

NEXT IAS

TEST YOURSELF

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MARCH, 2022

1. Consider the following pairs:
Operations - Associated countries
 1. Operation Maitri - Nepal
 2. Operation Devi Shakti - Yemen
 3. Operation Raahat - Pakistan
 4. Operation Ganga - UkraineWhich of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1 and 4 only
2. With reference to the International Court of Justice, consider the following statements:
 1. The ICJ consists of a panel of 15 judges elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council for nine-year terms.
 2. Its official working languages are English and Russian .
 3. Its Judges are eligible for re-election.Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
3. Arrange The eight core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage
 1. Natural Gas
 2. Cement
 3. Crude Oil
 4. Refinery Products
 5. ElectricityWhich of the pair is correctly matched?
 - (a) 1,2,3,4 and 5
 - (b) 5,4,3,2 and 1
 - (c) 4,1,2,5 and 3
 - (d) 4,5,3,1 and 2
4. Consider the following statements
 1. Patent is a legal term used to describe the rights that creators have over their literary and artistic works.
 2. Copyright is an exclusive right granted for an invention.Which of the following statements is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. 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

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

- 1. The temple is a World Heritage Site situated in the eastern state of Kerala .
- 2. It was built by King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty .
- 3. The temple belongs to the Kalinga School of Indian Temples.

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

7. With reference to Participatory notes (P-notes), consider the following statements:

- 1. They are financial instruments required to invest in Indian securities without having to register with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- 2. They are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors .
- 3. They are among the group of investments considered to be Offshore Derivative Investments (ODIs).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

8. Consider the following statements

- 1. The first national flag is said to have been hoisted in 1906 in Bombay.
- 2. Tricolour was adopted as our national flag at a Congress Committee meeting in Lahore in 1931.
- 3. The Indian flag was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on July 22, 1947.

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

9. Recently, the “Montreux Convention” was in the news, it is related to:

- (a) Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- (b) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- (c) International environment protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer.
- (d) International convention on naval passage

10. With reference to Cheetah Action Plan, consider the following statements:

- 1. Cheetahs will be reintroduced into Kuno Palpur National Park.
- 2. Kuno Palpur National Park is situated in Karnataka.

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
- 11.** Consider the following statements:
1. Lingyats are the members of the Hindu sect having a wide following in the Southern part of India.
 2. They are the worshippers of Shiva.
 3. Lingayats and the Veerashaivas both have rejected the Vedas and the caste system.
- 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
- 12.** With reference to United Nations Environment Assembly(UNEA), consider the following statements:
1. It was established at the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972.
 2. It is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 13.** With reference to Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), consider the following statements:
1. The scheme is approved to help DISCOMs improve their operational efficiencies and financial sustainability.
 2. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has been nominated as nodal agency.
- 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
- 14.** Consider the following statements regarding 5G technology:
1. It is the latest upgrade in the Long-Term Evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks.
 2. It works in two bands of spectrum with no Mid-Band Spectrum.
 3. One of the issues with 5G technologies is an High latency rate.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 15.** With reference to Stree Manoraksha Project, consider the following statements
1. The project would emphasize on the psychosocial well-being and aim to improve the mental health of women in India.

2. Victims would be given cash incentives worth 6000 annually.
Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 16.** With reference to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), consider the following statements:
- 1. China's leader Xi Jinping first proposed an Asian infrastructure bank at an APEC summit in Bali in 2013.
 - 2. India is not the founding member of AIIB.
 - 3. India is the third largest shareholder after China and Russia.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1,2 and 3
- 17.** With reference to National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), consider the following statements:
- 1. It is the world's single largest force dedicated to disaster response.
 - 2. It functions under the Ministry of Defence.
 - 3. It consists of 15 battalions only from the BSF and Assam Rifles.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 18.** With reference to Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD), consider the following statements
- 1. It is the formal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia.
 - 2. Its objective is to ensure a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo Pacific.
- 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
- 19.** What are the possible reasons behind high Current Account Deficit?
- 1. Surge in oil prices.
 - 2. Rise in commodities and fertilizers consumption.
 - 3. Low gold imports.
- Which of the following options is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 20.** With reference to the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), consider the following statements:
- 1. It is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws.

2. It was established in 1975 under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

21. Which organisation releases the “Global Environment Outlook report”?

- (a) Greenpeace
- (b) The UN Environment Programme
- (c) World Wide Fund for Nature
- (d) Global Footprint Network

22. The famous writings such as “The Life Divine” and “The Synthesis of Yoga and Savitri” are written by whom?

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (c) Annie Besant
- (d) Sri Aurobindo

23. With reference to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council, consider the following statements:

- 1. Its members serve for a period of three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
- 2. Its all income comes from voluntary contributions from the Member States and other donors.
- 3. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.

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

24. *Glycosmis albicarpa*, recently seen in the news, it is related to which of the following?

- (a) Flying Squirrel
- (b) Edible fruit
- (c) Asteroid
- (d) Nuclear Weapon

25. Which of the following languages is /are given classical status in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

- 1. Kannada
- 2. Sanskrit
- 3. Malayalam
- 4. Dogri

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

26. With reference to Inflation, consider the following statements:
1. Deflation is an economic situation in which inflation and economic stagnation or recession occur simultaneously.
 2. Stagflation is reverse of inflation
- 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
27. Karewa recently seen in the news, it is related to which of the following ?
- (a) Cavalrymen
 - (b) Religious Tax
 - (c) Landform
 - (d) Village head
28. Which of the following comes under jurisdiction of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?
1. Money laundering.
 2. Terrorist financing
 3. Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
29. Which Indian State celebrates the “Shirui Lily Festival”?
- (a) Assam
 - (b) Nagaland
 - (c) Sikkim
 - (d) Manipur
30. Which of the following countries is not a part of P5+1?
- (a) France
 - (b) Russia
 - (c) Germany
 - (d) Japan
31. With reference to Purchasing Managers’ Index, consider the following statements:
1. It is an indicator of business activity only in the services sectors.
 2. It is compiled by the World Economic Forum.
- 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
32. Gulamgiri (Slavery) and Shetkarayacha Aasud (Cultivator’s Whipcord) authored by which among the followings ?

- (a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
(b) Mahatma Gandhi
(c) Vinayak Damodar Savarkar
(d) Jyotiba Phule
- 33.** Which of the following are the eligibility criteria for the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme (PM-SYM) ?
1. They should be an unorganised worker (UW).
 2. Their age should be between 18 and 40 years
 3. Monthly Income Rs 15000 or below
 4. They should be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS)
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 2, 3 and 4 only
- 34.** What are the potential Benefits of Limited Liability Partnership?
1. Pooling Resources for Better Growth
 2. Attracts Good Workers
 3. Increased Profits
 4. Flexibility
- Choose the correct answer using the codes given below.
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 35.** With reference to the Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), consider the following statements:
1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
 2. It caters to 3 pillars : finances, incubation and skill ecosystem.
- 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
- 36.** Consider the following statements
1. Russia is the world's largest producer of oil as well as the largest exporter.
 2. Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves.
- 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
- 37.** PARAM Ganga recently seen in the news, it is related to :
- (a) River Conservation

- (b) Solar system
 - (c) Ballistic missile
 - (d) Supercomputer
- 38.** With reference to Great Barrier Reef, consider the following statements:
1. It extends over 14 degrees of latitude, from shallow estuarine areas to deep oceanic waters.
 2. It is located in the Caspian Sea.
 3. It received world heritage status in 1981, the first coral reef ecosystem in the world to have this distinction.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) 1 and 3 only
- 39.** With reference to Side Channel Attacks (SCAs), consider the following statements:
1. These attacks are used to break encryption systems.
 2. They are a type of conventional cryptographic attacks.
 3. They extract information from the physical parameters analysis.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) None of the above
- 40.** With reference to Temporary Protection Directive, consider the following statements:
1. The Temporary Protection Directive was created in 1945.
 2. It has been invoked 3 times since the second world war.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 41.** Benin Bronzes artworks from the ancient Kingdom of Benin are related to which of the following countries ?
- (a) Argentina
 - (b) Brazil
 - (c) Venezuela
 - (d) Nigeria
- 42.** With reference to UPI123Pay, consider the following statements:
1. It has been launched by the State Bank of India.
 2. It is designed to bring the digital payments platform closer to a significant number of feature phone mobile subscribers in the country.
 3. It doesn't need an internet connection for transactions.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only

- (c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
43. Recently seen in news, “Protocol on inland water transit and trade” is signed between India and:
(a) Myanmar
(b) Bangladesh
(c) Thailand
(d) Cambodia
44. With reference to Chandrayaan-2, consider the following statements:
1. The Lander of Chandrayaan-2 was named Pragyan.
2. It's Rover was a 6-wheeled robotic vehicle named Vikas.
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
45. Consider the following statements
1. The Collegium System is prescribed in the constitution.
2. It consists of the Chief Justice of India with two senior most judges.
3. National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014 was brought to replace commission.
Which of the above statements is/are not correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
46. With reference to the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), consider the following statements:
1. It is a part National Rural Livelihood Mission uniquely aimed at rural poor youth between 15 and 35 years of age with the purpose to create income.
2. It has an outcome led design with guaranteed placements for at least 70% trained candidates .
3. It mandates one-third of the total candidates being trained under the scheme to be women.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
47. With reference to Current Account Deficit, consider the following statements:
1. It indicates that a country is importing more than it is exporting.
2. It could be reduced by boosting exports and curbing non-essential imports such as gold, mobiles, and electronics.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

48. With reference to the SVAMITVA Scheme, consider the following statements:
1. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs would implement the scheme.
 2. It aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties
 3. It is a Central Sector scheme.
- 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
49. Recently, “Saint Sophia Cathedral” was in the news. Where is this located?
- (a) Saudi Arabia
 - (b) Iran
 - (c) Turkey
 - (d) Ukraine
50. Recently seen in news, ‘UN Security Council resolution 1325’ is related to:
- (a) The situation in the Middle East (Yemen)
 - (b) Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on Ukraine
 - (c) Important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace-building
 - (d) Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist attacks
51. With reference to the Minimum Support Price (MSP), consider the following statements:
1. The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices recommends the MSP.
 2. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) takes the final decisions on MSP.
 3. Copra and De-husked coconut are the items included in the mandated crops for MSP.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
52. Pandrethan temple, recently seen in the news, is situated in which of the following States /Union Territories?
- (a) Uttar Pradesh
 - (b) Tamil Nadu
 - (c) Jammu Kashmir
 - (d) Daman & Diu
53. Which of the following are correctly matched in regards to the Articles of the Indian Constitution?
- | Article | Intent |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Article 121 | Restrictions on the Courts |
| 2. Article 21 | Right to Life |
| 3. Article 212 | Restriction on Parliament |
| 4. Article 124 | Establishment of the Supreme Court |
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 4 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only

