6.6 percent in 2020-21.
- The Gross Value Added (or GVA) grew by 8.1% in FY22

6. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Recently ,The Prime Minister of India highlighted that the country has reached a landmark figure of 100 unicorns with a valuation of more than \$300 billion.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct : Unicorns are privately held, venture-capital backed startups that have reached a value of \$1 billion.

- The term was first popularised by venture capitalist Aileen Lee.
- They are very rare and require innovation. Because of their sheer size, unicorn investors tend to be private investors or venture capitalists, which means they are out of the reach of retail investors.

- The valuation of unicorns is not expressly linked to their current financial performance, but largely based on their growth potential as perceived by investors and venture capitalists who have taken part in various funding rounds

7. [ANS] b

[SOL] About the 1972 Stockholm conference:

- It was the first world conference to make the environment a major issue.
- The participants adopted a series of principles for sound management of the environment including the Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan for the Human Environment and several resolutions.
- It marked the start of a dialogue between industrialized and developing countries on the link between economic growth, the pollution of the air, water, and oceans and the well-being of people around the world. Hence statement 1 is correct.
  - This conference was about the fallout of industrialisation and how to cope and mitigate its harmful impacts.
- One of the major results of the Stockholm conference was the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Indira Gandhi was the only head of government other than that of the host country Sweden to attend and speak at the meeting. Hence statement 3 is correct.
  - In her speech in the conference, she brought forward the connection between ecological management and poverty alleviation.

The 'Earth Summit' of 1991:

- The following was formed at this conference-
  - The Rio Declaration and its 27 universal principles,
  - The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
  - The Convention on Biological Diversity and
  - The Declaration on the principles of forest management.

8. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, India and Sweden hosted the Industry Transition Dialogue in Stockholm, as a part of their joint initiative i.e. Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT).

Statement 1 is not correct : LeadIT was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and is supported by the World Economic Forum.

- It lays specific focus on hard to abate sectors that are key stakeholders in the global climate

action and require specific interventions.

- Japan and South Africa, the latest members of the initiative were welcomed.
  - This extends the total membership of LeadIT to 37 including countries and companies together.
- It gathers countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the Paris Agreement.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : LeadIT members subscribe to the notion that energy-intensive industry can and must progress on low-carbon pathways, aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. It provides an arena for public-private collaboration, and for sectoral and cross-sectoral learning for example when it comes to innovation opportunities and new technologies. It also supports governments and industries to co-produce stakeholder-led pathways to low carbon industry transformation.

9. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, Group of Seven (G7) countries met at Berlin to join hands against antimicrobial resistance.

- It is an initiative of G7 countries.
- It was proposed by the US President for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- The initiative pledges hundreds of billions of infrastructure investment in low- and middle-income countries based on values-driven, high-standard and transparent partnerships.
- It is seen as a counterweight against China's multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative

10. [ANS] a

[SOL] Neptune and Uranus have much in common, yes their appearance is in different shades of blue.

Statement 1 is not correct: The red colours of the sunlight scattered from the haze and air molecules are more absorbed by methane molecules in the atmosphere of the planets. This process — referred to as Rayleigh scattering — is what makes skies blue here on Earth (though in Earth's atmosphere sunlight is mostly scattered by nitrogen molecules rather than hydrogen molecules). Rayleigh scattering occurs predominantly at shorter, bluer wavelengths.

Statement 2 is not correct: Sequence of planets from Sun:

Mercury -> Venus -> Earth -> Mars -> Jupiter -> Saturn -> Uranus -> Neptune

Statement 3 is correct: An aerosol is a suspension of fine droplets or particles in a gas. Common examples on Earth include mist, soot, smoke, and fog. On Neptune and Uranus, particles produced by sunlight interacting with elements in the atmosphere (photochemical reactions) are responsible for aerosol hazes in these planets' atmospheres.

11. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Tax-to-GDP ratio represents the size of a country's tax kitty

relative to its GDP. It is a representation of the size of the government's tax revenue expressed as a percentage of the GDP. The higher the tax to GDP ratio the better the financial position the country will be in. The ratio represents that the government is able to finance its expenditure. A higher tax to GDP ratio means that the government is able to cast its fiscal net wide. It reduces a government's dependence on borrowings.

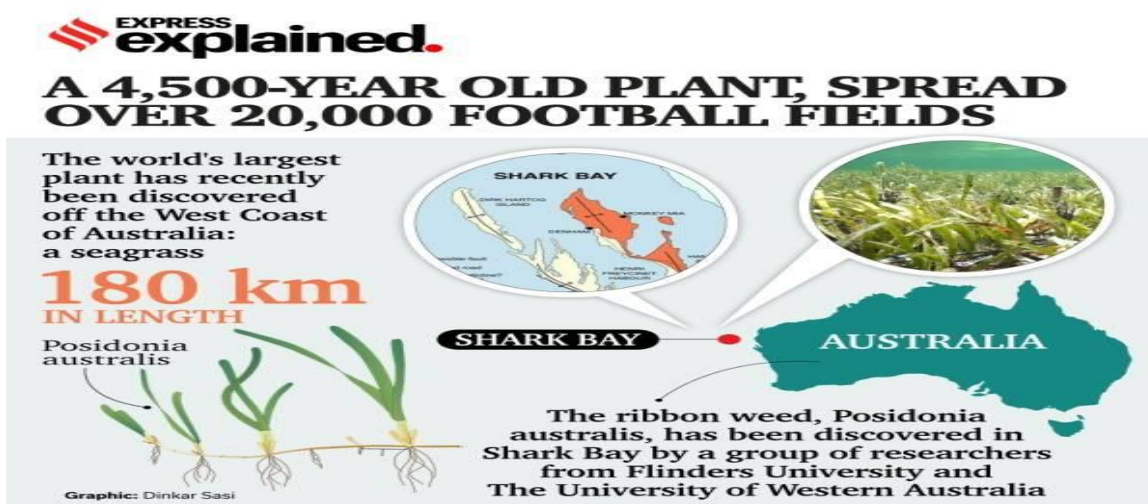
Statement 2 is not correct: Developed nations typically have higher tax-to-GDP ratios than developing nations.

12. [ANS] b

[SOL] Ribbon weed has recently been discovered off the West Coast of Australia.(Statement 1 is not correct).

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : Ribbon weed(*Posidonia australis*) is the world's largest plant.

- They found that the plant is 4,500 years old and is sterile.
- It has double the number of chromosomes than other similar plants.
  - The ribbon weed covers an area of 20,000 hectares.



13. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, The G33, African Group and the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) group submitted a joint proposal to the WTO suggesting a permanent solution for public stockholding.

- In WTO terminology, subsidies in general are identified by “Boxes” which are given the colours of traffic lights: green (permitted), amber (slow down — i.e. be reduced), red (forbidden). In agriculture, things are, as usual, more complicated.
- The Agriculture Agreement has no Red Box, although domestic support exceeding the reduction commitment levels in the Amber Box is prohibited; and there is a Blue Box for subsidies that are tied to programmes that limit production.

- There are also exemptions for developing countries.

14. [ANS] a

[SOL] Defence Cooperation between India and Israel:

- India imports critical defence technologies from Israel.
- There are regular exchanges between the armed forces.
- There is cooperation on security issues, including a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.
- Indian armed forces use Israeli Phalcon AWACS (Airborne Warning And Control Systems), Heron drones to Barak anti-missile defence systems. Hence, option 1, 2 and 4 is correct.

INS Chakra: A submarine of the Russian Akula-2 Class, INS Chakra was commissioned into the Indian Navy on April 4, 2012 and was based in Visakhapatnam. Hence, option 3 is incorrect.

India is also in talks with Russia to lease two nuclear-ballistic submarines, Chakra 3 and Chakra 4, the first of which is expected to be delivered by 2025.

15. [ANS] c

[SOL] History of Caste Census

- A population census was first carried out by the British colonial state in 1872.
- The 65-page census volume enumerated the populations of various castes, including Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Rajputs across several provinces.
- Caste populations were specifically counted based on their traditional occupations at the time.
  - For instance, “Hindoos” in the Madras province were counted in 17 sets, which included “priests, warriors, traders, agriculturists, shepherds and pastoral castes” among others.
- The last time comprehensive data on caste was collected was in the 1931 Census. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Every Census in independent India from 1951 to 2011 has published data on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but not on other castes. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Socio-economic caste census (SECC):

- It is a study of the socio-economic status of rural and urban households and allows ranking of households based on predefined parameters.
- The flaws in the data stem primarily from the fact that no registry of castes was prepared before conducting the 2011 caste census.
  - This resulted in mistakes by enumerators, who spelt the same caste in dozens of different ways.



- At the national level, whereas the total number of castes as per the last caste census of 1931 was 4,147, the SECC-2011 showed the presence of 46 lakh different castes.
- Since the total number cannot be “exponentially high to this extent”, the government has said this entire data set is flawed and the census unreliable, rendering it unusable for the purposes of reservations and policy.
- For these reasons, it has refused to make public even the raw caste data of the SECC-2011. Hence statement 3 is correct.

16. [ANS] a

[SOL] India is contesting, for re-election, to the ITU Council, for the term 2023-2026.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialised agency for Information and Communication Technologies ( ICTs).

- Founded in 1865 to facilitate international connectivity in communications networks. It allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits.
- It develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.
- It is committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means.

Statement 3 is not correct : India has been a member of ITU since 1869 and has been continuously participating, actively in the works, and activities of the Union.

- It has been contributing, to the fullest possible extent, in the growth and development of Telecom/ICTs, for the benefit of the global community.

17. [ANS] d

[SOL] The Foreign Minister of China is currently on an eight-day visit to ten Pacific Island Countries (PICs), and has co-hosted with Fiji the Second China-Pacific Island Countries.