- (d) 1 and 4 only
54. Sahitya Akademi Award was recently seen in the news, it is related to:
- (a) Indian Cinema
 - (b) Science and Technology
 - (c) Literary honour
 - (d) Gallantry Medal
55. Which of the following Temples is/are situated in Odisha?
1. Konark Sun Temple
 2. Tara Tarini Temple
 3. Lingaraj Temple
- Select the correct answer from the codes given below:
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
56. With reference to the Registration of Political Parties in India, consider the following statements:
1. Political Parties registrations are governed by the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
 2. Any party seeking deregistration has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days.
 3. A Political Party has to get at least six per cent votes in four states in addition to four Lok Sabha seats to be recognised as a National Party.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
57. Which of the following states will be covered under the Vibrant Villages Programme?
1. Himachal Pradesh
 2. Uttarakhand
 3. Arunachal Pradesh.
 4. Tamil Nadu
 5. Karnataka
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 2, 4 and 5 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
58. With reference to Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), consider the following statements
1. It is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).
 2. Russia and Ukraine are both its signatories.
 3. India has neither signed or ratified this convention yet.
- Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 59.** Consider the following statements regarding Neon gas.
1. It is a colorless, odorless, inert monatomic gas.
 2. This gas occurs in minute quantities in Earth's atmosphere also.
 3. Neon gives a distinct reddish-orange glow in lights.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 60.** Which of the following exceptions are allowed under Most-favoured-nation (MFN) status?
1. Countries can set up a free trade agreement that applies only to goods traded within the group.
 2. Countries can give developing countries special access to their markets.
 3. Countries can raise barriers against products that are considered to be traded unfairly from specific countries.
- 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
- 61.** 'Sanskritisation' recently seen in the news, it refers to:
- (a) Doctorate degree in Sanskrit language
 - (b) Temporary settlements at Himalayas
 - (c) Change in the hierarchical caste system
 - (d) Pilgrimage Tax
- 62.** With reference to the Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS), consider the following statements:
1. They are short-range and portable Air-to-Air missiles.
 2. They can be fired from a tripod as well as from a helicopter.
 3. They have a maximum range of 8 kilometres and can engage targets at altitudes of 4.5 km.
 4. The first MANPADS were introduced by the United States and Soviet Union in the 1960s.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 63.** Consider the following statements:
1. Bahini Scheme is launched to provide free sanitary napkins to girl students of all schools in Sikkim.
 2. Suvidha is a 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 64.** Consider the following statements:
1. Hydrogen produced from fossil fuels is called Grey Hydrogen.
2. Hydrogen generated entirely from renewable power sources is called Green Hydrogen.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are not correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 65.** Which of the following recommendation(s) was/were made by the Sarkaria Commission with reference to President Rule?
1. Sparing use of Article 356.
2. Governors should follow constitutional conventions in case of hung assemblies.
3. Localized Emergency in specific troubled areas.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 66.** Apart from Mahatma Gandhi, who are the other leaders associated with the Dandi March?
1. C. Rajagopalachari
2. K. Kelappan
3. Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan
4. MN Roy
5. Sarojini Naidu
Which of the following options is/are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 3, 4 and 5
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- 67.** With reference to Consumer Price Index(CPI), consider the following statements:
1. It is an index measuring retail inflation in the economy by collecting the change in prices of most common goods and services used by consumers.
2. It is compiled by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
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
- 68.** With reference to Great Indian Bustard, consider the following statements:
1. It is the state bird of Assam .
2. It has been included in the Appendix I of Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) on the basis

- of a proposal submitted by India.
3. The IUCN Red List Categories it as Critically Endangered.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
69. With reference to Permafrost, consider the following statements:
1. It is defined only based on duration and temperature.
2. Ground should be frozen for at least 2 years to be considered Permafrost.
3. Its thickness reduces progressively towards the south.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
70. Recently, “Bhagat Singh Koshyari Committee” was in the news. What is the purpose of this committee?
- (a) To review the guidelines on television rating agencies
(b) To develop international retail business at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)
(c) Agricultural Credit System
(d) Implementation of the One Rank-One Pension
71. With reference to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, consider the following statements:
1. It is a permanent intergovernmental organisation preceded by the Shanghai Five mechanism.
2. Its chairmanship rotates on a biannual basis.
3. India, Pakistan and Afghanistan are observer states.
Which of the statements given above are not correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
72. With reference to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), consider the following statements:
1. It was established by the First Islamic Summit Conference held in Saudi Arabia in September 1969.
2. It is the world’s second-largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations.
3. Russia, US and India have been given observer status.
Which of the given above statements are not correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
73. With reference to Himalayan Griffon Vulture, consider the following statements:
1. It lives mainly in the higher regions of the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau at the elevation of above 1500 metres.
2. It is listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List

of Threatened Species.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

74. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Denmark
- 2. Japan
- 3. Russian Federation
- 4. United Kingdom
- 5. United States of America

Which of the above are the members of the 'Arctic Council'?

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

75. Consider the following statements regarding Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

- 1. It ensures unskilled manual work as guaranteed employment in a financial year.
- 2. It is implemented in all rural districts of the country.
- 3. The Act provides a legal right to employment for adult members of rural households.

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

76. What are the factors that determine Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- 1. Pre-agriculture level of technology
- 2. Stagnant or declining population
- 3. Extremely low literacy
- 4. Subsistence level of the economy.

Which of the following options is/are correct?

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

77. Boma technique recently seen in the news, it is related to

- (a) Agricultural methodology
- (b) Animal Capturing
- (c) Nuclear developments
- (d) Military tactics

78. With reference to Daylight Saving Time, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the practice of resetting clocks ahead by an hour in spring, and behind by an hour in autumn

(or fall).

2. India does not follow daylight saving time.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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

1. Every Ministry of the Government of India shall prepare a Disaster Management Plan.

2. Crisis Management Plan deals with response, whereas Disaster Management Plan is a holistic one including preventive strategies.

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

80. With reference to Section 498A of IPC, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The definition of cruelty covers both physical and mental abuse.

2. The Malimath Committee has recommended making the law compoundable to prevent the possibility of settlement or compromise in the cases.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

81. Filariasis is a parasitic disease, caused by:

(a) Wuchereria bancrofti

(b) Entamoeba histolytica

(c) Babesia microti

(d) Trypanosoma cruzi

82. Consider the following statements

1. The Collegium System is prescribed in the constitution.

2. It consists of the Chief Justice of India with two senior most judges.

3. National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014 was brought to replace commission.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

83. With reference to New India Literacy Programme(NILP), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme which has an implementation period from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

2. It aims to support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates in the age group of 21 and above.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 84.** With reference to Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) , consider the following statements:
1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It is a globally first-of-its-kind initiative that aims to democratise Digital Commerce.
3. It is modelled around the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) project.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 85.** With reference to Child Marriage, consider the following statements:
1. Rao Sahib Harbilas Sarada introduced the Child Marriage Restraint Act.
2. Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 made child marriage a cognizable and bailable offence.
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.** Consider the following statements:
1. Saltwater Crocodiles are the largest living crocodiles on the Earth.
2. They can be found in brackish and freshwater regions of eastern India, Southeast Asia and northern Australia.
3. Odisha is the only state in India where all of the crocodile species can be found.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 87.** With reference to Kasturirangan Committee, consider the following statements:
1. It seeks to bring 37% of Western Ghats under the Economic Sensitive Area.
2. The Gadgil Committee came after it to mend the problems in the Report.
3. Thermal power projects face complete ban although hydro power projects are allowed with some restrictions.
Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 88.** Which of the following statements is/are correct in regards to the Minamata Convention?
1. It is a UN global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of Mercury.

2. Blue baby syndrome is a major disease caused by mercury contamination.
3. Minamata Convention on Mercury put a ban on new mercury mines.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
89. EX-DUSTLIK is a defence exercise between India and which of the following countries?
(a) Mongolia
(b) South Africa
(c) Tajikistan
(d) Uzbekistan
90. With reference to the Operation Greens Scheme, consider the following statements:
1. It was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare in November 2018.
2. It seeks to stabilize the supply of only Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops.
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
91. With reference to Jal Jeevan Mission, consider the following statements:
1. It will provide safe drinking water to each household in rural India.
2. This mission follows a community approach.
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
92. Which of the following cases of Modern India is not related to Bhagat Singh?
(a) Kakori Case
(b) Alipore Bomb Conspiracy Case
(c) Lahore Conspiracy Case
(d) Saunderson's Murder Case
93. With reference to black box, consider the following statements:
1. It is a recording device used by aviation investigators to analyse the events leading to the air mishap.
2. It aims to establish legal liability.
3. Australia was the first country to make black boxes mandatory in its aeroplanes
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
94. Article 355 of Indian Constitution recently seen in the news, it is related to

- (a) Directive for development of the Hindi language
 - (b) Power to extend functions of Public Service Commissions
 - (c) Freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse
 - (d) Duty of the Union to protect States against external aggression and internal disturbance.
95. The Mekedatu water dispute is a cause of concern for which two states?
- (a) Kerala and Tamil Nadu
 - (b) Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
 - (c) Goa and Maharashtra
 - (d) Karnataka and Tamin Nadu
96. In the context of space missions, what is “Artemis Mission” related to? (2010)
- (a) A newly launched geoportal of ISRO with 3D imaging capabilities of India
 - (b) A satellite launch by ISRO for promoting the distance education in India
 - (c) The name given to NASA's manned mission to the Moon.
 - (d) A probe related to studying the Asteroids between the March and Jupiter belt.
97. Ireland is separated from the United Kingdom by
- (a) Atlantic Ocean
 - (b) North Sea
 - (c) English Channel
 - (d) Irish Sea
98. Which of the following are the common sources of Lead?
1. Storage batteries
 2. Hair oils and cosmetics
 3. Some traditional ethnic medicines
 4. Pottery
 5. Pens and pencils
- Which of the given above options is/are correct?
- (a) 1, 4 and 5
 - (b) 2, 3 and 4
 - (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 - (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
99. Consider the following statements:
1. Clear-air atmospheric observatories containing automatic weather stations have been established at Maitri and Bharati stations in the Arctic region.
 2. Chandra Basin is situated in Lahaul-Spiti region of Eastern Himalaya.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
100. Which of the following is /are chemical constituents of Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5?
1. Sulphates
 2. Nitrates
 3. Black carbon
 4. Ammonium

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

- 101.** With reference to the Collegium System in India, which of the following statements is/are not correct?
- (a) It pertains to both appointment and transfers of the judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.
 - (b) The Collegium for the Supreme Court is mentioned under Article 124 of the Constitution.
 - (c) NJAC Bill was introduced as a remedy to the drawbacks of the Collegium system.
 - (d) The outgoing CJI recommends his successor on the basis of seniority.

- 102.** With reference to Antarctic Treaty, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Antarctic treaty remains the only example of a single treaty that governs a whole continent.
- 2. India is a member of this treaty.
- 3. It is headquartered in Brazil.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 103.** Which of the following cases are handled by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?

- 1. Cases of corruption and fraud committed by public servants
- 2. Economic crimes, including bank frauds.
- 3. Kidnapping for ransom and crimes committed by the mafia/the underworld.
- 4. Bomb blasts and sensational homicides

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

- 104.** 'Project Unnati' recently seen in the news, it is related to:

- (a) Development of ports
- (b) Providing assistance to overcome natural calamities
- (c) Buying and Selling government securities
- (d) Skill Development

- 105.** With reference to Crypto currencies, consider the following statements

- 1. In India, these are managed by the RBI.
- 2. India at present has no Dispute Settlement Mechanisms with reference to Crypto currencies.
- 3. El Salvador is the first country to use bitcoin as legal tender, alongside the US dollar.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

- 106.** With reference to Nano-Fertilizers, consider the following options

1. Better crop productivity.
2. Reduces the crop cycle period and increases crop yield.
3. Potential plant growth enhancers.
4. Low cost compared to conventional fertilizers.
5. Low absorption capacity.

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

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

107. Consider the following statements about Basavanna:

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

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

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

108. With reference to T cells, consider the following statements:

1. They are a diverse and important group of lymphocytes.
2. They play a vital role in both components of active immunity.
3. They cannot recognize soluble, free antigens.

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

109. With reference to India's Space Economy, consider the following statements

1. The estimated size of India's space economy as a percentage of the GDP has shown a growth in 2020-21 as compared to 2011-12.
2. In relation to GDP, India's spending is more than that of China, Germany, Italy and Japan, but less than the U.S. and Russia.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

110. Which of the following organisations has released the Export Preparedness Index 2021?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- (c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (d) Federation of Indian Export Organisations

111. With reference to VRR (variable refresh rate), consider the following statements

1. Refresh rate is the number of times a display is capable of refreshing in a minute.
2. The Lower the refresh rate, the better the quality of the viewing experience.

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

112. With reference to MRSAM, sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Surface-to-Air Missile.
2. It is developed jointly by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Dassault Aviation of France.
3. It comprises a multi-function radar and mobile launcher system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

113. Which of the following is true regarding Kuki tribes of Tripura ?

1. They are very much experts in hunting wild animals.
2. They have their own customary laws and village council.
3. They were Christian Traditionally .
4. They arrange marriage alliances outside their community

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

114. Bamiyan Buddhas recently seen in the news ,they are related to which of the following countries ?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) Afghanistan
- (d) India

115. With reference to Voting rights, consider the following statements

1. The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 was amended to allow service voters and Overseas Citizens to use the postal ballots.
2. Postal ballots are sent and received electronically.
3. As per the Indian Constitution, all Indian citizens above the age of 18 years who have registered themselves as voters are eligible to vote.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

116. Which of the following ports are correctly matched with their countries?

Port	Country
1. Jeddah	Saudi Arabia
2. Port Ghalib	Somalia
3. Port of Aden	Yemen
4. Al - Salif	Saudi Arabia

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

117. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), consider the following statements

- 1. It is a flagship of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- 2. The mission seeks to address the housing requirement of urban poor including slum dwellers.
- 3. The ownership of houses is provided in the name of a female member only.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

118. Arrange the following hills from East to West direction:

- 1. Garo Hills
- 2. Khasi Hills
- 3. Jaintia Hills

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

119. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – Saubhagya?

- 1. It is a concurrent program to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana' (DDUGJY).
- 2. The beneficiaries for free electricity connections would be identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.
- 3. Under Saubhagya, only Public Sector DISCOMs are eligible for financial assistance

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

120. Great one-horned rhino is commonly found in which of the following countries ?

- 1. Nepal
- 2. Bhutan
- 3. Pakistan
- 4. India

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

121. Recently, “Project Chunauti” was seen in the news. What is it related to?

- (a) Start-up challenge
- (b) e-Governance project to maintain rural land records.
- (c) Technology for improved provisioning of judicial services to citizens.
- (d) Electronic services to the Companies registered under the Companies Act.

122. With reference to the Lithium-ion Batteries, consider the following statements:

- 1. Metallic lithium is used in these rechargeable batteries.
- 2. Lithium ions move from the negative electrode to the positive electrode during discharge and vice-versa while charging.

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

123. Consider the following statements:

- 1. OPEC was established at the Baghdad Conference.
- 2. India is a member nation of the OPEC+.
- 3. India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs.

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

124. Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding the BRICS Group?

- (a) It contributes 24% of the world’s GDP.
- (b) It has a 16% share in world trade.
- (c) It has a total combined area of 29.3% of the total land surface of the world.
- (d) An agreement for establishing a New Development Bank was signed at the summit held at St. Petersburg.

125. Which of the following are Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMI) in India?

- 1. Youtube
- 2. Facebook
- 3. Whatsapp
- 4. Twitter

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

- 126.** The “Fengyun-1C satellite” sometimes seen in the news belongs to which country?
- (a) USA
 - (b) South Korea
 - (c) Japan
 - (d) China
- 127.** With reference to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), consider the following statements
1. The convention was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
 2. The United States is the only UN member state which has not ratified the convention.
 3. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) is based in Geneva.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 128.** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) recently seen in the news, it is chaired by:
- (a) President
 - (b) Finance Minister
 - (c) Prime Minister
 - (d) Speaker of the Lok Sabha

Explanation

1. [ANS] d

[SOL] Centre launches Operation Ganga to bring back citizens stranded in Ukraine via Romania, Hungary.

Pairs 1, 2 and 4 are correctly matched : Operation Sukoon

- Operation Sukoon, or the 'Beirut Sealift,' was launched by the Indian Navy in July 2006 to evacuate Indians, Sri Lankans, Nepalese and Lebanese nationals with Indian spouses from Lebanon during the Israel-Lebanon war in 2006.
- Operation Safe Homecoming:
 - The Indian government had commenced Operation Safe Homecoming on 26 February 2011 to rescue over 15,400 Indian nationals stuck in Libya during the civil war.
- Operation Maitri :
 - Operation Maitri was initiated by the Indian government in the aftermath of the Nepal earthquake on 25 April 2015.
- Operation Devi Shakti
 - The evacuation operation from Afghanistan in the backdrop of the Taliban's takeover of the country is known as "Operation Devi Shakti".
- Vande Bharat Mission'
 - Evacuations during Covid-19 pandemic: The Indian government initiated a massive evacuation programme titled the 'Vande Bharat Mission' on May 7, 2020.

Pair 3 is not correctly matched

Operation Raahat

- An operation was launched by the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate 4,640 Indians and 960 foreign nationals of 41 countries from Yemen during the 2015 Yemen Crisis.

2. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, Ukraine filed an application instituting proceedings against the Russian Federation before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Statements 1 and 3 are correct : The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).

- The International Court of Justice, also known as the World Court.
- It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
 - Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America).
- Origin
 - The court is the successor to the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), which was brought into being through, and by, the League of Nations, and which held its inaugural sitting at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, in February 1922.
 - After World War II, the League of Nations and PCIJ were replaced by the United Nations and ICJ respectively.
 - The PCIJ was formally dissolved in April 1946, and its last president, Judge José Gustavo Guerrero of El Salvador, became the first president of the ICJ.
- Composition : The ICJ consists of a panel of 15 judges elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council for nine-year terms.
 - The Court may not include more than one national of the same State.

- Moreover, the Court as a whole must represent the main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world.
- These organs vote simultaneously but separately.
- In order to ensure a measure of continuity, one third of the Court is elected every three years.
- Judges are eligible for re-election.
- The Court settles legal disputes submitted to it by States, in accordance with international law. It also gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred by authorized UN organs and specialized agencies. Judgments in disputes between States are binding.
 - The Court decides disputes between countries, based on the voluntary participation of the States concerned. If a State agrees to participate in a proceeding, it is obligated to comply with the Court's decision.

Statement 2 is not correct : Its official working languages are English and French.

3. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has released the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI).

Option d is correct: The eight core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.

- It is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
 - Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
 - Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
- In India, the first official attempt to compute the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was made much earlier than the first recommendation on the subject came at the international level.
- With the inception of the Central Statistical Organization (now known as the National Statistics Office (NSO)) in 1951, the responsibility for compilation and publication of IIP was vested with it.
- Ministry: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Base year: 2011-2012
- Sources of data: NSO compiles the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) using secondary data received from 14 source agencies in various Ministries/Departments or their attached/subordinate offices.
- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) is the source for the major chunk of data for the calculation.

4. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Patent: It is an exclusive right granted for an invention.

- A patent provides the patent owner with the right to decide how - or whether - the invention can be used by others.
- In exchange for this right, the patent owner makes technical information about the invention publicly available in the published patent document.
- Statement 2 is not correct: Copyright: It is a legal term used to describe the rights that creators have over their literary and artistic works.
 - Works covered by copyright range from books, music, paintings, sculpture and films, to computer programs, databases, advertisements, maps and technical drawings.

5. [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.

6. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Odisha government has planned to run the Sun Temple completely on solar energy

Statement 1 is not correct: The temple is a World Heritage Site is situated in the eastern state of Odisha and is a massive temple dedicated to the Sun God temple . Konark is situated at a comfortable distance from the famous religious and tourist centre of Puri (35 K.M.) and the capital city of Bhubaneswar (65 K.M.)

- Meaning of Name: "Konarka" , the place bears a name composed of two World elements: Kona meaning corner and ARKA meaning the Sun.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct : Built by King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty. The Sun temple belongs to the Kalinga School of Indian Temples with characteristic curvilinear towers mounted by Cupolas. The Sun Temple, Konârak is protected under the National Framework of India by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act (1958) and its Rules (1959).

7. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Investments in the Indian capital market through Participatory notes (P-notes) dropped to ₹87,989 crore at the end of January and experts believe that foreign investors will continue with their negative stance amid the Ukraine crisis.

Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct : P-Notes are financial instruments required by investors or hedge funds to invest in Indian securities without having to register with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

- Investors save time, money and scrutiny associated with direct registration.
- P-Notes are among the group of investments considered to be Offshore Derivative Investments (ODIs).
- The P-Notes include investments in equity, derivatives, debt and other hybrid instruments.
 - Majority of the investments is in the equity space.
- P-notes are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly
 - They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.
- These investments are also beneficial to India as they provide access to quick money to the Indian capital market.

8. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News: The Union government has allowed manufacture and import of machine-made polyester national flags by amending the 2002 Flag Code of India.

Statement 1 is not correct: The first national flag, which consisted of three horizontal stripes of red, yellow and green, is said to have been hoisted on August 7, 1906, at the Parsee Bagan Square, near Lower Circular Road, in Calcutta.

Statement 2 is not correct: After undergoing several changes, the Tricolour was adopted as our national flag at a Congress Committee meeting in Karachi in 1931.

- Statement 3 is correct: The Indian flag was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on July 22, 1947.

9. [ANS] d

[SOL] In news: Turkey is activating the Montreux Convention in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Option d is correct: Turkey is set to implement an international convention on naval passage through two of its strategic straits, which would allow them to limit the movement of Russian warships between the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.

- Significance of the move
 - The declaration authorised Turkey to activate the Montreux Convention and ban Russian war vessels from entering the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.
 - In the event of a war, the pact gives Turkey the right to regulate the transit of naval warships and to block the straits to warships belonging to the countries involved in the conflict.
- The Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits
 - Also known as the Turkish Straits or the Black Sea Straits, connect the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea via the Sea of Marmara.
 - It is the only passage through which the Black Sea ports can access the Mediterranean and beyond.
 - Over three million barrels of oil, about three per cent of the daily global supply, mostly produced in Russia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan, pass through this waterway every day.
 - The route also ships large amounts of iron, steel, and agricultural products from the Black Sea coast to Europe and the rest of the world.
 - According to the 1936 Montreux Convention Turkey has control over both the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.

10. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, a five-member delegation from India visited Namibia to hold discussions on translocating the Cheetahs to India.

Statement 1 is correct: Cheetahs will be reintroduced into Kuno Palpur National Park. This National Park has been tentatively earmarked for the translocation of 12-15 cheetahs.

Statement 2 is not correct: Kuno Palpur National Park is situated in Madhya Pradesh. The 344-sq km national park was recommended as one of the three potential sites for the cheetah project in 1992.

11. [ANS] d

[SOL] Option D is correct: The Lingayat/Veerashaiva community, a politically dominant group in Karnataka, are devotees of Shiva. The Lingayats follow 12th-century saint-philosopher Basavanna who had rejected ritualistic worship and pre-eminence of the Vedas. They have a wide following in the Southern part of India. Lingayats constitute 17% of the total population in Karnataka.

12. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statements 1 and 2 are correct : The establishment of the Environment Assembly was the culmination of decades of international efforts, initiated at the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972 and aimed at creating a coherent system of international environmental governance. UNEA was created in June 2012, when world leaders called for the UN Environment to be strengthened and upgraded during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as RIO+20.

- It is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.

- It addresses the critical environmental challenges facing the world today.
- It meets biennially to set priorities for global environmental policies and develop international environmental law.
- Through its resolutions and calls to action, the Assembly provides leadership and catalyses intergovernmental action on the environment

The UN Environment Assembly, with a universal membership, is now composed of 193 Member States.

13. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the government has suspended smart metre bids under its ₹3.03 trillion Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) till 15 March due to multiple issues.

Statement 1 is correct: The government of India has approved the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to help DISCOMs improve their operational efficiencies and financial sustainability by providing result-linked financial assistance to DISCOMs to strengthen supply infrastructure based on meeting pre-qualifying criteria and achieving basic minimum benchmarks. Statement 2 is not correct: The scheme has an outlay of Rs 3,03,758 Crore over 5 years i.e. FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26. The outlay includes an estimated Government Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs 97,631 Crore. REC and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) have been nominated as nodal agencies for facilitating the implementation of the scheme.

14. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Addressing the seventh post-budget webinar, India's Prime Minister said the Union Budget 2021-22 has clearly laid down a roadmap for the 5G spectrum auction in the country.)

- Statement 1 is correct: It is the latest upgrade in the Long-Term Evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks with reduced latency than 4G.
- Statement 2 is not correct: It works in three bands of spectrum with their respective pros and cons.
 - Low Band Spectrum
 - It shows great promise in terms of coverage and speed of internet and data exchange with a maximum speed limited to 100 Mbps (Megabits per second).
 - Telcos can use and install it for commercial cellphone users who may not have specific demands for very high speed internet.
 - It may not be optimal for specialized needs of the industry.
 - Mid-Band Spectrum
 - It offers higher speeds compared to the low band, but has limitations in terms of coverage area and penetration of signals.
 - It may be used by industries and specialized factory units for building captive networks that can be molded into the needs of that particular industry.
 - High-Band Spectrum
 - It offers the highest speed of all the three bands, but has extremely limited coverage and signal penetration strength.
 - Internet speeds have been tested to be as high as 20 Gbps (gigabits per second).
- Statement 3 is not correct: 5G technologies offer an extremely low latency rate, the delay between the sending and receiving information.

15. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Celebrating the International Women's Day the Ministry of Women and Child Development organized an event in collaboration with NIMHANS, the "Stree Manoraksha project".

Statement 1 is correct: The project would emphasize on the psychosocial well-being and aim to improve the mental health of women in India.

Statement 2 is not correct: The project is aimed at extending mental health training to 6000 OSC (One Stop Centre) functionaries across India.

- The project would focus on capacity building of OSC functionaries on the tools and techniques as to how to handle the cases of women approaching the One Stop Centres particularly the women who have suffered violence and distress with due sensitivity and care.

16. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Recently ,Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has said that it has put on hold and is reviewing all activities relating to Russia and Belarus in the wake of the current conflict in Ukraine.