- The Pacific Island Countries are a cluster of 14 states which are located largely in the tropical zone of the Pacific Ocean between Asia, Australia and the Americas.
- They include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- The islands are divided on the basis of physical and human geography into three distinct parts Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia.
- The islands are very small in land area, and are spread wide across the vast equatorial swathe of the Pacific Ocean.
- The Network is also supported by Australia, a developed country partner that has continuously provided support to the network.

18. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, Kaziranga National Park (KNP) has become the first national park in India to be equipped with satellite phones.

Statement 1 is correct: Kaziranga National Park lies partly in Golaghat District and partly in Nagaon District of Assam. It is the oldest park in Assam covering an area of 430 sq km along the river Brahmaputra on the North and the Karbi Anglong hills on the South.

Statement 2 is correct: The National Highway 37 passes through the park area.

It is a world heritage site that is famous for the Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros.

Statement 3 is not correct: It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species. It was declared a National Park in 1974.

19. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary across the country should have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum one km starting from their demarcated boundaries.

Statement 1 is correct: The Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are areas in India notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), GoI around Protected Areas, National Park and Wildlife sanctuaries.

- Purpose:
  - To create some kind of "shock absorbers" to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.
  - Therefore, these areas act as a buffer for protected areas and reduce developmental pressures around a wildlife sanctuary or national park.
  - They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.

Statement 2 is not correct: Prohibited activities:

- Activities like industries which cause pollution Commercial mining, saw mills, establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood, Tourism, discharge of effluents or any solid waste or production of hazardous substances are all prohibited.
- Regulated activities:
  - Activities like felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, e.g. adoption of heavy technology, pesticides etc., widening of roads.
- Permitted activities:
  - Activities like ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources, adoption of green technology for all activities are permitted.

20. [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.

21. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, has 176 fishing cats, according to a census conducted by Chilika Development Authority (CDA) in collaboration with The Fishing Cat Project (TFCP).

Statement 1 is correct :Fishing cats are almost twice the size of the house cat.

- The fishing cat is an adept swimmer and enters water frequently to prey on fish as its name suggests.They occur in wetlands like marshlands, mangroves and flooded forests in major South and Southeast Asian river basins starting from Indus in Pakistan till Mekong in Vietnam and in the island nations of Sri Lanka and Java.

Statement 2 is not correct :IUCN Red List: Endangered

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) lists the fishing cat on Appendix II part of Article IV of CITES, which governs international trade in this species

22. [ANS] a

[SOL] President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Sant Kabir Academy and Research Centre at Sant Kabir Nagar in Uttar Pradesh .

Option a is correct:

- 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
- The life of Kabir is an epitome of human virtue and his teachings are still relevant even after 650 years today.
- He is an ideal example of communal solidarity.
- He believed that God resides within us and took the charge of social emancipation and led his family life as a saint.

Writings/Works:

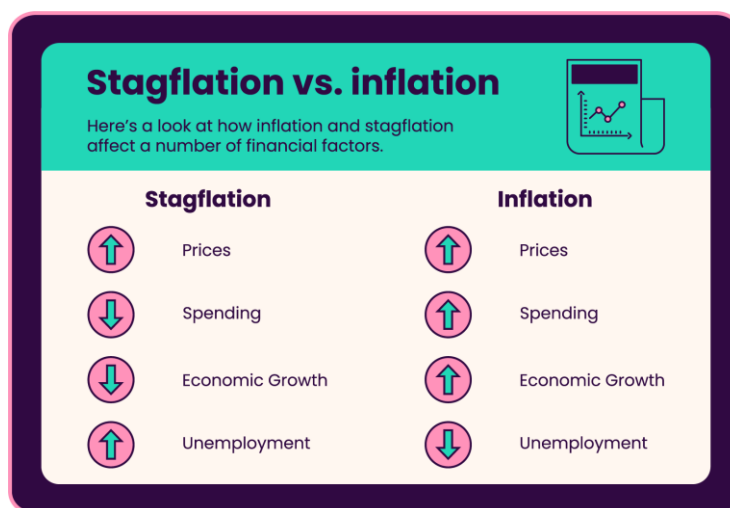
- Kabir Das' writings had a great influence on the Bhakti movement and includes titles like Kabir Granthawali, Anurag Sagar, Bijak, and Sakhi Granth,Panch Vani

[Raghuvamsa is literary created by Kalidasa]

23. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the world is facing high inflation including the developed countries like the US which some experts sign as a stage of stagflation.

- Stagflation is characterised by slow economic growth and relatively high unemployment or economic stagnation which is at the same time accompanied by rising prices (inflation).
- Stagflation can be alternatively defined as a period of inflation combined with a decline in the gross domestic product (GDP).
- The idea became popular during the 1970s when the U.S. economy witnessed high price inflation due to the oil shock as well as an economic recession marked by negative economic growth.



24. [ANS] c

[SOL] Report on International Religious Freedom

- It is the annual report on international religious freedom by the US State Department. Hence statement 3 is correct but statement 2 is incorrect.
- The report gives its own perspective on the status and violations of religious freedom across the globe and has separate chapters on each of the countries. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- In its recent report on religious freedom alleged India by highlighting issues of concern.
- India rejected the criticisms saying the observations are based on "motivated inputs and biased views".

25. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Government of India is exploring the possibility of inviting manufacturers of Electric Vertical Take off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft to set up bases in India.

Statement 1 is correct: Electric Vertical Take off and Landing (eVTOL) opens up new possibilities which aircraft with engines cannot carry out in areas such as manoeuvrability, efficiency and even from the environmental point of view. It is pitched as a cost-comparable replacement for short-

range urban transportation based on a fan-run tilt-wing design. Prototypes made test flights.

Statement 2 is correct: These use cameras, radar, GPS (global positioning system) and infrared scanners which makes it multi tasking and efficient. Although these advanced eVTOL vehicles under development still need access to fuel (hybrid) and/or electric charging capability, they can take off and land from almost anywhere.

Statement 3 is correct: E-VTOLs are noise free, have a zero carbon footprint and are more affordable.

26. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Recently ,India successfully carried out a night launch of the nuclear-capable Agni-4 ballistic missile from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, marking a significant boost to the country's military capabilities.

Statement 1 and 2 are correct : The surface to surface Agni-IV missile having 4000 km strike range is a two stage missile.

- It is 20-metre long and weighs 17 tonnes.
- It is equipped with modern and compact avionics to provide a high level of reliability.
  - It is equipped with state-of-the-art Avionics, 5th generation On Board Computer and distributed architecture.
  - It has the latest features to correct and guide itself for in-flight disturbances.
  - The most accurate Ring Laser Gyro based Inertial Navigation System (RINS) and supported by the highly reliable redundant Micro Navigation System (MINGS), ensures the vehicle reaches the target within two digit accuracy

Statement 3 is not correct : It is an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile with a range of around 4,000 km. Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

27. [ANS] c

[SOL] Surrogacy (Regulation) Act:

- Objective:
  - The Act sought to regulate the surrogacy part of a rather flourishing infertility industry in the country.
- Defining 'surrogacy':
  - It is defined as a practice where a woman undertakes to give birth to a child for another couple and agrees to hand over the child to them after birth.
- Altruistic surrogacy:
  - The Act allows 'altruistic surrogacy' — wherein only the medical expenses and insurance coverage is provided by the couple to the surrogate mother during pregnancy.

- No other monetary consideration will be permitted.
- The intending couple:
  - Any couple that has 'proven infertility' is a candidate.
  - The 'intending couple' as the Act calls them, will be eligible if they have a 'certificate of essentiality' and a 'certificate of eligibility' issued by the appropriate authority.
  - The former will be issued if the couple fulfills three conditions:
    - A certificate of infertility of one or both from a district medical board;
    - An order of parentage and custody of the surrogate child passed by a Magistrate's court;
    - Insurance cover for the surrogate mother.
- Eligibility Certificate:
  - An eligibility certificate mandates that the couple fulfill the following conditions:
    - They should be Indian citizens who have been married for at least five years;
    - the female must be between 23 to 50 years and the male, 26 to 55 years;
    - they cannot have any surviving children (biological, adopted or surrogate);
    - However, this would not include a 'child who is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from life threatening disorder or fatal illness.'
- Surrogate mother:
  - Only a close relative of the couple can be a surrogate mother, one who is able to provide a medical fitness certificate.
    - She should have been married,
    - with a child of her own, and
    - must be between 25 and 35 years,
    - but can be a surrogate mother only once.

28. [ANS] c

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

29. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News

- 75% of river monitoring stations report heavy metal pollution according to the recent State of Environment Report 2022.
  - It is published by the environmental NGO, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

Key observations of the report:

- River Pollution:
  - Three out of every four river monitoring stations in India posted alarming levels of heavy toxic metals such as lead, iron, nickel, cadmium, arsenic, chromium and copper.
  - In about a fourth of the monitoring stations, which are spread across 117 rivers and tributaries, high levels of two or more toxic metals were reported.
  - Of the 33 monitoring stations in Ganga, 10 had high levels of contaminants.
    - The river has high levels of lead, iron, nickel, cadmium and arsenic.
- India dumps 72% of its sewage waste without treatment.
  - Ten States do not treat their sewage at all, as per the Central Pollution Control Board.
- Coastline Erosion:
  - Over a third of India's coastline that is spread across 6,907 km saw some degree of erosion between 1990 and 2018.
  - West Bengal is the worst hit with over 60% of its shoreline under erosion.
  - Twenty-five glacial lakes and water bodies in India, China and Nepal have recorded over 40% rise in their water spread areas since 2009.
    - This has indicated a grave threat to five Indian states and two Union territories.
  - While the global average of the Ocean Health Index, a measure that looks at how sustainably humans are exploiting ocean resources, has improved between 2012 and 2021, India's score in the index has declined over the same period.
- Forest Cover:
  - India's total forest cover has registered a little over a 0.5% increase between 2017 and 2021.
    - Most of the increase has taken place in the open forest category, which includes commercial plantations.
  - This has happened at the cost of moderately dense forest, which is normally the area closest to human habitations.

- At the same time, very dense forests, which absorb maximum carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, occupy just 3% of total forest cover.
- India has a forest cover of 77.53 million hectares. But recorded forests—the area under the forest department— with forest cover are only 51.66 million.
- This gap of 25.87 million hectares —a size bigger than Uttar Pradesh— remains unaccounted, the organisation noted.

30. [ANS] b

[SOL] Option A is correct: Jyotirao Govindrao Phule along with his followers, formed the Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth Seekers) to attain equal rights for people from exploited castes. People from all religions and castes could become a part of this association which worked for the upliftment of the oppressed classes.

31. [ANS] d

[SOL] The Ministry of Defence has issued three separate notifications amending the rules of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force for the appointment of the next Chief of Defence Staff CDS. The government amended the Army Rules, 1954; the Naval Ceremonial, Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Regulations, 1963; and the Air Force Regulations, 1964 to add that the “Central Government may, if considered necessary, in public interest, so to do, appoint as Chief of Defence Staff, an officer” who is serving as Lieutenant General, Vice Admiral, Air Marshal or General, Admiral, Air Chief Marshal “or an officer who has retired” from these ranks, “but has not attained the age of sixty-two years on the date of his appointment.”

- It said the government may extend the service of the CDS for such a period as it may deem necessary subject to a maximum age of 65.

32. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News: The Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela at the famous Ragnya Devi temple near Srinagar is being observed after a hiatus of two years owing to the COVID-19 outbreak. The temple is dedicated to the goddess Ragnya Devi. Situated 30 km from Srinagar city, it is one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites for Kashmiri Hindus.

- The temple gets its name from kheer, or milk and rice pudding, that pilgrims pour into the spring inside the temple complex as an offering to the goddess.

33. [ANS] d

[SOL] Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022:

- The guidelines on EPR(Extended Producer Responsibility) coupled with the prohibition of identified single-use plastic items.
- It banned the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic less than seventy-five microns. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The items that will be banned are—Earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (thermocool) for decoration, plastic plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons and knives, straw, trays, wrapping films



around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100-microns and stirrers.

- The ban will not apply to commodities made of compostable plastic.

India Plastics Pact:

- A joint initiative between the World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Hence statement 2 is correct.
- Aim & Objectives: Commitments for building a circular system for plastics by 2030:
  - Complement India's other bold initiatives in the renewables sector and efforts to limit single-use plastics.
  - 100 per cent of plastic packaging to be reusable or recyclable.

34. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, due to Climate change impact, the southern yellow-billed hornbill has not been able to breed properly and its numbers have declined subsequently.

- Distribution and habitat:
  - The southern yellow-billed hornbill is a hornbill found in southern Africa.
  - These birds are near endemic to the dry savannas of southern Africa, where they can be found across all longitudes, from Angola and Namibia in the west to Mozambique and KwaZulu-Natal in the east, including Botswana, Zimbabwe and northern South Africa.
- IUCN Status:
  - Least Concerned.
- Diet:
  - Yellow-billed hornbills feed mainly on the ground, where they forage for seeds, small insects, spiders and scorpions.
- Behaviour:
  - The southern yellow-billed hornbill is active during morning, day and evening.
  - They can be found alone, in couples or in small groups.
  - They generally tend to be loners unless it is the breeding season, nesting season or if there is local migration during the dry season.
- Issues:
  - Southern yellow-billed hornbills struggle to breed above certain temperatures as they face greater difficulty in foraging and lose weight.

- According to the study, when the average air temperature went above 35.7 degrees Celsius, there were no successful breeding attempts at all among the hornbills.

35. [ANS] c

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

- In his honour, the Government of India in 1984 declared his birthday National Youth Day.
- He was well-read in many subjects and would meditate in front of the images of Hindu Gods and Goddesses.
- He met the religious leader Ramakrishna Paramhansa, who later became his Guru and he remained devoted to him until the latter died in 1886.
- In 1893, he took the name 'Vivekananda' after Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State requested him to do so, changing from 'Sachidananda' that he used before.
- He was one of India's greatest spiritual leaders and inspired the youth of India to become better, leading a life of purity and setting an example for the world.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called him the "Maker of Modern India".
- He played an important role in introducing the philosophies of Yoga and Vedanta to the West.
  - He preached 'neo-Vedanta', an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens and believed in combining spirituality with material progress.
  - He is best known for his speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893.
- After coming back to India, he formed the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897.
  - In 1899, he established the Belur Math, which became his permanent abode.

36. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Recently ,The Minister of Civil Aviation launched National Air Sport Policy 2022 (NASP 2022).

NASP 2022 lays out the vision of making India as one of the top sports nations by 2030, by providing a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in India.

- It has been drafted based on the inputs received from policy makers, air sports practitioners and public at large

Coverage

- Aerobatics
- Aero modelling and model rocketry

- Amateur-built and experimental aircraft
- Ballooning
- Drones
- Gliding and powered gliding
- Hang gliding and powered hang gliding
- Parachuting (including skydiving, BASE jumping and wing suits etc.)
- Paragliding and paramotoring (including powered parachute trikes etc.)
- Powered aircraft (including ultra light, micro light and light sports aircraft etc.)
- Rotorcraft (including autogyro)

37. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the government announced minimum support prices (MSP) for all mandated kharif crops for marketing season 2022-23.

Statement 1 is correct: The area under oilseed cultivation has been on a steady rise over the last few years.

Statement 2 is not correct: 4 commercial crops (cotton, sugarcane, copra, raw jute) are covered under MSP. The MSP for a crop is the price at which the government is supposed to procure/buy that crop from farmers if the market price falls below it.

- MSPs provide a floor for market prices, and ensure that farmers receive a certain “minimum” remuneration so that their costs of cultivation (and some profit) can be recovered.
- The MSPs are announced by the Union government and as such, it is the government’s decision.
- But the government largely bases its decision on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

Statement 3 is correct: Jowar, Maize and Millet are some Common kharif crops.

38. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: G-secs practically carry no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments. Gilt-edged securities are high-grade investment bonds offered by governments and large corporations as a means of borrowing funds.

Statement 2 is not correct: Such securities are of two types:

- Treasury Bills
  - They are short term instruments.

- With original maturities of less than one year- presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 days, 182 days and 364 day
- Government bonds or dated securities
  - They are Long term instruments.
  - With original maturity of one year or more.
- In India, the Central Government issues both treasury bills and bonds or dated securities
  - while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs).

39. [ANS] d

[SOL] Option d is correct: Taiwan strait is a 110-mile-wide channel that separates mainland China from the island of Taiwan. Also known as the Formosa Strait or the Tai-hai (the Tai Sea). It forms part of the South China Sea. Its northern portion is linked to the East China Sea. The strait borders the southeastern part of China and runs along the eastern part of China's Fujian Province.

40. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 and 2 are not correct: Public Distribution System is an Indian food security system for the management of food scarcity through distribution at affordable prices.

- It was established under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Statement 3 is correct: It is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments.

- The Central Government, through the Food Corporation of India (FCI), purchases, stores, transports and allocates food grains to States.
- The States identify eligible families, issue Ration Cards and supervise the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc.

41. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News :Recently, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) said in a report that India was one of the most challenging major economies as far as IP protection and enforcement is concerned. India is a signatory to several IPR related conventions including:

- The Berne Convention which governs copyright,
- The Budapest Treaty,
- The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property
- The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) all of which govern various patent-related matters.

42. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for several capital acquisition projects of the Indian defence forces.

- This includes the procurement of next-generation Corvettes for the Indian Navy at an approximate cost of Rs 36,000 crore..

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : Corvette is the smallest class of naval ships and it falls below the warship class of a frigate.

- These are highly agile ships and are categorised as missile boats, anti-submarine ships, coastal patrol crafts and fast attack naval vessels.
  - The word corvette itself is derived from French and Dutch origin.
    - Corvettes date back to the 18th and the 19th century when they were extensively used in the naval warfare duels that were fought at high seas.
    - However, these were powered by sails and masts, and disappeared for a while when steam powered naval ships made their appearance.
  - During World War II, the term Corvette was used to describe vessels which had anti-submarine roles assigned to them.
    - Modern Corvettes can go up to 2,000 tons in displacement which helps in keeping them agile.

43. [ANS] b

[SOL] Context : Next month, the elected MLAs and MPs across the country are going to vote to elect India's 15th President.

- The President is elected by an electoral college consisting of-
  - MPs of both Houses of Parliament
  - MLAs of the states of Delhi and Puducherry.
- Nominated members of Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, and members of state Legislative Councils, are not part of the electoral college.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

44. [ANS] b

[SOL] Context : Recently, astronomers have reported a Fast Radio Burst (FRB) whose characteristics are different from almost all other FRBs previously detected, except one.

Statement 1 is correct: Magnetars have high magnetic fields in the range of 10<sup>15</sup> gauss.

Statement 2 is not correct: They emit energy in the range given by luminosities of 10<sup>37</sup> – 10<sup>40</sup>

joules per second. Compare this to the luminosity of the sun which is in the order of  $10^{26}$  joules per second – a factor of at least  $10^{11}$  lower.

Statement 3 is correct: Further, these magnetars emit violent flares

45. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News - Recently, the latest census (14th Assam rhino estimation) revealed that the Manas National Park rhinos have higher life expectancy but need translocation support.]

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : There are three species of rhino in Asia

- Greater one-horned (Rhinoceros unicornis),
- Javan and
- Sumatran.
- The two greatest threats to the survival of Asia's rhinos are
  - poaching for the horns and
  - habitat loss are
- The five rhino range nations
  - India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia
  - Have signed 'The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019' for the conservation and protection of the species.
- CITES
  - All three listed under Appendix I .
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
  - Greater one-horned rhino is listed under the Schedule I of the act.
- Habitat of Greater One-Horned Rhino in India
  - The species is restricted to small habitats in Indo-Nepal terai and northern West Bengal and Assam.
    - Kaziranga NP, Pobitora WLS, Orang NP, Manas NP in Assam
    - Jaldapara NP and Gorumara NP in West Bengal and
    - Dudhwa TR in Uttar Pradesh.