Statement 1 is correct : China's leader Xi Jinping first proposed an Asian infrastructure bank at an APEC summit in Bali in 2013. AIIB began operations in 2016 with 57 founding Members (37 regional and 20 non regional). It is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond. HQ: Beijing, China. The bank is headed by a Board of Governors composed of one Governor and one Alternate Governor.

Statement 2 is not correct : It has 105 members and is open to accepting additional members. India is a founding member.

Statement 3 is not correct: China is the largest shareholder of the bank with 26.06 per cent voting rights. India is the second-largest shareholder with 7.5 per cent followed by Russia at 5.93 per cent and Germany at 4.5 per cent.

17. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Recently, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has sent relief material to Ukraine.

Statement 1 is correct : Established in 2006, NDRF is the world's single largest force dedicated to disaster response.

Statements 2 and 3 are not correct :NDRF is functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs, within the overall command, control and leadership of the Director-General.

- At present, the NDRF consists of 15 battalions from the BSF, CISF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB and Assam Rifles.
 - Each battalion has 18 self-contained specialist search and rescue teams of 45 personnel each including engineers, technicians, electricians, dog squads and medical/paramedics.
- It is a multi-skilled and high-tech force that effectively responds to all types of natural and man-made disasters, including building collapses, landslides, devastating floods, and cyclones.

18. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News: In the recent meeting, QUAD leaders discussed the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and assessed its broader implications.

Explanation

Statement 1 is not correct: QUAD is an informal group of India, the US, Japan and Australia.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a strategic dialogue with the objective to ensure a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo Pacific.

- It is also known as Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD).
- QUAD is an informal group of India, the US, Japan and Australia.
- It is a strategic dialogue with the objective to ensure a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo Pacific.
- Shared values between the nations are:
 - Political democracies
 - Market economies

- Pluralistic societies
 - Timeline:
 - 2007: Japanese PM Shinzo Abe mooted the idea of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
 - Could not materialize due to the reluctance of Australia
 - December 2012: Shinzo Abe again initiated a concept of Asia's Democratic Security Diamond, involving Australia, India, Japan and the US.
 - The aim was to safeguard the maritime commons from the Indian Ocean to the western Pacific.
 - November 2017: QUAD Coalition was finally given a present-day form with the active participation of India, the US, Australia and Japan.
 - The aim was to keep critical sea routes open and free for navigation in the Indo-Pacific.
 - Foreign ministers of the four countries held their first meeting under the 'Quad' framework in New York in September 2019.
19. [ANS] a
 [SOL] In News - India's trade deficit, which shot back up to \$21.2 billion, is expected to stay elevated in coming months and the current account deficit could widen to 2.6% of GDP in 2022-23 from 1.7% of GDP this year.
 Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Current Account Deficit (CAD): It is the shortfall between the money flowing in on exports, and the money flowing out on imports. It measures the gap between the money received into and sent out of the country on the trade of goods and services and also the transfer of money from domestically-owned factors of production abroad. It is slightly different from the Balance of Trade, which measures only the gap in earnings and expenditure on exports and imports of goods and services. Whereas, the current account also factors in the payments from domestic capital deployed overseas. For example, rental income from an Indian owning a house in the UK would be computed in the Current Account, but not in the Balance of Trade.
 Reasons: The surge in oil prices, amid a pickup in domestic demand, will significantly enhance India's import bill.
- Aided by the broader rise in commodities and fertilizers.
 - Anticipation that gold imports will remain high as investors look to hedge against market volatility and inflation.
 - The situation is especially aggravated by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.
20. [ANS] a
 [SOL] Statement 1 is correct. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws which promotes animal welfare in the country.
 Statement 2 is not correct. It was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
21. [ANS] b
 [SOL] In News : The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the world's highest-level decision-making body with a universal membership of all 193 nations, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. United Nations Environment Programme is the leading global environmental authority established in 1972.
- It sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system.
 - Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.
 - Major Reports: Emission Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, Frontiers, Invest into a Healthy Planet.
 - Major Campaigns: Beat Pollution, UN75, World Environment Day, Wild for Life, etc.

22. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News - India is all set to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo

- Sri Aurobindo was also a journalist and his first philosophical magazine called Arya was published in 1914.
 - Among his many writings are The Life Divine, The Synthesis of Yoga and Savitri.

23. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Recently ,India abstained on a vote at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva as the Council decided to set up an international commission of enquiry into Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Statements 1 and 3 are correct :It is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them.

- It replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.
- It was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006.
- It meets at the UN Office in Geneva.
- The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly.
 - The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution. Seats are distributed as follows:
 - African States: 13 seats
 - Asia-Pacific States: 13 seats
 - Latin American and Caribbean States: 8 seats
 - Western European and other States: 7 seats
 - Eastern European States: 6 seats
- Members of the Council serve for a period of three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.

Statement 2 is not correct : Almost two-thirds of UN Human Rights income comes from voluntary contributions from the Member States and other donors.

- The remainder is covered by the UN regular budget.
 - The UN regular budget, approved by the General Assembly, is funded by "assessed contributions" from each Member State.
 - These are determined according to a formula that takes into account the size and strength of their respective national economies.

24. [ANS] b

[SOL] A team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has discovered a new gin berry species from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.

- The findings have been published in the latest issue of Nordic Journal of Botany, published from Sweden .
- The species, named Glycosmis albicarpa with a distinct large white fruit.
- It is endemic to the southern Western Ghats. The species belongs to the Orange family, Rutaceae.
- Berries of the Glycosmis species have the unique characteristic of 'gin aroma' and have gained in popularity as an edible fruit.
- The species is also a larval host plant for butterflies like other species of Glycosmis

25. [ANS] d

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

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

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

26. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Stagflation is an economic situation in which inflation and economic stagnation or recession occur simultaneously and remain unchecked for a period of time. Stagflation was witnessed by developed countries in the 1970s, when world oil prices rose dramatically.

Statement 2 is not correct: Deflation is the reverse of inflation. It refers to a sustained decline in the price level of goods and services. It occurs when the annual inflation rate falls below zero percent (a negative inflation rate), resulting in an increase in the real value of money. Japan suffered from deflation for almost a decade in the 1990s.

27. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Kashmir's highly fertile alluvial soil deposits called 'karewas' are being destroyed in the name of development, much to the peril of local people.

- The word Karewa in Kashmiri dialect means, "elevated table-land."
- This term was first used by Godwin-Austin (1859) and later by Lydekker (1878) for an unconsolidated to semi – consolidated sand-clay-conglomerate sequence.
- These sediments occur as terraces, plateaus and mounds and rest over the Paleozoic-Mesozoic sediments of the Kashmir 'basin'.

28. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Recently ,The global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog FATF has retained Pakistan on its terrorism financing "grey list" and asked Islamabad to address at the earliest the remaining deficiencies in its financial system

Financial Action Task Force is an inter-governmental decision-making body.

- It was established in July 1989 by a Group of Seven (G-7) Summit in Paris, initially to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
- In October 2001, the FATF expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing, in addition to money laundering. In April 2012, it added efforts to counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- The FATF has 39 members including two regional organisations — the European Commission and the Gulf Cooperation Council. India is a member of the FATF consultations and its Asia Pacific Group.
- Its Secretariat is located in Paris.
- India became an Observer at FATF in 2006. Since then, it has been working towards full-fledged membership. On June 25, 2010, India was taken in as the 34th country member of FATF.

29. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Manipur celebrates four-day fest featuring dance, food, music, traditional games and much fanfare, at its heart, is the beautiful Shirui Lily, a unique species of ground lily that is found only in Manipur.

Option d is correct: It was English botanist Frank Kingdon-Ward who discovered the three-foot tall, bluish-pink bell-shaped lily in Manipur for research in 1946.

- The Lily won the merit prize from the 1948 Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) at a flower show in London because of how unique it was.
- The Manipur government declared Shirui Lily as the state flower in 1989, today it is considered endangered owing to intense tourist activities and invasion of an invasive bamboo species.
- The Shirui Lily Festival aims at increasing awareness about the plant.
- It is special because it is a species of ground lily found exclusively in the Shirui Hills, located about 18 km from the district headquarters of Ukhrul, which is home to the Tangkhul Naga tribe.
- In other words, it cannot be transplanted anywhere else in the world.

30. [ANS] d

[SOL] Option d is correct: The P5+1 refers to the UN Security Council's five permanent members (the P5); namely China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; plus Germany. The P5+1 is often referred to as the E3+3 by European countries. Hence, Japan is not a part of it.

- It is a group of six world powers which, in 2006, joined together in diplomatic efforts with Iran with regard to its nuclear program.

31. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: It is an indicator of business activity both in the manufacturing and services sectors.

- The data is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.
- It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from the earlier month.
- It is derived from a series of qualitative questions usually released at the start of the month.
- It aims to provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision-makers, analysts and investors.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is compiled by IHS Markit for more than 40 economies worldwide.

- IHS Markit is a London based global leader in information, analytics and solutions for the major industries and markets that drive economies worldwide.

32. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Recently ,Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari received flak for his remarks on the social reformist couple Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule was an Indian writer, social activist, thinker and anti-caste social reformer from Maharashtra.His well-known books include Gulamgiri (Slavery) and Shetkarayacha Aasud (Cultivator's Whipcord).

33. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Recently ,Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari received flak for his remarks on the social reformist couple Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule.

Statements 1 ,2 and 3 are correct : The Government of India has introduced a pension scheme namely PM-SYM for unorganised workers to ensure old age protection for Unorganised Workers.

- PM-SYM is a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India and CSC e Governance Services India Limited (CSC SPV).
- It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a 50:50 basis where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the Central Government as per the chart.
- Eligibility :

- The unorganised workers mostly engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, own account workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio- visual workers and similar other occupations whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years.

Statement 4 is not correct : They should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Further, he/she should not be an income tax payer.

34. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) is planning to bring out a set of new accounting and auditing standards tailor-made for limited liability partnerships (LLPs) that will seek more disclosures.

- Limited liability Partnership (LLP) is a partnership in which some or all partners have limited liability. It therefore exhibits elements of partnerships and corporations.
- It allows for a partnership structure where each partner's liabilities are limited to the amount they put into the business.
- An LLP is a corporate body and legal entity separate from its partners. It has perpetual succession.

Benefits of Limited Liability Partnership

- Pooling Resources for Better Growth: Most LLPs are created and managed by a group of professionals who have a lot of experience and clients among them. By pooling resources, the partners lower the costs of doing business while increasing the LLP's capacity for growth.
- Increased Profits: Most important, reducing costs allows the partners to realize more profits from their activities than they could individually.
- Attracts Good Workers: The partners in an LLP may also have a number of junior partners in the firm who work for them in the hopes of someday making full partners. These junior partners are paid a salary and often have no stake or liability in the partnership.
- More Focus on Business: The LLPs help the partners scale their operations. Junior partners and employees take away the detail work and free up the partners to focus on bringing in new business.
- Liability Protection: The personal assets as a partner are protected from legal action. Basically, the liability is limited in the sense that one may lose assets in the partnership, but not those outside of it (i.e. personal assets). LLPs protect individual partners from the negligence of any other partner.
- Flexibility: It has the ability to bring partners in and let partners out. The LLP can always add partners who bring existing business with them. Overall, it is the flexibility of an LLP for a certain type of professional that makes it a superior option to an LLC or other corporate entity.

35. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) is implemented by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana –National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development.

Statement 2 is correct: 3 major pillars of rural startups addressed:

1. Finances,
2. Incubation and
3. Skill ecosystems.

36. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News - With oil imports from Russia banned by the US and being phased out by the UK, crude prices are set to rise, particularly in the US and Europe and also the prices of Edible oil are going to rise creating a problem for India.

Option b is correct: There are three large players in the global oil market: At 18%-19%, the US has the highest share in global output followed closely by Russia and Saudi Arabia, each with a 12% share. Together, these three control almost 45% of all oil.

- Russia: is the world's second-largest producer of oil as well as the second-largest exporter.
- Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves but producing oil requires more than just reserves.

37. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Recently, the government's National Supercomputer Mission (NSM) has deployed a supercomputer system called PARAM-Ganga with 1.66 petaFLOPS (PFLOPS) of computing power at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee.

PARAM Ganga is designed, developed, and commissioned by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

- It has components manufactured and assembled in India and availability of such a supercomputer will accelerate the research and development activities in multidisciplinary domains of science and engineering with a focus to provide computational power to the user community of IIT Roorkee and neighbouring academic institutions.

38. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Degradation and loss of coral reefs can affect about 4.5 million people in southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Sixth Assessment Report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.

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

- Within this vast expanse is a unique range of ecological communities, habitats and species – all of which make the Reef one of the most complex natural ecosystems in the world.
- The Great Barrier Reef received world heritage status in 1981, the first coral reef ecosystem in the world to have this distinction

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

39. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Side Channel Attacks (SCA) are part of the passive analyses. They are used to break some encryption systems.

Statement 2 is correct: They differ from conventional cryptographic attacks as they exploit data gathered from side channels.

Statement 3 is correct: They break encryption by extracting information from a chip or system through the measure and the analysis of physical parameters.

40. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The Temporary Protection Directive was created in 2001 following conflicts during the 1990s in the Balkans to manage a 'mass influx of displaced persons'.

Statement 2 is not correct: The war in Ukraine is the first time that the EU has invoked the TPD. Invocation:

- This will be in place initially for one year with the possibility to automatically extend it for up to another year.
- It is being seen as another sign of European unity against Russia.

41. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News :The Smithsonian Institution, one of the world's largest cultural organisations, planned to return most of its collection of Benin Bronzes to Nigeria.

- From intricately decorated cast plaques to animal and human figurines, the Benin Bronzes are a group of over 3,000 sculptures and artworks from the ancient Kingdom of Benin in present-day Nigeria, that dates back to at least the 16th century.
- These historic pieces all share a common painful past — they were looted by British colonial forces during the infamous raid on Benin City in 1897.

42. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : The Reserve Bank of India launched a new Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments solution for feature phone users dubbed 'UPI123Pay'(Statement 1 is not correct)

Statements 2 and 3 are correct :UPI (unified payments interface) '123PAY' is a three-step method to initiate and execute services for users which will work on simple phones.

- The new UPI-based service is designed to bring the digital payments platform closer to a significant number of feature phone mobile subscribers in the country, which is estimated to be more than 40 crore.
 - It doesn't need an internet connection for transactions. Customers have to link their bank account with feature phones to use this facility.
 - Feature phone users will now be able to undertake a host of transactions based on four technology alternatives.
 - They include calling an IVR (interactive voice response) number, app functionality in feature phones, missed call-based approach and also proximity sound-based payments.
 - Users will be able to make payments to their friends and family, pay their utility bills, recharge FASTags, pay mobile bills and also check their account balances and customers will also be able to link bank accounts, set or change UPI PINs.

43. [ANS] b

[SOL] In Context: Recently, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is planning to run a fixed schedule sailing between NW1 and NW2.

Option b is correct: Protocol on inland water transit and trade was signed in 2015 between India and Bangladesh.

- In pursuance of Article VIII of the Trade Agreement wherein the two governments agree to make mutually beneficial arrangements for the use of their waterways for:
 - commerce between the two countries and
 - for passage of goods between two places in one country and to third countries through the territory of the other under the terms mutually agreed upon.

44. [ANS] d

[SOL] In Context: Recently, Chandrayaan-2 made the first observations of distribution of Argon-40 in the Moon's atmosphere.

Statement 1 is not correct: Chandrayaan-2 mission is a highly complex mission, which represents a significant technological leap compared to the previous missions of ISRO. It comprised an Orbiter, Lander and Rover to explore the unexplored South Pole of the Moon. The Lander of Chandrayaan-2 was named Vikram after Dr Vikram A Sarabhai, the Father of the Indian Space Programme. It was designed to function for one lunar day, which is equivalent to about 14 Earth days.

Statement 2 is not correct: Chandrayaan-2's Rover was a 6-wheeled robotic vehicle named Pragyan, which translates to 'wisdom' in Sanskrit.

45. [ANS] a

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

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

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

46. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Recently ,the Union Rural Development Secretary chaired a webinar promoting 'Captive Employer' initiative under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).

Statements 1 ,2 and 3 are correct : It was launched on 25 September, 2014.

- It is a nationwide placement-linked skill training program funded by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- It is a part National Rural Livelihood Mission uniquely aimed at rural poor youth between 15 and 35 years of age,with the purpose to create income diversity in poor families and help rural youth realise their career aspirations.
- It mandates one-third of the total candidates being trained under the scheme to be women.
 - The upper age limit for women candidates is 45 years.
- The programme has an outcome led design with guaranteed placements for at least 70% trained candidates and is moving towards minimum mandatory certification.
- DDU-GKY is already being implemented in 27 states and 3 UTs for rural poor youth with an emphasis on placements.
- Aims to skill rural youth who are poor and provide them with jobs having regular monthly wages or above the minimum wages.

47. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : According to Morgan Stanley,the current account deficit is likely to hit a 10-year high of 3 percent of GDP in FY23.

Statement 1 is correct : A current account deficit indicates that a country is importing more than it is exporting. Emerging economies often run surpluses, and developed countries tend to run deficits. A current account deficit is not always detrimental to a nation's economy—external debt may be used to finance lucrative investments. Current Account Deficit may be a positive or negative indicator for an economy depending upon why it is running a deficit. Foreign capital is seen to have been used to finance investments in many economies. Current Account Deficit may help a debtor nation in the short-term, but it may worry in the long-term as investors begin raising concerns over adequate return on their investments.

Statement 2 is correct : The Current Account Deficit could be reduced by boosting exports and curbing non-essential imports such as gold, mobiles, and electronics. Currency hedging and bringing easier rules for manufacturing entities to raise foreign funds could also help. The government and RBI could also look to review debt investment limits for FPIs, among other measures.

48. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News: India plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6, 00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities, Union Science Minister said recently.

Explanation.

- Statement 1 is not correct: SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas) scheme is a new initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- Statement 2 is correct: It aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes.

- Statement 3 is correct: The scheme is proposed as a Central Sector scheme.
49. [ANS] d
[SOL] In News: UNESCO said that it had bolstered protective measures to preserve Ukraine's endangered cultural heritage in light of Russia's invasion. UNESCO considers the Saint Sophia Cathedral in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv and related monastic buildings a priority.
Option d is correct: The 1954 Hague Convention was drawn up after the widespread devastation of cultural property in World War II. Together with its two Protocols of 1954 and 1999, it is the most widely recognised international treaty exclusively dedicated to the protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict. The treaty stipulates a number of measures that States and the armed forces should conduct during peacetime to prepare for conflict, and provides a regime for its protection during fighting. Partnering with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the agency assesses damage by analyzing satellite imagery for priority sites which are endangered or already impacted. The Hague Convention specifies an emblem the Blue Shield repeated three times in a triangular formation. The emblem is a protective symbol used during armed conflicts and its use is restricted by law. When it was founded in 1996, the Blue Shield took up the emblem of the 1954 Hague Convention as its symbol, in line with Article 17 of the Convention.
50. [ANS] c
[SOL] In Context: An increasing number of women are joining Indian armed forces amidst long-standing calls to boost their presence in global missions.
Option c is correct: The Security Council adopted resolution (S/RES/1325) on women and peace and security on 31 October 2000.
- The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.
 - Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts.
51. [ANS] d
[SOL] All the statements are correct: Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane. The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and two other commercial crops. In addition, the MSPs of toria and de-husked coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively. The list of crops are as follows:
- Cereals (7) - paddy, wheat, barley, jowar, bajra, maize and ragi
 - Pulses (5) - gram, arhar/tur, moong, urad and lentil
 - Oilseeds (8) - groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, toria, soyabean, sunflower seed, sesamum, safflower seed and niger seed
 - Raw cotton
 - Raw jute
 - Copra
 - De-husked coconut
 - Sugarcane (Fair and remunerative price)
 - Virginia flue cured (VFC) tobacco
- The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) makes recommendations for the MSPs. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) takes these decisions.

52. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Chinara Corps of the Indian Army was accorded recognition by the National Monuments Authority (NMA) for preserving and rejuvenating the Pandrethan temple. Pandrethan temple is an 8th-century heritage site situated in Srinagar's Badamibagh, has been preserved and rejuvenated by the Chinara Corps of the Indian Army.

- The site hosts several excavated figurines tracing back to the 2nd century – in the form of two large monolithic rock shiva lingams, seven Gandhara-style sculptures and a huge rock carving of the feet of a monolithic statue.
- Pandrethan site near Shiva temple was excavated by the British era ASI in 1913 yielding several Buddhist sculptures and rubbles of a Chaitya assignable to the 8th CE.

53. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, retiring Delhi HC Chief Justice stressed the need for a balance between judicial activism and judicial restraint.

Statements 2 and 4 are correct: Article 121: Under Article 121 the Parliament is restricted to discuss the conduct of any judge of the Supreme Court or any High Court.

Article 212: The Courts are restricted to inquire into the legislative proceedings under Article 212.

Article 21: Right to life and dignity

Article 124: There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges.

54. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Awards were presented to the 24 Award winners.

Option c is correct: Sahitya Akademi Awards was established in 1954, is a literary honour. The first Awards were given in 1955. It is conferred by Sahitya Akademi which is India's National Academy of Letters. The Sahitya Akademi Award prizes the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the major Indian languages recognised by the Akademi.

55. [ANS] d

[SOL] All the statements are correct: All temples are situated in Odisha. Hence, Option D is correct.

- Konark Sun Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
 - Built-in: 1250 AD
 - Built by: King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty
 - Odisha style of architecture or Kalinga architecture
 - Materials used: Chlorite, Laterite and Khondalite rocks
 - Also known as Black Pagoda, Arka khetra, Padma khetra
 - Dedicated to Surya, The Sun God
- Tara Tarini Temple: The manifestations of Adi Shakti
 - It is a famous religious place in Southern Odisha where the twin sister Goddess i.e. Tara & Tarini adorn the sanctum situated on the top of a hillock girdled by the waddling holy river Rushikulya.
- Lingaraj Temple
 - Built during the 11th century AD.
 - One of the oldest temples in Bhubaneswar.
 - The sprawling temple complex has one hundred and fifty subsidiary shrines.
 - The temple marks the culmination of the temple architecture in Bhubaneswar which was the cradle of the Kalinga School of Temple Architecture.
 - The temple has been described as "One of the finest examples of purely Hindu temples in India" by noted critic and historian James Fergusson.

56. [ANS] c

[SOL] The AAP formed the government in Punjab state and opened its account in Goa with two seats and a vote share of 6%. However, AAP is yet to become a national party.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct: Political Parties registrations are governed by the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. According to the EC, any party seeking registration has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days. Powers conferred by EC under Article 324 of the Constitution of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Section 29A of RPA, 1951: Indian Citizen, Purpose of contesting elections, & 100 registered electors as its members. There is no procedure available for the de-registration of dormant political parties.

Statement 3 is correct: Conditions for recognising as a national party are:

- If Party is treated as a recognised political party in four or more states.
- Get at least six per cent votes in four states in addition to four Lok Sabha seats.
- It won at least two per cent seats in the LS (i.e., 11 seats in the existing House having 543 members).

57. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News: The Union government plans to open the villages along the Chinese border for tourists under the Vibrant Village programme announced in the Union Budget 2022-23. The Union Budget 2022-23 has announced that villages on the northern border will be covered under the new Vibrant Villages Programme.

- The activities will include construction of village infrastructure, housing, tourist centres, road connectivity, provisioning of decentralised renewable energy, direct to home access for Doordarshan and educational channels, and support for livelihood generation.
 - Additional funding for these activities will be provided.
- Existing schemes will be converged and their outcomes will be defined and monitored on a constant basis.
- The programme aims to enhance infrastructure in villages along India's border with China, in states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Arunachal Pradesh.

58. [ANS] a

[SOL] India took a strong stance and said that it is important to ensure full and effective implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) after emerging reports of biological activities relating to Ukraine.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: "The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction", the Convention was negotiated by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland. Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) is a treaty that prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling, and use of biological weapons and the treaty came into force in 1975. It was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The treaty prohibiting bioweapons has 183 signatories, including the United States, Russia, and Ukraine.

Statement 3 is not correct: India has signed and ratified this convention.

59. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Ukraine's two leading suppliers of neon, which produce about half the world's supply of the key ingredient (Neon) for making chips, have halted their operations due to Russian attack.

All the statements are correct: Neon was discovered in 1898 by the British chemists Sir William Ramsay (1852–1916) and Morris Travers (1872–1961) in London.

- Neon is a chemical element with the symbol Ne and atomic number 10.
- It is a noble gas.