Statement 3 is not correct : IUCN Red list

- Javan and Sumatran Rhino are critically endangered
- The Greater one-horned (or Indian) rhino is vulnerable

46. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News - Recently, the World of Work summit was organised by ILO in Geneva.

About ILO:

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

47. [ANS] d

[SOL] Regulation in India:

- Smoking weed in India is not legal.
- However, the one and only exemption for it is consuming it as bhang.
- The NDPS Act, 1985 lays down the punishment for carrying weed on the basis of the quantity you possess.
- Fine and punishments:
  - For possessing a small quantity you can face rigorous imprisonment for up to 6 months, a fine of Rs. 10,000, or both.
  - For a quantity that is more than a small quantity but less than the commercial quantity you can face rigorous imprisonment for up to 10 years, a fine of Rs. 1 lakh, or both.
  - For possessing commercial quantities you can face rigorous imprisonment for up to 10-20 years, a fine of Rs. 1-2 lakh, or both.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act):

- It outlaws the recreational use of cannabis.
- Under the Act, the production, manufacture, possession, sale, purchase, transport, and use of cannabis is a punishable offence.
- The NDPS Act, however, does not apply to the leaves and seeds of cannabis plants.
- In case the Cannabidiol (CBD) is extracted from the leaves of the cannabis, then technically it is not illegal.
- CBD oil manufactured under a licence issued by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 can be legally used.

48. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Species of tortoise named Fernandina after her Fernandina Island thought extinct 100 years ago rediscovered recently .It belongs to *Chelonoidis phantasticus*.

- *Chelonoidis phantasticus* means “fantastic giant tortoise”.
  - Commonly called the Fernandina Island Galápagos giant tortoise
  - The species was so far known only from a single individual, collected in 1906.
  - *Chelonoidis phantasticus* is listed as Critically Endangered in IUCN status



49. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Government of India (GoI) has questioned the parameters of the recently released Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Environment Performance Index (EPI) is an international ranking system of countries based on their environmental health. It is a biennial index, first started in 2002 as the Environment Sustainability Index by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in collaboration with the Yale Centre for Environmental Law and Policy and Columbia University Centre for International Earth Information Network.

Statement 2 is correct: EPI 2022 uses 40 performance indicators across 11 issue categories to assess and rank 180 countries. EPI 2022 ranked India at the bottom position among 180 countries.

50. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The governor is neither directly elected by the people nor indirectly elected by a specially constituted electoral college as is the case with the president. He is appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal. In a way, he is a nominee of the Central government. But, as held by the Supreme Court in 1979, the office of governor of a state is not an employment under the Central government. It is an independent constitutional office and is not under the control of or subordinate to the Central government.

Statement 2 is correct: The Governor shall not hold any other office of profit.

- The Governor shall be entitled without payment of rent to the use of his official residences and shall be also entitled to such emoluments, allowances and privileges as may be determined by Parliament by law and, until provision in that behalf is so made, such emoluments, allowances and privileges as are specified in the Second Schedule.
- Where the same person is appointed as Governor of two or more States, the emoluments and allowances payable to the Governor shall be allocated among the States in such proportion as the President may by order determine.
- The emoluments and allowances of the Governor shall not be diminished during his term of office.

51. [ANS] c

[SOL] It is the suggestion of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to regulate crypto trading platforms by the RBI under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Hence, statement c is incorrect.

- Suggestion is given with the view that the crypto assets are available for trading in a foreign jurisdiction as well and consumers abroad can remit funds to India using such currency.

Position of the Indian government on Cryptocurrency:

- Definition for crypto assets:

- The government in the Union Budget for 2022-23 has for the first time provided a definition for crypto-assets and set out a list of proposals on the taxation of this new asset class.
- Coverage:
  - The tax proposal covered all emerging digital assets, including non-fungible tokens (NFTs), assets in the metaverse, digital currencies and tokens, among others.
- Tax deducted at source:
  - The Budget also said a 1% TDS (tax deducted at source) will be applicable on payments made on the transfer of digital assets.
  - Loss from the transfer of virtual digital assets
  - It will not be allowed to be set off against the income arising from the transfer of another VDA in the proposed amendments.
- 30 percent tax on income:
  - The government will define virtual digital assets with a view to levying a 30 percent tax on income from all transfers of such assets.

52. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently ,Oxfam International released a report titled "Footing the Bill".The report highlighted that the UN requires eight times more financial support than 20 years ago to be able to provide humanitarian aid to low-income countries during climate-related disasters.

53. [ANS] c

[SOL] The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (CALPRA):

- CALPRA states that no child shall be allowed to work for more than five hours in a day, and for not more than three hours without rest.
  - The study has found that the work shift stretches to 12-13 hours for six days a week by production houses.
  - Guardians often do not interfere in the scheduling.
- The provisions of CALPRA also state, that at least 20% of the income earned by the child from the production or event is to be directly deposited in a fixed deposit account in a nationalised bank in the name of the child which may be credited to her/him on attaining majority.
  - However, the study states the money is being utilised completely on the families.
  - In cases where the child artist is the sole breadwinner of the family or the family has come from outside Mumbai, keeping 20% of the payment in a fixed deposit is highly unlikely.

54. [ANS] a

[SOL] The legal battle over the validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991 is gaining steam in the Supreme Court (SC).

Statement 1 is correct: According to Article 27 of the Constitution, there can be no taxes, the proceeds of which are directly used for the promotion and/or maintenance of any particular religion/religious denomination.

Statement 2 is not correct: Article 25 in Indian Constitution empowers the State to make any law for regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice.

55. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Rajiv Kumar has taken charge of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Statement 1 is not correct: The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. They have tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India.

Statement 2 is correct: The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament.

Statement 3 is not correct: The decisions of the Commission can be challenged in the High Court and the Supreme Court of India by appropriate petitions. 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.

56. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, India, Iran and Russia have given momentum to operationalise the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Statement 1 is correct: The International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road routes for moving freight between India, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe. It was established on 12th September 2000 in St. Petersburg, by Iran, Russia and India for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.

Statement 2 is not correct: It links the Indian Ocean to the Caspian Sea via the Persian Gulf onwards into Russia and Northern Europe. It is aimed at reducing the carriage cost between India and Russia by about 30 percent and bringing down the transit time by more than half.



Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

57. [ANS] b

[SOL] Collegium System

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

Role of Government in Judicial Appointment

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

58. [ANS] c

[SOL] The Delhi government is working towards bridging the learning gap induced by COVID-19 for students of state-run schools under 'Mission Buniyaad'.

- The Delhi government had announced the launch of 'Mission Buniyaad' in February 2018. It is being implemented in all the schools under the Directorate of Education (DoE) daily. Under this programme, all students of classes III to IX are being taught foundational reading, writing and numeracy.

59. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Union Home Ministry issued a set of guidelines to the States and the Union Territories on the grant of special remission to prisoners to commemorate the 75th year of Independence.

Statement 1 is correct: The Governor of a State shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends. Thus, the pardoning power of the Governor extends to the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any State law.

Statement 2 is correct: The scope of the pardoning power of the President under Article 72 is wider than the pardoning power of the Governor under Article 161. The power differs in the following two ways:

- The power of the President to grant pardon extends in cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial but Article 161 does not provide any such power to the Governor.
- The President can grant pardon in all cases where the sentence given is the sentence of death but the pardoning power of the Governor does not extend to death sentence cases.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

60. [ANS] d

[SOL] Former Twitter CEO recently announced his vision for a new decentralised web platform that is being called Web 3.0.

- Web 3.0 is the next version of the internet, where services will run on blockchain. It is a decentralised internet that runs on a public blockchain, which is also used for cryptocurrency transactions.
- It will be permissionless and democratic.
- In a Web 3.0 universe, people will control their own data and will be able to move around from social media to email to shopping using a single personalised account, creating a public record on the blockchain of all of that activity.
- All data will be interconnected in a decentralised way, unlike the current generation of the internet (Web 2.0), where data is mostly stored in centralised repositories.

61. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Ministry of Defence announced the Agnipath recruitment scheme for the induction of young soldiers into tri-defence services.

Statement 1 is not correct : Under the new scheme, around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave the service in just four years.

- Of the total annual recruits, only 25 per cent will be allowed to continue for another 15 years under permanent commission. It is only for personnel below officer ranks.
- Recruits under the scheme will be known as “Agniveers”.

Statements 2, 3 and 4 are not correct : Recruitment will be carried out on an ‘All India All Class’ basis with the eligibility age ranging from 17.5 to 21 years, with medical and physical fitness standards in accordance with existing norms.

- The required educational qualification will be Class X-XII.
- After completing their four-year service, they can apply for regular employment in the armed forces.
- They may be given priority over others for various jobs in other government departments.
- The “Agniveers” will receive an annual package of ₹4.76 lakh in the first year to ₹6.92 lakh in the fourth year, apart from risk and hardship and other allowances as applicable.
- Under the “Seva Nidhi” package (which is exempt from Income Tax), they will receive about ₹11.71 lakh, including contribution and interest, on completion of service.
- The recruits will have to contribute 30% of their monthly emoluments to Seva Nidhi, with a matching contribution made by the government.

62. [ANS] b

[SOL] Sea floor spreading:

- Seafloor spreading theory validated the Plate Tectonics Theory. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.
- As per the theory, the ocean floor is always moving from the mid-oceanic ridge towards the trenches. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
- Hot basaltic magma rises and erupts at the ridge. It cools down to become a new seafloor at this juncture.
- The newly formed seafloor at the ocean crust then gradually moves away from the ridge and its place is taken by a newer seafloor and the cycle repeats.
- In the process the older rocks move farther away from the spreading zone while younger rocks will be found nearer to the spreading zone. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- The entire process looks like a conveyor belt.

63. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2020-21.

- The LFPR essentially is the percentage of the working-age (15 years or older) population that is asking for a job.
- It represents the demand for jobs in an economy.
- It includes those who are employed and those who are unemployed.
- The Unemployment Rate (UER) is the number of unemployed as a proportion of the labour force.
- The PLFS is an annual survey conducted by the NSO.

64. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently a report was released named Migration in India 2020-21, by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

Option b is correct: Migration in India Report

- It is based on first-time collection of additional data during the annual round of Periodic Labour Force Survey for July 2020-June 2021.
- It is released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- It separates the categories of 'temporary visitors' and 'migrants'.
- While 'temporary visitors' have been defined as the ones who arrived in households after March 2020 and stayed continuously for a period of 15 days or more but less than 6 months,
- The 'migrants' have been defined as those, for whom the last usual place of residence, any time in the past, is different from the present place of enumeration.
- The survey block was introduced in July 2020 and the period of survey for asking this information was July 2020-June 2021.

65. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The convention is held once every two years.

Statement 2 is correct: on this day Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa, is celebrated grandly to strengthen the engagement of the Government of India with the overseas Indian community.

Statement 3 is correct: The main idea behind this event is to reconnect the Non-Resident Indian community with their original roots.

66. [ANS] a

[SOL] What happens during the La Nina event?

- During a La Nina event, cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures prevail over the east and the central Pacific Ocean. Hence option 1 is correct.
- Due to the cooler temperature, the trade winds above the sea surface change in character because of a difference in the wind pressures.
- This change in the character of the trade winds is then carried all around the world affecting different regions in different ways.
- La Nina usually brings wet and cold winter and spring seasons for India. Hence option 2 is correct.
- Many regions become colder and wetter, while many others become hotter and drier.
- While El Niño causes warmer temperatures over the equatorial Pacific, these are known to suppress monsoon rainfall. When La Niña happens, it has been found to be helpful in bringing good rainfall. Hence option 3 is incorrect.
- The character of La Nina, an ocean-atmosphere event that usually brings down global temperatures, is changing.

67. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Recently ,India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed, nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile which is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).

- IGMDP was conceived by Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- It was started in 1983 and completed in March 2012.
- Its aim was to enable India to attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology.
- The 5 missiles developed under this program
- Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag, Akash.

68. [ANS] c

[SOL] Iraq's famous and prominent Lake Sawa has dried up for the first time in its centuries-long history and locals believe that it is due to mismanagement by local investors, government neglect and climate change. The Sawa Lake, a biodiverse wetland situated near the city of Samawa, south of the capital Baghdad,

- The lake has been formed over limestone rock and studded with gypsum formations.



69. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, lawyers have questioned the rationale of setting up a special court in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh (AP), to try those found guilty of smuggling red sanders wood.

- Scientific Name: *Pterocarpus santalinus*.
  - Known for their rich hue and therapeutic properties.
- Distribution:
  - They are usually growing in the rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil and a hot and dry climate.
  - It is an Indian endemic tree species, with a restricted geographical range in the Eastern Ghats.
  - The species is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh (Seshachalam Hills).
- Threats:
  - Over-exploitation, cattle grazing and invasive species and smuggling.
- Protection Status:
  - Red Sanders is in the endangered category in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.
  - It is listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Significance:
  - They are high in demand across Asia, particularly in China and Japan, for use in cosmetics and medicinal products as well as for making furniture, woodcraft and musical instruments.
  - Its popularity can be gauged from the fact that a tonne of Red Sanders costs anything between Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore in the international market.

70. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statements 1 and 2 are not correct: Repo Rate is the rate at which the central bank of a country (Reserve Bank of India in case of India) lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds.

- Repo stands for 'repurchase option' or 'repurchase agreement'.
- The central bank provides these short term loans against securities such as treasury bills or government bonds.

Reverse Repo Rate: This is the rate the central bank of a country pays its commercial banks to park their excess funds in the central bank.

- The reverse repo rate provided by RBI is generally lower than the repo rate.
- While repo rate is used to regulate liquidity in the economy, reverse repo rate is used to control cash flow in the market.
- When there is inflation in the economy, RBI increases the reverse repo rate.
  - It encourages commercial banks to make deposits in the central bank and earn returns.

**Marginal Standing Facility: MSF** or marginal standing facility is a system of the Reserve Bank of India that allows scheduled commercial banks to avail funds overnight.

- It was introduced by the RBI as a provision for banks to avail overnight funds during a revision of the country's monetary policy in 2011-12.
- It is usually higher than the repo rate.
- Banks can use their SLR or statutory liquidity ratio to take loans under MSF.
  - This is a short-term loan used to maintain the liquidity of banks.
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation:**
  - It measures changes in the price level of a weighted average market basket of consumer goods and services purchased by households.
  - It also represents retail inflation.

71. [ANS] c

[SOL] India shares a deep connection with ASEAN and has continued its active engagement in many areas contributing to regional peace and stability, particularly through ASEAN led mechanisms, such as:

- East Asia Summit. Hence option 1 is correct.
- ASEAN Regional Forum.
- ADMM-Plus. Hence option 2 is correct.
  - The ADMM Plus is an annual meeting of Defence Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries and eight dialogue partner countries - Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States.

**Delhi Dialogue**

- It is an annual Track 1.5 forum for discussing politico-security, economic and socio-cultural issues between ASEAN and India.
- It was first held in 2009. Hence option 4 is correct.

### Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)

- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is an organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Hence option 3 is incorrect.
- It's objective is to help members states fight combat, extremism, terrorism and separatism.

72. [ANS] a

[SOL] The Prime Minister of India would attend the first-of-its-kind virtual summit of the I2U2 grouping in July 2022.

- The new I2U2 grouping of India, Israel, the UAE, and the U.S. will hold its first virtual summit as part of the Biden administration's efforts to re-energise and revitalise American alliances across the world.
- Focus
  - It is focused on expanding economic and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia, including through trade, combating climate change, energy cooperation, and coordination on other vital shared interests,

73. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the US Federal Reserve hiked interest rates by 0.75 percentage points which is the highest rate hike in 28 years in a bid to tame runaway inflation.

- Impacts:
- Foreign Portfolio Investors: Emerging economies such as India tend to have higher inflation and, therefore, higher interest rates than in developed countries.
  - Thus, investors including Foreign Portfolio Investors tend to borrow in the US at lower interest rates in dollar terms, and invest that money in the bonds of countries such as India in rupee terms to earn a higher rate of interest.
- Currency carry trade: When the Fed raises its policy rates, the difference between the interest rates of the two countries narrows, thus making countries such as India less attractive for the currency carry trade.
- RBI's monetary policy: The Fed's decision to hike rates will also have a bearing on the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy.
- Pressure on the rupee: In the Indian economy, the rate hike could further weaken the domestic currency which has depreciated already.
- Imported inflation: As India is a big importer of gold, crude and electronics, the rising cost of imports is likely to further widen the current account deficit (CAD).
- War and COVID: Prices have spiked partly due to external factors that include the war in Ukraine and the continuing Covid-19 shutdowns in China's key manufacturing hubs.

- Price of gas and groceries: Fed's rate hike can make borrowing costs more expensive and bring down demand in the economy by forcing consumers and businesses to curb spending.
  - However, it has no control over supply shocks, which are currently being caused by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.
- Gold prices may soar: gold prices could be on the rise as more people look to diversify their money and not park their money in bank deposits.
- Cost of borrowing: When the Fed raises the target interest rate, the cost of borrowing increases.
- Job cuts: rising rates will also spark a period of slower economic growth, which could result in layoffs.

74. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recent demolition drives in the aftermath of the Prophet remarks row may challenge certain basic tenets of law.

The totality of three principles of Rule of Law i.e:

- Supremacy of Law
- Equality before law and equal protection of Law
- Predominance of Legal spirit or there is no Higher Law other than the Rights of individual as determined by the Courts
- These are the three components of 'Rule of Law in narrow sense' or 'Thin notion of Rule of Law'.

75. [ANS] b

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

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

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

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

76. [ANS] a

[SOL] More about the Draft National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP):

- NDGFP aims to standardise the government's data collection and management while catalysing AI and Data led research and a startup ecosystem.
- India Data Management Office (IDMO):
  - The draft includes plans for setting up the India Data Management Office (IDMO) on the lines of the US Federal Data Management Office.
    - IDMO will be set up under Digital India Corporation for framing, managing and periodically revising the policy.
- Data Management Units (DMUs):
  - As per the draft, all ministries will have data management units (DMUs)
  - DMUs will be headed by a Chief Data Officer.
    - They will be responsible for the implementation of the data governance policy.
- Sharing of data:
  - The policy also seeks to 'encourage' private companies to share non-personal data with startups as part of the effort.
  - IDMO shall notify protocols for sharing of non-personal datasets while ensuring privacy, security and trust.
  - IDMO will notify rules to provide data on priority/exclusively to Indian/ India-based requesting entities.

The draft India Data Accessibility and Use Policy 2022:

- Earlier the Centre released the draft India Data Accessibility and Use Policy 2022.
- Issues:
  - However, it was criticised by internet activists and civil society members over its bid to monetise non-personal data gathered from citizens.
  - Under fire, the government later rescinded the policy and unveiled the new framework in May this year under the new name, NDGFP.
- Changes:
  - The new framework has skipped the contentious clause that allowed the sale of data collected by the government in the open market.

77. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, India and the EU re-launched Free Trade Agreement negotiations after 9-years in a joint event held at the EU headquarters in Brussels.

- In 2007 India and the EU began negotiations on a broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) in Brussels, Belgium.
- India and the EU expect to promote bilateral trade by removing barriers to trade in goods and services and investment across all sectors of the economy.
- Both parties believe that a comprehensive and ambitious agreement that is consistent with WTO rules and principles would open new markets and would expand opportunities for Indian and EU businesses.
- The negotiations cover Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Rules of Origin, Customs and Trade Facilitation, Competition, Trade Defence, Government Procurement, Dispute Settlement, Intellectual Property Rights & Geographical Indications, Sustainable Development.

78. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister insisted that the Inter-State Council meetings should be held at least thrice a year.

- Under the provisions of Article 263, the president has established the following councils (apart from the Inter-State Council) to make recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action in the related subjects:
  - Central Council of Health.
  - Central Council of Local Government and Urban Development.
  - Four Regional Councils for Sales Tax for the Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern Zones.
- The Sarkaria Commission recommended that in order to differentiate
- The Inter-State Council among other bodies established under Article 263, it must be called the Intergovernmental Council.

79. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct: They occupy a small chamber called a lacuna, which is contained in the calcified matrix of bone. They are the most abundant type of cell in mature bone tissue. They also are long-lived, surviving as long as the bone they occupy exists.

These osteocytes form a network similar to the neurons in the brain. There are more than 23 trillion connections between 42 billion osteocytes that monitor bone health and responds to ageing and damage by signalling other cells to build more bone or break down old bone

80. [ANS] a

[SOL] Option A is correct: Down Syndrome (also known as Trisomy 21) is caused by an extra partial copy of chromosome 21. At birth, babies have certain developmental disabilities like flat face, small head and ears, short neck, etc. There is no cure but a wide variety of support and educational programs can help both people with it and their families. Partial deletion of chromosome 4 causes Wolf–Hirschhorn syndrome, additional copy of chromosome X causes Klinefelter syndrome and partial deletion of chromosome 5 causes Cri du chat (Cat Cry) syndrome.

81. [ANS] d

[SOL]

Option d is correct: India will be taking over an ambitious hydropower project in Nepal, West Seti, nearly four years after China withdrew from it.

Option d is correct: The Karnali river cuts through the Himalayas in Nepal and joins the Sharda River at Brahmaghat in India. Together they form the Ghaghara River, a major left bank tributary of the Ganges.

82. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Juneteenth is observed every year on 19 June .

- It is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US.
- It is also known as Emancipation Day or Juneteenth Independence Day.
- Historical Background
  - On January 1, 1863, then-president Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that “all persons held as slaves” within the states in rebellion “are, and henceforward shall be free.

83. [ANS] d

[SOL] The "PM eVidya" scheme has been awarded with the UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in Education for the year 2021.

- The UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in Education recognizes innovative approaches in leveraging new technologies to expand educational and lifelong learning opportunities for all, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goal 4 on education.
- Established in 2005 with the support of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Prize rewards individuals and organisations that are implementing outstanding projects and promoting the creative use of technologies to enhance learning, teaching and overall educational performance in the digital age.

84. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction study stated that the COVID-19 worsened matters in Sundarbans.

All the statements are correct: The Sunderban is the world's largest mangrove delta forest spread over India and Bangladesh and lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers.

- Approximately 66% of the entire mangrove forest area is estimated to occur in Bangladesh with the remaining 34% in India.
- The land area in the Sundarbans has been changing constantly, moulded and shaped by the action of the tides, with erosion processes more prominent along estuaries and deposition processes along the banks of inner estuarine waterways influenced by the accelerated discharge of silt from seawater.
- Its role as a wetland nursery for marine organisms and as a climatic buffer against cyclones is a unique natural process and Sundarbans are enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- The site is intersected by a complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats and small islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests, and presents an excellent example of ongoing ecological processes and the forest has a large number of Sundari trees.

85. [ANS] a

[SOL] The World Trade Organization (WTO):

- Founded in 1995, the WTO is run by its 164 members.
- WTO is the only international organization that deals with the rules of trade between countries.
- WTO's Ministerial Conference:
  - The Ministerial Conference is the WTO's top decision-making body
  - It usually meets every two years. Hence statement 1 is correct.
  - All members of the WTO are involved in the Ministerial Conference and they can take decisions on all matters covered under any multilateral trade agreements.
- Decision-making of WTO:
  - Unlike other organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund or World Bank, WTO does not delegate power to a board of directors or an organisational chief. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
  - All decisions at the WTO are made collectively and through consensus among member countries at varied councils and committees and any member can exercise a veto.



86. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, Rare dragonfly named Spiny Horntail was discovered in the Kottiyoor forests of Kannur of Kerala. The species that is known to be endemic to the Western Ghats was discovered in Maharashtra earlier this year. The new species can be separated from its congeners by the markings on the lateral thorax and peculiar shape of anal appendages.

87. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Ministry for Road Transport & Highways (MORTH) has asked insurance regulator IRDAI to develop a model product on Surety Bonds in consultation with general insurers.

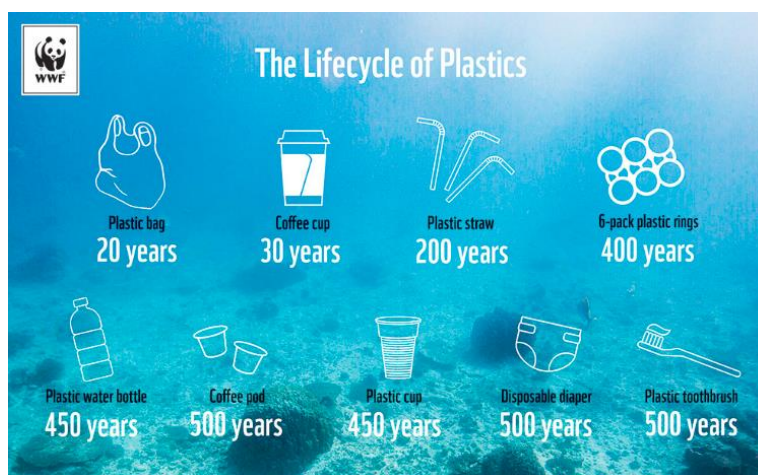
Statement 1 is correct: Surety is a three party arrangement and insurance is a two party arrangement.

Statement 2 is not correct: Unlike most types of insurance a surety bond is required by, and protects the interest of, this third party (obligee) rather than the insured. Therefore, surety bonds are usually purchased not for one's own sake but as a requirement of a third party (e.g. a municipality, state, federal government, court or construction project owner).

88. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has ordered a ban on the use of single-use plastic from July 1.

- Bangladesh became the first country to ban thin plastic bags in 2002.
  - New Zealand became the latest country to ban plastic bags in 2019.
  - China issued a ban on plastic bags in 2020 with phased implementation.
  - Seattle became the first major US city to ban plastic straws in 2018.
- Plastic toothbrushes have the highest life span among all plastic products.



- India is a signatory to MARPOL (International Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution).

89. [ANS] a

[SOL] A study by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) talked about the possibility of capital outflows of \$100 billion from India in case of a major global risk scenario or a “black swan” event.

- Statement 1 is correct. It is a rare, unpredictable event that comes as a surprise and has a significant impact on society or the world.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Covid-19 pandemic is not considered as an example of black swan event because it was predictable.

90. [ANS] a

[SOL] The World Trade Organization (WTO):

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91. [ANS] d

[SOL] Anti-defection law is not only practiced in India but it is prevalent in various other countries like Bangladesh, Kenya, South Africa, etc. Hence statement (a) is incorrect.

What constitutes defection?

- The law covers three kinds of scenarios:
  - Voluntarily giving up:
    - When legislators elected on the ticket of one political party “voluntarily give up” membership of that party or vote in the legislature against the party’s wishes.

- A legislator's speech and conduct inside and outside the legislature can lead to deciding the voluntarily giving up membership.
- Independent members:
  - The second scenario arises when an MP/MLA who has been elected as an independent joins a party later.
- Nominated legislators:
  - The law specifies that nominated legislators can join a political party within six months of being appointed to the House, and not after such time. Hence statement (b) is incorrect.
- Violation of the law in any of these scenarios can lead to a legislator being penalised for defection.

Deciding authority:

- The Presiding Officers of the Legislature (Speaker, Chairman) are the deciding authorities in such cases.
- The Supreme Court has held legislators can challenge their decisions before the higher judiciary. Hence statement (c) is incorrect.

92. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Pink bollworm (PBW) infestation is seen spelling trouble for cotton growers in the Northern States of Punjab and Haryana. Pink Bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) is one of the most destructive pests of cotton.

- Originally reported in India in 1842, it has spread throughout the cotton-producing countries, causing annual crop losses .
- It bores into cotton bolls, devouring blossoms and seeds.

93. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the finance ministry in its latest Monthly Economic Review cautioned the re-emergence of the twin deficit problem in the Indian economy.

Statement 1 is correct: A fiscal deficit is a budget shortfall. The fiscal deficit is essentially the amount of money that the government has to borrow in any year to fill the gap between its expenditures and revenues.

Statement 2 is correct: A current account deficit means a country is sending more money overseas for goods and services than it is receiving.

Statement 3 is not correct: Stagflation: It is a situation in which the inflation rate is high, the economic growth rate is slow, and unemployment remains steadily high.

94. [ANS] c

[SOL] NIPUN (National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers) scheme

- The project NIPUN is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under its flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
- Aim:
  - It aims to train over 1 lakh construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
  - It will also provide workers with work opportunities even in foreign countries.
- Role of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC):
  - NSDC, the nodal agency under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), will be the Implementation Partner for the project.
    - The project implementation is divided into three parts –
- Training through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) at construction sites,
- Training through Fresh Skilling by Plumbing and Infrastructure SSC and
- International Placement through industries/ builders/ contractors in countries such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UAE and other GCC countries. Hence statement 2 is correct.
  - The courses are aligned with National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF).
- NSDC will be responsible for the overall execution of training, monitoring and candidate tracking.
- It will provide trainees with 'Kaushal Bima', three-year accidental insurance with coverage of INR 2 lakhs. Hence statement 3 is correct.

95. [ANS] d

[SOL] All the statements are correct: The general price rise may be caused by an increase in the money supply as the real value of the money reduces. The higher aggregate price level will reduce the purchasing power henceforth reducing consumer spending. Effective demand refers to the willingness and ability of consumers to purchase goods at different prices. When demand surpasses supply, higher prices are the result. Effective demand also increases when there is less purchasing power due to inflation.