- Neon is a colorless, odorless, inert monatomic gas under standard conditions, with about two-thirds the density of air.
- Neon gas occurs in minute quantities in Earth's atmosphere and is trapped within the rocks of Earth's crust.
- Neon was the second of these three rare gases to be discovered and was immediately recognized as a new element from its bright red emission spectrum.
- Neon gives a distinct reddish-orange glow when used in low-voltage neon glow lamps, high-voltage discharge tubes and neon advertising signs.

60. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Recently ,The United States, the European Union, Britain, Canada and Japan were due to move jointly to revoke Russia's "most favoured nation" (MFN) status over its invasion of Ukraine.

Statements 1 ,2 and 3 are correct : Most-favoured-nation (MFN): treating other people equally Under the WTO agreements, countries cannot normally discriminate between their trading partners. Grant someone a special favour (such as a lower customs duty rate for one of their products) and you have to do the same for all other WTO members.

- This principle is known as most-favoured-nation (MFN) treatment . It is so important that it is the first article of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which governs trade in goods. MFN is also a priority in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) (Article 2) and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) (Article 4), although in each agreement the principle is handled slightly differently. Together, those three agreements cover all three main areas of trade handled by the WTO.
- Some exceptions are allowed. For example, countries can set up a free trade agreement that applies only to goods traded within the group — discriminating against goods from outside. Or they can give developing countries special access to their markets. Or a country can raise barriers against products that are considered to be traded unfairly from specific countries. And in services, countries are allowed, in limited circumstances, to discriminate. But the agreements only permit these exceptions under strict conditions. In general, MFN means that every time a country lowers a trade barrier or opens up a market, it has to do so for the same goods or services from all its trading partners — whether rich or poor, weak or strong.

61. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News: M.N. Srinivas, an eminent social anthropologist, produced a detailed explanation of the phenomenon of Sanskritization in 'A Note on Sanskritization and Westernisation (Far Eastern Quarterly, 1956)'. Sanskritisation referred to the lower castes' adoption of the practices and rites of the locally dominant caste in a particular region, which included Brahmin and non-Brahmin castes, who were politically powerful, socio-economically influential and ritually higher in the local caste hierarchy.

- Sanskritisation became a process through which mobility in caste positions/roles became possible for certain castes.
 - But for Dalits, this process did not guarantee higher social stature nor lead to any improvement in their everyday life.
 - Other factors such as economic well-being, political power, education, and establishment of literary/historical evidence for their affiliation to/descent from a particular caste/caste lineage were also important for their aspirations for higher social positions

62. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Recently ,the United States approved a \$200-million arms package for Ukraine, which would include US-made Stinger Missiles, which are a type of shoulder-fired Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems (MANPADS).

Statement 1 is not correct : Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems are short-range, lightweight and portable surface-to-air missiles that can be fired by individuals or small groups to destroy aircraft or helicopters.

Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct : They help shield troops from aerial attacks and are most effective in targeting low-flying aircrafts.

- MANPATs or Man-Portable Anti-Tank Systems work in a similar manner but are used to destroy or incapacitate military tanks.
- MANPADS can be shoulder-fired, launched from atop a ground-vehicle, fired from a tripod or stand, and from a helicopter or boat.
- Weighing anywhere between 10 to 20 kilograms and not being longer than 1.8 metres.
 - They are fairly lightweight as compared to other elaborate weapon systems, making them easy to operate by individual soldiers.
 - Operating MANPADS requires substantially less training.
- MANPADS have a maximum range of 8 kilometres and can engage targets at altitudes of 4.5 km.
- Most MANPADS have passive or 'fire and forget' guidance systems, meaning the operator is not required to guide the missile to its target, enabling them to run and relocate immediately after firing.
- The first MANPADS were introduced by the United States and Soviet Union in the 1960s.
 - Russian and U.S. MANPADS were also used during the Vietnam war.
- Countries such as India, Pakistan, Germany, U.K., Turkey and Israel have also used MANPADS in their defence efforts.
 - As of 2019, 20 countries had developed the wherewithal to manufacture MANPADS and together made 1 million such systems for defence and export purposes.

63. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The Sikkim government is planning to launch Bahini Scheme to provide free sanitary pads in all its 210 secondary and senior secondary government schools across the state. It aims at:

- Providing 100 percent access to free and safe sanitary pads to secondary and senior secondary Government school going girls.
- To curb dropout of girls from schools and
- To raise awareness about menstrual hygiene.

Statement 2 is correct: Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananthkumar announced the launch of 'Suvidha', the 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), here today. The affordable sanitary napkin will be available for Rs. 2.50 per padat over 3200 Janaushadhi Kendras across India and would ensure 'Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha' for the underprivileged Women of India. This step taken by the Department of Pharmaceuticals will ensure the achievement of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Affordable and Quality Healthcare for All, the Minister said while addressing the media.

64. [ANS] c

[SOL]

Statement 1 is correct. Hydrogen produced from fossil fuels is called grey hydrogen, this constitutes the bulk of the hydrogen produced currently.

Statement 2 is correct. Hydrogen generated entirely from renewable power sources is called green hydrogen.

65. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Sarkaria Commission was set up in June 1983 to examine the relationship and balance of power between state and central governments and suggest changes within the framework of the Constitution. It recommended that the state assembly should not be dissolved unless the proclamation is approved by the parliament and sparing use of article 356 of the constitution should be made.

Statement 2 is not correct. Punchhi Commission (2007) recommended that the governor should follow “constitutional conventions” in the case of a hung Assembly.

Statement 3 is not correct. Punchhi Commission also sought to protect the interests of the States by trying to curb their misuse by the Centre by localizing the emergency provisions under Articles 355 and 356. Simply, the centre should try to bring only the specific troubled area under its jurisdiction and that too for a brief period, not more than three months.

66. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: The PM paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the 92nd anniversary of Dandi March.

Explanation

- It is also known as Salt Satyagraha and marked the first step of the Civil Disobedience movement.
- Reasons behind the launch of Dandi March:
 - Simon Commission: No Indian was included in it despite protests by Congress and all major parties.
 - Britishers even mocked Indians by terming them incapable of framing their own constitution.
 - Lahore Declaration of Congress, 1929: It declared Complete Independence as the goal of Indian Freedom Struggle.
 - Non Acceptance of Gandhi's 11 Points Demand: Gandhi ji put forth 11 demands including release of all Political Prisoners, Issual of Arms license to Indians for self defence, etc.
- Gandhi ji after his 11 points demand was not met launched a non violent march from Sabarmati Ashram on 12 March 1930, travelled to 21 places and over 390 kms and reached Dandi on 5 April 1930.
- Gandhi also published an article titled "Duty of Disloyalty". In the issue of Young India.
- Gandhi, Nehru, etc were arrested on breaking salt law which again instigated masses to take part in Civil Disobedience.

Why was Salt Chosen?

- Salt appealed to masses as Repressive Salt Law prohibited Indians from processing and manufacturing salt.

Other Leaders of the movement:

Few Leaders	Their Contribution
C. Rajagopalachari	Salt march from Trichinopoly to <u>Vedaranniyam</u> on the <u>Tanjore</u> coast in Tamil Nadu; Arrested on April 30, 1930.
K. <u>Kelappan</u>	Launched the <u>Vaikom</u> Satyagraha Salt march from Calicut to <u>Payanneer</u>
P. Krishna Pillai	Defended the national flag and resisted <u>lathi</u> charge on the Calicut beach on November 11, 1930. He later founded the Kerala Communist Movement.
Khan Abdul <u>Gaffar Khan</u>	Formed a clan of non-violent revolutionaries, the <u>Khudai Khidmatgars</u> (known as Red Shirts), who played an active role in the movement. Also Known As Frontier Gandhi
<u>Sarojini Naidu</u>	First Indian woman to become the president of the Congress March towards the <u>Dharasana Salt Works</u> , a government salt depot. Other leaders who participated in this totally non-violent affair were <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Imam Saheb</u>, Gandhi's comrade of the South African struggle, and • <u>Manilal</u>, Gandhi's son.
Surya Sen	Chittagong Revolt Group, which carried out a raid on two armories and declared the establishment of a provisional government. Issued a manifesto in the name of the Indian Republican Army and called on the Indians to revolt against British rule.
Abbas <u>Tayabji</u>	Leader of the nationalist Muslims in Bombay.
Ambalal Sarabhai and <u>Kasturbhai Lakhai</u>	Cooperated with <u>Motilal Nehru</u> in removing the barriers between the Congress and the Bombay mill-owners and industrialists.
<u>Chandraprabha Saiktani</u>	Instigated the aboriginal <u>Kachari</u> villagers in Assam to break forest laws.
MN Roy	Popularized socialist ideas in the villages and a no-tax campaign was started in <u>Awadh</u>

67. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) quickened to 6.07% in February from 6.01% in the previous month .

Statement 1 is correct : Consumer Price Index or CPI as it is commonly called is an index measuring retail inflation in the economy by collecting the change in prices of most common goods and services used by consumers. CPI is calculated for a fixed list of items including food, housing, apparel, transportation, electronics, medical care, education, etc. Note that the price data is collected periodically, and thus, the CPI is used to calculate the inflation levels in an economy. This can be further used to compute the cost of living. This also provides insights as to how much a consumer can spend to be on par with the price change.

Statement 2 is not correct :In India, there are four consumer price index numbers, which are calculated, and these are as follows:

- CPI for Industrial Workers (IW)
 - CPI for Agricultural Labourers (AL)
 - CPI for Rural Labourers (RL) and
 - CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined).
 - Of these, the first three are compiled by the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Fourth is compiled by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
68. [ANS] b
 [SOL] In News: Important steps taken by the Government for protection of Great Indian Bustards in the country including details of captive breeding facilities are highlighted recently .
 Statement 1 is not correct : Great Indian Bustard is a State Bird of Rajasthan
 Statements 2 and 3 are correct : The Great Indian Bustard has been included in the Appendix I of Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) on the basis of a proposal submitted by India.
- It was also the mascot of the prestigious 13th CMS Conference of Parties held in Gandhinagar giving wider publicity for the conservation of the species.
- IUCN Status: Critically Endangered.
69. [ANS] d
 [SOL] A recent study warned that permafrost peatlands in Europe and western Siberia might be approaching their tipping point faster than expected.
 Statement 1 is correct: It is defined solely based on temperature and duration. It is composed of rock, sediments, sand, dead plant and animal matter, soil, and varying degrees of ice and is believed to have formed during glacial periods dating several millennia. It is mainly found near the polar zones and regions with high mountains covering parts of Greenland, Alaska, Russia, Northern Canada, Siberia and Scandinavia.
 Statement 2 is correct: Permafrost is ground that remains completely frozen at 0 degrees Celsius or below for at least two years and
 Statement 3 is correct: Its thickness reduces progressively towards the south and is affected by a number of other factors, including the Earth's interior heat, snow and vegetation cover, presence of water bodies, and topography.
70. [ANS] d
 [SOL] Recently, the Supreme Court upheld the government's decision on One Rank, One Pension (OROP) for defence forces and said that it does not find any constitutional infirmity on the OROP principle.
 Option d is correct: The 'one rank, one pension' rule means that retired soldiers of the same rank and length of service will receive the same pension, regardless of when they retire.
- Under this definition, it has been decided that the gap between the rate of pension of current pensioners and past pensioners will be bridged every five years.
 - The SC disposed of a plea filed by Ex-servicemen Association seeking implementation of the One Rank-One Pension as recommended by the Bhagat Singh Koshyari Committee with an automatic annual revision, instead of the current policy of periodic review once in five years.
71. [ANS] b
 [SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation. Its creation was announced on 15th June 2001 in Shanghai (China) by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and was preceded by the Shanghai Five mechanism.
 Statement 2 is not correct: Its chairmanship rotates on an annual basis and Tajikistan is the chair for 2021.

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

72. [ANS] c

[SOL] India recently criticised the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) decision to invite Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Omar Farooq to a meeting being held in Pakistan.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference was established by the First Islamic Summit Conference held in Morocco in September 1969. It was known as the Organisation of Islamic Conference until 2011. Its objective is to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.

Statement 2 is correct: It is the world's second-largest inter-governmental organization after the UN, with a membership of 57 states, all of which are Islamic countries or Muslim majority members.