96. [ANS] a

[SOL] Alpide belt:

- Afghanistan is earthquake-prone because it's located in the mountainous Hindu Kush region, which is part of the Alpide belt.

- This belt is the second most seismically active region in the world after the Pacific Ring of Fire. Hence option 3 is correct.
- The Alpide belt runs about 15,000 kilometers, from the southern part of Eurasia through the Himalayas and into the Atlantic. Hence option 2 is correct.
- Along with the Hindu Kush, it includes a number of mountain ranges, such as the Alps, Atlas Mountains and the Caucasus Mountains. Hence option 1 is correct.

Mount Kilimanjaro: is a dormant volcano in United Republic of Tanzania. And it is not part of Alpide belt. Hence option 4 is incorrect.

97. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Election Commission of India issued an order to push the Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) for ensuring due compliances.

Statement 1 is correct: It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950. It is an autonomous constitutional body responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.

Statement 2 is not correct: The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, State Legislative Councils and the offices of the President and Vice President of the country. For Panchayats and Municipalities, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.

Statement 3 is not correct: The EC has for long been seeking powers to deregister political parties.

98. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Manipur government announced that a heritage park would come up near the Keibul Lamjao National Park in Bishnupur district.

Statement 1 is not correct: The park is located in the south western part of the Loktak lake.

Statement 2 is correct: It is the only floating park in the world.

- This is the last natural habitat of the brow-antlered deer (Sangai), the dancing deer of Manipur.
- Other wildlife to be seen include: Hog Deer, Otter, a host of waterfowl and migratory birds, the latter usually sighted during November to March.

99. [ANS] d

[SOL] Ukraine has caused significant losses to the Russian military in airstrikes on Snake Island. Snake Island is also known as Zmiyni Island or Serpent Island.

- It is a small piece of rock less than 700 metres from end to end.
- It has been described as being "X-shaped".

- It is located 35 km from the coast in the Black Sea, to the east of the mouth of the Danube and roughly southwest of the port city of Odessa.
- It has been known since ancient times and is marked on the map by the tiny village of Bile that is located on it, belonging to Ukraine

100. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News: According to a World Gold Council (WGC) report, India has emerged as the fourth largest recycler in the world and the country has recycled 75 tonnes in 2021.

Statement 1 is not correct: According to the World Gold Council (WGC) report titled 'Gold refining and recycling' from 300 tonnes in 2013, India's gold refining capacity increased by 1,500 tonnes (500%) in 2021. India was ranked fourth in the list as the country recycled 75 tonnes in 2021.

Statement 2 is correct: The World Gold Council (WGC) was formed in 1987 by some of the world's most forward-thinking mining companies. Its aim is to stimulate and sustain demand for gold. It works across all parts of the industry, from gold mining to investment.

101. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, four new species of corals were recorded in the Indian waters of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct : The newly recorded species belong to the group "azooxanthellate corals".

- These corals are a group of hard corals and the four new records are solitary and highly compressed skeletal structures.
- More about azooxanthellate corals:
  - Azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae.
  - They are non-reef building, unicellular, golden-brown algae.
  - They derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of plankton.
  - These groups of corals are deep-sea representatives, with the majority of species reporting from between 200 m to 1000 m.
  - Their occurrences are also reported from shallow coastal waters.

102. [ANS] b

[SOL] Context : Recently, the government of India announced the launch of the pilot phase of open network for digital commerce (ONDC) in five cities.

Statement 1 is not correct: Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Statement 2 is correct: It is an initiative aimed to promote open networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. ONDC is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.

103. [ANS] b

[SOL] Context :Recently, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has promised to provide \$5.33 billion over the next four years to address problems related to biodiversity worldwide.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.

Statement 2 is correct: It is the only multilateral fund focused on biodiversity. The GEF is a financial mechanism for five major international environmental conventions:

- the Minamata Convention on Mercury,
- the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs),
- the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD),
- the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and
- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

104. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Goa is celebrating the Sao Joao festival on 24 June .

- Every monsoon the Sao Joao feast is celebrated with grandeur and gaiety.
- It is dedicated to St. John the Baptist is celebrated as the Sao Joao feast in Goa.
- It is one of the most important festivals of the Catholic community in Goa.
- The Sao Joao traditional boat festival started in 1992 .

105. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : The Santhal community is in the spotlight after the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominated one of the community leaders Droupadi Murmu to the highest constitutional position in the country.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct :Santhal is the third largest scheduled tribe community in the country after Gond and Bhil.

- The word ‘Santhal’ is derived from two words; ‘santha’ meaning calm and peaceful and ‘ala’ meaning man.
- Background:

- In the past, the Santhals were leading a nomadic life.
- Gradually they came to settle down in the Chota Nagpur plateau.
- Towards the end of the 18th century, they migrated to the Santhal Parganas of Bihar and then they came to Odisha.
- Location (Major): Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

106. [ANS] d

[SOL] Dutch Disease in economics refers to a phenomenon wherein a country witnesses uneven growth across sectors due to the discovery of natural resources, especially large oil reserves.

- According to the concept, when a country discovers natural resources and starts exporting them to the rest of the world, it causes the exchange rate of the currency to appreciate significantly and this, in turn, discourages the exports from other sectors while encouraging the import of cheaper alternatives.
- It exhibits the following two chief economic effects:
  - It decreases the price competitiveness of exports of the affected country's manufactured goods.
  - It increases imports.
- In long run,
  - These factors can contribute to unemployment, as manufacturing jobs move to lower-cost countries.
  - Meanwhile, non-resource-based industries suffer due to the increased wealth generated by resource-based industries.

107. [ANS] a

[SOL] Padma River:

- The Padma is a major river in Bangladesh.
- It is the main distributary of the Ganges. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The Padma River is known for heavy bank erosion, shifting channels, and sandbars that continually emerge in its course.
- Origin & course:
  - The Ganges branches into two distributaries, the Hooghly and the Padma at Giria in the Murshidabad district of India.
  - The Padma enters Bangladesh from India near Nawabganj and meets the Jamuna (the name of the Brahmaputra in Bangladesh) near Aricha and retains its name. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.



- It then meets with the Meghna near Chandpur and adopts the name "Meghna".
- Tributaries:
  - Its main tributary is the Mahananda.
  - Its principal distributary is the Madhumati (called the Garai in its upper course). Hence statement 3 is incorrect. (Gumti and Feni are tributaries of the Meghna River.)
- Mouth:
  - Bay of Bengal

108. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, new rules have been issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, to protect the rights of children working on the OTT platforms.

- The “Guidelines to Regulate Child Participation in the Entertainment Industry” were issued by NCPCR in 2011.
- The recent draft increases the scope of the guidelines to cover social media and OTT platforms for the first time.
- Producer’s responsibility:
  - The producer will now need to obtain the permission of the District Magistrate for the participation of a child in his/her show. Hence statement 1 is correct.
  - Producers will also have to run a disclaimer saying measures were taken to ensure there has been no abuse, neglect or exploitation of children during the entire process of the shooting.
  - The producer also needs to ensure the child’s education under the RTE Act.
- Role of guardian:
  - At least one parent or legal guardian or a known person has to be present during a shoot.
  - For infants, a registered nurse needs to be present along with the parent or legal guardian. Hence statement 2 is correct.
  - Content created by the child or his family/guardian:
    - It shall be treated as children working in a family enterprise as provided under the Child Labour and Adolescent Labour Act, 1986.

109. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) was successfully flight-tested by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).

Statement 1 is not correct : It has been designed and developed jointly by three facilities of the Defence Research and Development Organisation for deployment of Indian Naval warships.

Statements 2 and 3 are not correct : It has been designed to strike at the high-speed airborne targets at the range of 40 to 50 km and at an altitude of around 15 km.

- The missile has the capability of neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.

110. [ANS] c

[SOL] Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ):

- The Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are areas in India notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), GoI around Protected Areas, National Park and Wildlife sanctuaries.
- Prohibited activities:
  - Activities like industries that cause pollution Commercial mining, saw mills, establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood, Tourism, discharge of effluents or any solid waste or production of hazardous substances are all prohibited.
- Regulated activities:
  - Activities like felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, e.g. adoption of heavy technology, pesticides etc., widening of roads.
- Permitted activities:
  - Activities like ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources, adoption of green technology for all activities are permitted.

111. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the crisis in the salt sector has hit almost 5 lakh people in Gujarat.

Statement 1 is correct: Dandi March is also known as Salt Satyagraha and marked the first step of the Civil Disobedience movement.

Statement 2 is correct: Salt was chosen because it appealed to the masses as the Repressive Salt Law prohibited Indians from processing and manufacturing salt.

112. [ANS] a

[SOL] Cryptocurrency:

- It is a digital currency that can be used in place of conventional money.
- In cryptocurrencies, cryptography is used to secure and verify transactions. It is also used to control the supply of cryptocurrencies.

- It is supported by a decentralised peer-to-peer network called the blockchain. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The first cryptocurrency: Bitcoin, was launched in 2009 by Satoshi Nakamoto.
- Cheaper to transfer:
  - Some coins are used to transfer value (measured in a currency like dollars) cheaper and faster than using credit or conventional means.
  - Meaning the cost to send someone crypto, which can be converted into regular currency, is cheaper than something like a check or wire transfer. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- Challenges:
  - Security Risks: Cyberattacks on wallets, exchange mechanism (Cryptojacking). Hence statement 2 is incorrect
  - They are prone to issues like Hijacking, Routing Attacks, Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks.
  - Shield to Crime: Used for illicit trading, criminal activities and organised crimes.

113. [ANS] d

[SOL] Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021

- Abortions upto or beyond 24 of pregnancy:
  - Abortion is legal for women in certain circumstances up to 24 weeks.
  - A state-level medical board will be set up to decide:
    - if pregnancy may be terminated beyond 20 months till 24 months.
    - Such a decision can be taken by the medical board only after
- due consideration and
- ensuring that the procedure would be safe for the woman.
- The time frame available to the Medical Board is 3 days.
  - The upper gestation limit not to apply in cases of substantial foetal abnormalities diagnosed by the Medical Board.
- Anonymity:
  - Name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated shall not be revealed except to a person authorised in any law for the time being in force. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

- Marital and age criteria:
  - Unmarried women can also access abortion under the above-mentioned conditions because it does not mention the requirement of spousal consent.
  - If the woman is a minor, however, the consent of a guardian is required. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
- Criticism:
  - There may be cases where persons who identify as transgender (and not women) can become pregnant even after receiving hormone therapy to transition from female to male, and may require termination services.
  - The Act is silent over this. Hence statement 3 is correct.

114. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, India's cyber security watchdog CERT-In issued new rules regarding virtual private networks (VPNs).

- A VPN is a service that protects users online by preventing their IP address from being tracked by websites, law enforcement agencies, cybercriminals and others.
- About the new rules:
  - Storing Data: preserving a wide range of data on their customers, including their contact numbers, email IDs and IP addresses, for five years.
    - It also mandates VPN providers to record and keep their customers' logs for 180 days.
  - Reporting an incident: Companies are also required to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In within six hours of becoming aware of them.
  - Application: they would apply only to individual VPN customers and not to enterprise or corporate VPNs.
    - They will be also applicable to data centres, virtual private server (VPS) providers, cloud service providers, virtual asset service providers, virtual asset exchange providers, custodian wallet providers and Government organisations.
  - Penalty: Failure to follow the rules will attract penalties for VPN providers. If they all refuse to comply, VPN services will effectively become illegal in India.
  - KYC verification process: Users apart from potentially having their privacy data exposed to the government will also face a stringent know-your-customer verification process when signing up for a VPN service, and will have to state their reasons for using it.

115. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes. Zika can be passed through sex from a person with Zika to his or her partners. People with Zika virus disease can have symptoms including mild fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache. These symptoms normally last for 2-7 days.

Statement 2 is correct: There is scientific consensus that the Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly (in which infants are born with abnormally small heads) and Guillain-Barré syndrome (a condition in which the body's immune system attacks part of the nervous system).

116. [ANS] b

[SOL] Correct answer is (B): “Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP)” initiative is a five-nation forum namely the US and its allies — Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom. It focuses on enhancing “prosperity, resilience, and security” in the Pacific through closer cooperation. Through the PBP, these countries together and individually will direct more resources here to counter China’s aggressive outreach.

117. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Recently ,Scientists at the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, have raised an alarm about the spread of the Zika virus across several States and Union Territories .

Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct :Zika virus is primarily transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito from the Aedes genus, mainly Aedes aegypti, in tropical and subtropical regions.The virus was first isolated from a rhesus monkey in Uganda in the Zika forest, near the western shore of Lake Victoria, in 1947. It can also be transmitted sexually.

118. [ANS] b

[SOL] Gig economy:

- The gig economy is about individual workers carrying out tasks for clients through the intermediation of a platform attributing those tasks and taking care of the transfer of payment on a task-by-task basis.
- Significance:
  - The gig economy is based on temporary, or freelance jobs, often involving connecting with clients or customers through an online platform.
  - The gig economy can benefit workers, businesses, and consumers by making work more adaptable to the needs of the moment and the demand for flexible lifestyles.
    - Time flexibility: Workers operating in the gig economy are allowed to work any of the hours they desire.
    - Income flexibility: It is an increasingly attractive market due to the sheer flexibility that allows individuals to earn extra income.

- Definition of gig worker:
  - The report defines a gig worker as “someone who engages in income-earning activities outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship, as well as in the informal sector”.
  - Additionally, it defines those working with platforms such as Ola, Uber, Dunzo, Swiggy, Zomato and Urban Company as platform workers.

119. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, Principal Scientific Adviser inaugurated a Brainstorming Workshop at India International Centre, New Delhi to kick start an ambitious National Mission on "National Air Quality Resource Framework of India (NARFI).

- Development: It is developed by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru with the support from the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.
- The framework will provide an all-inclusive guide to collecting air quality data, studying its impact and implementing science-based solutions.
- Features
  - The NARFI is an information mechanism to help decision-makers in government, municipalities, and start-ups and in the private sectors to address air pollution issues in different climatic zones of India.
  - Research-based audited Information and industry-oriented solutions will be shared in an easy-to-understand format.
- Training: The short-term basic training modules tailored for different groups such as active ground level staff in government establishments, implementers, media and policymakers, would be an integral part of the framework.
- Themes
  - THEME-1: Emission Inventory, Air Shed, and Mitigation
  - THEME-2: Impacts on Human Health and Agriculture
  - THEME-3: Integrated Monitoring, Forecasting and Advisory Framework
  - THEME-4: Outreach, Social Dimension, Transition Strategy and Policy
  - THEME-5: Solutions, Public-Industry Partnership, Stubble Burning & New Technologies.
- Need?
  - We are largely dependent on the models created in the west to tackle this problem.
  - The NARFI will enable knowledge creation, developing infrastructure and industrial structures and studying its effects on human health in the country which is India specific.

- Lack of integrated information: There is absence of authenticated and integrated information on air quality in the country. To fulfil this vacuum, a science-based integrated air quality resource framework is needed.

120. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, India, along with G7 countries and four invited countries, signed the '2022 Resilient Democracies Statement'.

The countries resolved to "protecting the freedom of expression and opinion online and offline and ensuring a free and independent media landscape through our work with relevant international initiatives".

- Germany holds the presidency of the G7 in 2022.
  - Germany has invited India, along with Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal, and South Africa to the 2022 Summit as partner countries.
- Members: France, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, United States of America, Canada and Japan.
  - All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20

121. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : The 47th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax Council began in Chandigarh .

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct : In order to implement GST, the Constitutional (122nd Amendment) Bill (CAB for short) was passed by both houses of parliament in 2016 .It is a joint forum of the Centre and the states which was set up by the President as per Article 279A (1) of the amended Constitution.

- The Union Finance Minister (chairperson), the Union Minister of State (Finance) from the Centre.
  - Each state can nominate a minister in-charge of finance or taxation or any other minister as a member.
- The Council, according to Article 279, is meant to "make recommendations to the Union and the states on important issues related to GST, like the goods and services that may be subjected or exempted from GST, model GST Laws".

122. [ANS] a

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- All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20

123. [ANS] d

[SOL] Context

Recently, Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve (KNP&TR) are facing a new threat from invasive plant species.

Explanation

The landscape of Kaziranga National Park is of sheer forest, tall elephant grass, rugged reeds, marshes & shallow pools.

It is inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses, as well as many mammals, including tigers, elephants, panthers and bears, and thousands of birds.

124. [ANS] a

[SOL] Context

India and Malaysia's Defence Ministers held talks to deepen ties.

Explanation

India held a major combat exercise recently called Exercise 'Harimau Shakti' with Malaysia. The exercise was held in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia, and was aimed at "bolstering cooperation and coordination" between the armed forces of the two countries.

125. [ANS] c

[SOL]

- G7 is an intergovernmental organisation of seven countries that are the world's most industrialised and developed economies.
- Present Members: France, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, United States of America, Canada and Japan.
  - All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.
- All G-7 members other than Japan are NATO members.

[In News - Recently, the G-7 summit ended which pledged to hurt Russia economically by imposing sanctions on import of oil and gold.]



126. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : ABHYAS – High speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was successfully flight-tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : ABHYAS is designed & developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- The air vehicle was launched using twin under-slung boosters which provide the initial acceleration to the vehicle.
- It is powered by a small gas turbine engine to sustain a long endurance flight at high subsonic speed.
- The target aircraft is equipped with Micro-Electromechanical Systems-based Inertial Navigation System for navigation along with the Flight Control Computer for guidance and control along with Indigenous Radio Altimeter for very low altitude flight and Data Link for encrypted communication between the Ground Control Station and Target Aircraft.
- The vehicle is programmed for fully autonomous flight.

127. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : The Union Cabinet approved the categorization of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as an 'International Organisation' and signing of the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) with CDRI for granting it the exemptions, immunities and privileges as contemplated under the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947.

Statement 1 is not correct : The CDRI was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during the United Nations Climate Action Summit on the 23rd September, 2019, at New York.

- It is a global partnership of National Governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, academic and knowledge institutions.
- It aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

Statement 2 is correct : Since its launch, thirty-one (31) Countries, six (06) International Organisations and two (02) private sector organisations have joined as members of CDRI.

- CDRI has been expanding its membership consistently by attracting a wide variety of economically advanced countries, developing countries, and countries that are most vulnerable to climate change and disasters.

128. [ANS] a

[SOL] Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. It is a spyware which targeted i-Phone and Android devices in Italy and Kazakhstan.

- Statement 2 is correct. According to Google's TAG team, all campaigns started with a unique link sent to the victim's phone. When the user clicked, the page installed the application on both Android and iOS.

129. [ANS] a

[SOL]

- It is a constitutional body under Article 279A, introduced by the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016.
- It is empowered to modify, reconcile or to procure any law or regulation based on the context of GST in India.
- It is also considered as a federal body where both the centre and the states get due representation.
- Functions: It makes recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to GST.
- Composition
  - Chairperson: Union Finance Minister.
  - Members: Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.
- Every decision of the GST Council shall be taken at a meeting by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting, in accordance with the following principles, namely:
  - Vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one third of the total votes cast.
  - Votes of all the State Governments taken together shall have a Weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting.

130. [ANS] a

[SOL]

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has been operational since January 2004. The constituency of CERT-In is the Indian Cyber Community. CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.

Statement 2 is not correct: The CERT-In or ICERT is an office within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Government of India. CERT-In has been designated to serve as the national agency to perform the following functions in the area of cyber security:

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber incidents.

- Forecast and alerts of cyber security incidents
- Emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents
- Coordination of cyber incident response activities.
- Issue guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes and whitepapers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents.
- Such other functions relating to cyber security as may be prescribed.