Statement 3 is not correct: OIC has reserved membership for Muslim-majority countries. Russia, Thailand, and a couple of other small countries have Observer status. In 2006, as India turned the economic corner and improved ties with the US, Saudi Arabia invited Delhi to join as an observer. However, India stayed away because of a multiplicity of reasons, as a secular country, it did not want to join an organisation founded on religion. And, India can come under pressure in a grouping, especially on issues such as Kashmir.

73. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News: About 100 Himalayan griffon vultures have died of suspected poisoning in Assam.

Statement 1 is correct: Himalayan griffon vulture is a rare and largest bird native to the Himalayas.

- It lives mainly in the higher regions of the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau at the elevation of above 1500 metres.

Statement 2 is not correct: The vulture is listed as "Near Threatened" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

74. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Ministry of Earth Science has unveiled India's Arctic Policy, titled 'India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development'.

Option d is correct: It is commonly understood to refer to the region above the Arctic Circle, north of latitude 66° 34' N, which includes the Arctic Ocean with the North Pole at its centre.

Eight Arctic States: Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and USA form the Arctic Council. The Arctic is home to almost four million inhabitants, of which approximately one tenth are considered as indigenous people. The Arctic Ocean and its surrounding landmass has been a topic of immense interest and a high-priority area of research among the global scientific fraternity as well as of importance to policy makers.

75. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Parliament's Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has asked the government to roll back the system of caste-based wages, under which NREGS workers are paid based on whether they belong to a Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, or Others.

- Mandate: The mandate of the MGNREGA is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- Objectives: Providing not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work as guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand, resulting in the creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability
 - Strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor
 - Proactively ensuring social inclusion and

- Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions
- Coverage: It is implemented in all rural districts of the country.
- Role of Gram Sabha in MGNREGS: It determines the order of priority of works in the meetings of the Gram Sabha keeping in view the potential of the local area, its needs, and local resources.
 - Monitor the execution of works within the GP.
 - It is the primary forum for the conduct of social audits. It provides a platform to all residents to seek and obtain all relevant information from all the Implementing Agencies including GP in relation to MGNREGA works implemented in the GP area.
- Legal Right to Work: The Act provides a legal right to employment for adult members of rural households.

76. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has been dysfunctional for the last four years and has not delivered a single report to Parliament, a parliamentary committee has said in a recent report.

- Article 366 of the Constitution: Such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution.
- Article 342: The President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be.
- Criteria: The Constitution is silent about the criteria for the specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe. Primitiveness, geographical isolation, shyness and social, educational & economic backwardness are the traits that distinguish Scheduled Tribe communities from other communities.
- There are certain Scheduled Tribes, 75 in number known as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), who are characterized by:- a) pre-agriculture level of technology; b) stagnant or declining population; c) extremely low literacy, and d) subsistence level of the economy.

77. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News :An uncommon experiment with Africa's Boma technique undertaken at Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district for capturing and translocating spotted deer is set to improve the prey base in Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve.

- The Boma capturing technique, which is popular in Africa, involves luring animals into an enclosure by chasing them through a funnel-like fencing.
- The funnel tapers into an animal selection-cum-loading chute, supported with grass mats and green net to make it opaque for animals, which are herded into a large vehicle for their transport to another location.
- The technique is preferred since it does not require chemical immobilization of the animal involved.
 - If mass capture is the task at hand, Boma method is adopted as it is not feasible to dart and sedate numerous animals at once within a limited time frame."
- This old technique was earlier utilised to capture wild elephants for training and service.

78. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Recently ,The United States Senate unanimously passed a lawmaking daylight saving time (DST) permanent, scrapping the biannual practice of putting clocks forward and back coinciding with the arrival and departure of winter.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : DST is the practice of resetting clocks ahead by an hour in spring, and behind by an hour in autumn (or fall).

- During these months, countries that follow this system get an extra hour of daylight in the evening.
- Because the spring to fall cycle is opposite in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, DST lasts from March to October/November in Europe and the US, and from September/October to April in New Zealand and Australia.
- In April 1916, during World War I, Germany and Austria introduced DST to minimise the use of artificial lighting.
 - It gradually caught on in many countries. In the EU, clocks in the 28 member states move forward on the last Sunday in March and fall back on the last Sunday in October. India does not follow daylight saving time.
 - DST is currently followed by some 70 countries twice a year.

79. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj released a Disaster Management Plan. Statement 1 is correct: As per sec – 37 (1) (a) of DM Act, 2005, every Ministry or Department of the Government of India shall prepare a Disaster Management Plan.

Statement 2 is correct: Crisis management plan is different from Disaster Management Plan. Crisis management plan is a plan for responding to an identified crisis and its plans on how to manage a crisis when it occurs, whereas a Disaster Management Plan includes a gamut of activities as per the DM Act, the NDMP and various national guidelines issued by NDMA. Crisis Management Plan basically deals with response, whereas Disaster Management Plan is a holistic one including preventive strategies.

80. [ANS] a

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

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

81. [ANS] a

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

82. [ANS] a

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

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

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

83. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Recently ,The Union of India has approved a "New India Literacy Programme (NILP)".

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct :NILP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the aim to support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates in the age group of 15 and above, across the country covering 5 crore non-literates during the implementation period

from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

- The scheme has been approved with a financial outlay of Rs.1037.90 crore including Central share of Rs.700.00 crore and State share of Rs.337.90 crore.
- The scheme has five components namely, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Vocational Skills Development, Basic Education and Continuing Education.

84. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News :The Minister of Commerce and Industry said that Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) would democratise e-commerce and will protect small businesses by granting them equal opportunity.

Statement 1 is not correct :ONDC is a network based on open protocol and will enable local commerce across segments, such as mobility, grocery, food order and delivery, hotel booking and travel, among others, to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled application.

- The platform aims to create new opportunities, curb digital monopolies and by supporting micro, small and medium enterprises and small traders and help them get on online platforms.
- It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : It is a globally first-of-its-kind initiative that aims to democratise Digital Commerce, moving it from a platform-centric model to an open-network.

- It will enable buyers and sellers to be digitally visible and transact through an open network. no matter what platform/application they use.
- It will empower merchants and consumers by breaking silos to form a single network to drive innovation and scale, transforming all businesses from retail goods, food to mobility
- It will also be compliant with the Information Technology Act, 2000 and designed for compliance with the emerging Personal Data Protection Bill.
- It is modelled around the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) project that is seen as a success by many.
 - The UPI project allows people to send or receive money irrespective of the payment platforms on which they are registered.
- Similarly, ONDC will ensure that buyers and sellers in the e-commerce market transact regardless of the platforms on which they are registered.
- Thus, a buyer registered on Amazon, may directly purchase goods from a seller who sells on Flipkart.

85. [ANS] a

[SOL] In Context: Recently, Rajya Sabha Chairman granted a three-month extension to the Standing Committee examining the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment), Bill, 2021.

Statement 1 is correct: Members of the All India Women's Conference, Women's Indian Association and National Council of Women in India presented their argument to raise the minimum age of marriage for women before the Joshi committee. The Committee presented its report to the Imperial Legislative Council on 20 June 1929. Finally, on 28 September 1929, the Imperial Legislative Council passed the Child Marriage Restraint Act and it became a law on 1st April 1930 after it was approved by Lord Irwin. It set a minimum age of marriage as 14 years for women and 18 years for men. This Act is popularly known as Sarda Act as it was sponsored by Rao Sahib Harbilas Sarda who was a retired judge and a member of Arya Samaj.

Statement 2 is not correct: In 2006, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 was enacted which made child marriage, i.e. marriage below the prescribed minimum age of marriage for men and women, a cognizable and non-bailable offence. As per this Act also, the minimum age of marriage was 18 years for women and 21 years for men. This Act punished the parents of the children as well as priests who solemnised such marriage.

86. [ANS] d
[SOL] In News: Recently, a saltwater or estuarine crocodile has been found dead in the Patasala river near Silapokhari village within the Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) in Odisha.
Statement 1 is correct: Saltwater Crocodiles are the Earth's largest living crocodiles, with average-size males reaching 17 feet and 1,000 pounds.
Statement 2 is correct: Their primary habitats are brackish and freshwater regions of eastern India, Southeast Asia and northern Australia. In India, they are found in and around BNP, Odisha, the Sundarbans, Bengal and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
Statement 3 is correct: Odisha is the only State in India with all crocodile species namely, Gharial, Mugger and Saltwater crocodiles.
87. [ANS] c
[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The Kasturirangan report seeks to bring just 37% of the Western Ghats under the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) zones — down from the 64% suggested by the Gadgil report.
Statement 2 is not correct: The Gadgil Committee came before the Kasturirangan Committee. The report recommended a blanket ban on mining, quarrying, setting up of red category industries and thermal power projects. Although hydro power projects are allowed with few restrictions,
Statement 3 is correct: The report recommended a blanket ban on mining, quarrying, setting up of red category industries and thermal power projects.
Although hydro power projects are allowed with few restrictions.
88. [ANS] c
[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: It is a UN global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury and its compounds. The Minamata Convention is named after the Japanese city of Minamata, which experienced a severe, decades-long incidence of mercury poisoning after industrial wastewater from a chemical factory was discharged into Minamata Bay.
Statement 2 is not correct: It is caused due to nitrate poisoning.
Statement 3 is correct: The major highlights of the Minamata Convention on Mercury include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing mines and mercury-added products, as well as control measures on air emissions. The Convention also addresses interim storage of mercury and its disposal once it becomes waste, sites contaminated by mercury as well as health issues.
89. [ANS] d
[SOL] Option d is correct: The third edition of the exercise, titled EX-DUSTLIK would be conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan from March 22 to March 31. EX-DUSTLIK's is a joint training exercise that is conducted between the armies of India and Uzbekistan.
The Grenadiers battalion that will represent India at this exercise is one of the Indian Army's highly decorated battalions. The first edition of the exercise was held in Uzbekistan in Nov 2019, second edition in March 2021 in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand.
It aims to provide impetus to the ever-growing military and diplomatic ties between the two nations and reflect the strong resolve of both nations to counter-terrorism.



90. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Operation Greens scheme was launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) in November 2018. It aims to enhance value realization of TOP farmers; reduce post-harvest losses; price stabilization for producers and consumers and increase food processing capacities and value addition.

Statement 2 is not correct: The scope of short term measures originally applicable to Tomato, Onion and Potato crops were expanded to 41 notified fruits & vegetables w.e.f. June 2020 as a part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan Package. In Budget Announcement 2021-22, the scope of long term strategy i.e. Value Chain Development Projects was expanded from TOP crops to 22 perishables which include 10 fruits, 11 vegetables (including TOP crops) and 1 marine product i.e. Shrimp.

91. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) stated that Global warming and climate change has the potential to put water security in India at risk.

Statement 1 is correct: It is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.

Statement 2 is correct: The Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission. The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through greywater management, water conservation, rainwater harvesting.

92. [ANS] b

[SOL] India is observing Shaheed Diwas on 23rd March to pay homage to legendary freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.

Option b is correct: Bhagat Singh was first arrested on charges of association with the Kakori Case, accused of an article written under the pseudonym Vidrohi (Rebel).

- He was also accused of being responsible for a bomb explosion in Lahore.
- Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were sentenced to death in the Lahore conspiracy case and ordered to be hanged on 24 March 1931. The schedule was moved forward by 11 hours and the three were hanged on 23 March 1931 at 7:30 pm in the Lahore jail.

- What happened in the Lahore conspiracy case?
 - The trial was held by a Special tribunal constituted under the Defence of India Act 1915. Out of a total of 291 convicted conspirators, 42 were executed, 114 got life sentences and 93 got varying terms of imprisonment. 42 defendants in the trial were acquitted.
 - Saunders' Murder Case:
 - On December 17, 1927, the revolutionaries Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru shot and killed assistant superintendent of police John Saunders. They were supported in this act by their compatriots Sukhdev Thapar and Chandrashekhar Azad.
 - Emperor vs Aurobindo Ghosh and others, colloquially referred to as the Alipore Bomb Case, the Muraripukur conspiracy, or the Manicktolla bomb conspirac
 - It was a criminal case held in India in 1908.
 - The case saw the trial of a number of Indian nationalists of the Anushilan Samiti in Calcutta, under charges of "Waging war against the Government" of the British Raj. The trial was held at Alipore Sessions Court, Calcutta, between May 1908 and May 1909.
 - The trial followed in the wake of the attempt on the life of Presidency Magistrate Douglas Kingsford in Muzaffarpur by Bengali nationalists Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki in April 1908, which was recognised by the Bengal police as linked to attacks against the Raj in the preceding years, including attempts to derail the train carrying Lieutenant-Governor Sir Andrew Fraser in December 1907.
93. [ANS] c
[SOL] Statements 1 and 3 are correct : A black box is a combination of flight data recorder that records the altitude, speed among other pertinent details and a cockpit voice recorder that records the conversation among pilots. Data from these black boxes reveal the reason behind a crash.
- Black box is a recording device used by aviation investigators to analyse the events leading to the air mishap
 - Black boxes are not actually black, but high-visibility orange
 - Australia was the first country to make black boxes mandatory in its aeroplanes
- Statement 2 is not correct :They are mandatory. The aim is not to establish legal liability, but to identify causes and help prevent accidents.
94. [ANS] d
[SOL] In News:West Bengal Congress president renewed his calls to invoke Article 355 in the state given the violence that broke out in the Birbhum district.
- Article 355 deals with Duty of the Union to protect States against external aggression and internal disturbance.
 - It shall be the duty of the Union to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance and to ensure that the Government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
95. [ANS] d
[SOL] Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are heading for a political confrontation over the Mekedatu drinking water project across river Cauvery.
- Originally mooted in 1948: Mekedatu is a drinking water cum power generation project across river Cauvery.
 - Location: Proposed by Karnataka, the project envisages a reservoir near Ontigondlu, about 1.5 km from Mekedatu in Ramanagara district of south Karnataka at the confluence of the Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers.
 - It is 4 km from the Tamil Nadu border and 100 km from Bengaluru.
 - Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal: Karnataka gave the project shape after the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal was notified in 2013 allocating the riparian states their shares.

- Cost: The project cost is estimated at Rs 9,000 crore.
96. [ANS] c
[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The aim of the Artemis Programme is to land humans on the moon by 2024, and it also plans to land the first woman and first person of colour on the moon. Statement 2 is correct: Space agencies involved:
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
 - The Canadian Space Agency has committed to providing advanced robotics for the gateway,
 - The European Space Agency will provide the International Habitat and the ESPRIT module, which will deliver additional communications capabilities among other things.
97. [ANS] d
[SOL] Option D is correct: The United Kingdom, mainly Northern Ireland shares its only land border with the Republic of Ireland. It is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean in the northwest; by the English Channel in the south; the North Sea in the east and the Celtic Sea in the southwest. Ireland is separated from the United Kingdom by the Irish Sea. For more clarification, please see the map.
98. [ANS] c
[SOL] High levels of lead were found in the blood of thousands of children living around the Kabwe mine in Zambia.
- Lead is a highly toxic metal and a very strong poison: Lead poisoning is a serious and sometimes fatal condition. It occurs when lead builds up in the body.
 - Source: Lead is a metal that occurs naturally in the earth's crust, but human activity such as mining, burning fossil fuels and manufacturing has caused it to become more widespread.
 - Lead was also once used in paint and gasoline and is still used in batteries, solder, pipes, pottery, roofing materials and some cosmetics.
 - Vulnerability: Lead poisoning usually occurs over a period of months or years. It can cause severe mental and physical impairment. Young children are most vulnerable.
 - Lead is more harmful to children because their brains and nervous systems are still developing.
 - Treatment: Lead poisoning can be treated, but any damage caused cannot be reversed.
99. [ANS] d
[SOL] In News: The Polar Science and Cryosphere (PACER) scheme has been approved for continuation during 2021-2026.
- Statement 1 is not correct: Clear-air atmospheric observatories containing automatic weather stations, a suite of sensors to measure aerosol and greenhouse gas concentrations have been established at Maitri and Bharati stations in the Antarctic region.
 - Statement 2 is not correct: Chandra Basin is situated in Lahaul-Spiti region of Western Himalaya.
100. [ANS] d
[SOL] In News: In 2021, Mumbai had recorded Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 annual average of 46.4 microgram/cubic metre – nearly nine times above the World Health Organisation (WHO) limit – according to a report by IQAir.
Option d is correct: Particulate matter (PM) are inhalable and respirable particles composed of sulphate, nitrates, ammonia, sodium chloride, black carbon, mineral dust and water.
- PM2.5
 - PM2.5 concentrations, in micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) were selected as the standard metric for this report.
 - PM2.5, particulate matter consisting of fine aerosol particles measuring 2.5 microns or smaller in diameter, is one of six routinely measured criteria air pollutants.

- It is commonly accepted as the most harmful to human health due to its prevalence in the environment and broad range of health effects.
- It is generated from many sources and can vary in chemical composition and physical characteristics.
- Common chemical constituents of PM_{2.5} include sulphates, nitrates, black carbon, and ammonium.
- The most common human-made sources include internal combustion engines, power generation, industrial processes, agricultural processes, construction, and residential wood and coal burning. The most common natural sources for PM_{2.5} are dust storms, sandstorms, and wildfires.

101. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Centre cleared nine names, including two from Jammu and Kashmir which were earlier reiterated by the Supreme Court collegium.

Option b is correct: Collegium System is a system under which appointments and transfers of judges are decided by a forum of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. It has no place in the Indian Constitution.

- History:
 - The Collegium of judges is the Supreme Court's invention.
 - No mention in the constitution: It does not figure in the Constitution, which says judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed by the President and speaks of a process of consultation.
 - Article 124 deals with the appointment of Supreme Court judges. It says the appointment should be made by the President after consultation with such judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court as the President may deem necessary. The CJI is to be consulted in all appointments, except his or her own.
- National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) as rescue but no result:
 - An attempt to replace collegium by a 'National Judicial Appointments Commission' was struck down by the court in 2015.
 - The reason stated was that NJAC posed a threat to the independence of the judiciary.
 - Dissenting judge, Justice J. Chelameswar termed it "inherently illegal".
 - Even the majority opinions admitted the need for transparency.
- Procedure:
 - The President of India appoints the CJI and the other SC judges.
 - As far as the CJI is concerned, the outgoing CJI recommends his successor.
 - In practice, it has been strictly by seniority ever since the supersession controversy of the 1970s.
 - The Union Law Minister forwards the recommendation to the Prime Minister who, in turn, advises the President.

102. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The Antarctic treaty remains the only example of a single treaty that governs a whole continent.

Statement 2 is correct: India has been a member since 1983.

Statement 3 is not correct: It is headquartered in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

103. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Recently, Calcutta High Court ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate the killings in Bogtui village of West Bengal's Birbhum district, where eight persons were burnt alive, hours after the murder of a Trinamool Congress panchayat leader.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating police agency in India.

- It has its origin in the Special Police Establishment set up in 1941 to probe bribery and corruption during World War II.
- It was set up by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1963 after Santhanam committee recommendation.
- CBI investigations have a major impact on the political and economic life of the nation. The following broad categories of criminal cases are handled by the CBI:
 - Cases of corruption and fraud committed by public servants of all Central Govt. Departments, Central Public Sector Undertakings and Central Financial Institutions.
 - The Anti-Corruption Division of the CBI has handled cases against Chief Ministers, Ministers, Secretaries to Government, Officers of the All India Services, CMDs of Banks, Financial Institutions, Public Sector Undertakings, etc.
 - Economic crimes, including bank frauds, financial frauds, Import Export & Foreign Exchange violations, large-scale smuggling of narcotics, antiques, cultural property and smuggling of other contraband items etc.
 - Special Crimes, such as cases of terrorism, bomb blasts, sensational homicides, kidnapping for ransom and crimes committed by the mafia/the underworld.

104. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj felicitated 75 trained candidates of Project UNNATI under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA .

- It is a skilling project intended to upgrade the skill base of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA beneficiaries, and thereby improving their livelihoods, so that they can move from the current partial employment to full-time employment and hence reduce their dependence on Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.
- This project is meant for providing training for one adult member (of age 18-45 years old) of a household who has completed 100 days of work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in the previous financial year from the year of commencement of the project.

105. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Lok Sabha approved the Finance Bill, 2022. The approval completes the budgetary process for the next financial year.

- Statement 1 is not correct: Crypto currencies are not a legal tender in India and hence are not under the regulatory control of any body.
- Statement 2 is correct: India at present has no Dispute Settlement Mechanisms with reference to Crypto currencies.
- Statement 3 is correct: El Salvador is the first country to use bitcoin as legal tender, alongside the US dollar.

106. [ANS] b

[SOL] Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) has provisionally notified Nano Urea as Nano Nitrogen Fertilizers in Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.

Benefits/ Significance of Nano-Fertilizers:

- Application of Nano Urea results in better crop productivity.
- This is regarded as an excellent alternative to chemical fertilizers because it promotes growth and reduces environmental pollution.
- Nano-fertilizers also reduce the crop cycle period and increase crop yield.
- The unique properties of nanoparticles, such as high absorption capacity, the increased surface to volume ratio, and controlled-release kinetics to targeted sites, make them a potential plant growth enhancer.

Limitations of Nano-Fertilizers:

- Lack of a nano-fertilizer risk management system

- Lack of production and availability of nano fertilizers in required quantities. This limits the wider scale adoption of nano-fertilizers as a source of plant nutrients.
- The high cost of nano fertilizers
- Lack of standardization in the formulation process. This brings about different results of the same nanomaterial under various pedoclimatic conditions.

107. [ANS] a

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

Statement 2 is not correct. He founded Lingayats also known as Veershaivs. Nathpanthis were founded by Gorakhnath.

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

108. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : The study reveals the durability and robustness of the T cell responses against variants, including Delta, even after one year of infection.

Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct : T cells are a diverse and important group of lymphocytes that mature and undergo positive and negative selection processes in the thymus.

- There are several types of T cells; the most common and well-known are the CD4+ T cells (helper T cells) and CD8+ T Cells (cytotoxic T cells, or killer T cells).
 - T cells play a vital role in both components of active immunity, including cell-mediated and to some extent humoral immunity.
 - T cells cannot recognize soluble, free antigens. T cells can only recognize protein-based, receptor-bound antigens.

109. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News: India's space economy has evolved considerably and now accounts for about 0.23% of the GDP according to the CDS-IIST research project.

- Statement 1 is not correct: The estimated size of India's space economy as a percentage of the GDP: has slipped from 0.26% in 2011-12 to 0.19% in 2020-21.
- Statement 2 is correct: In relation to GDP, India's spending is more than that of China, Germany, Italy and Japan, but less than the U.S. and Russia.

110. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the second edition of Export Preparedness Index 2021 was released by NITI Aayog.

Option a is correct: Export Preparedness Index 2021 was released by NITI Aayog, in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness, released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021. The report is a comprehensive analysis of India's export achievements.

- Goal:
 - To instil competition among all Indian states ('Coastal', 'Landlocked', 'Himalayan', and 'UTs/City-States')
 - To bring about favourable export-promotion policies,
 - Ease the regulatory framework to prompt subnational export promotion,
 - Create the necessary infrastructure for exports, and
 - Assist in identifying strategic recommendations for improving export competitiveness.

111. [ANS] d

[SOL] Google is said to be testing support for variable refresh rates (VRR) in the Chrome OS.

Option d is correct: Refresh rate is the number of times a display is capable of refreshing in a second.

- It is measured in hertz (Hz).
 - So, a 30 Hz or a 60 Hz display can refresh 30 or 60 times per second, respectively.
- The higher the refresh rate, the better the quality of viewing experience.
- Displays with over 120 Hz can deliver a smoother and more comfortable viewing experience.
 - This is necessary while playing video games or watching videos.
- VRR supports a wide range of refresh rates, allowing its refresh rate to change in real-time based on the frames-per-second (FPS) rate coming from a source device such as a gaming console.

112. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army version of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha .

Statements 1 and 3 are correct : MRSAM is a Surface-to-Air Missile

- The MRSAM Army weapon system comprises multi-function radar, mobile launcher system and other vehicles.
- The flight tests were carried out with the weapon system in deliverable configuration.
- The performance of the weapon system was validated through the flight data captured by range instruments like radars, electro-optical tracking systems and telemetry deployed by ITR, Chandipur.

Statement 2 is not correct : This MRSAM version developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel for use by the Indian Army.

113. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : The Lok Sabha has passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The Bill proposes the "Darlong" community as a sub-tribe of "Kuki" in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : Kuki is a word pronounced by outside people to refer to a group of tribes like Darlong and Lusai.

- The Lusai of Tripura used to live in Jampui and Shakan Hills of North Tripura.
 - They call them as Mizos. They never call them Lusai as the word 'LU' means Head and 'SAI' means cutting (Head Hunter). Though once they were treated as headhunters.
- Darlong is another tribe known as Kukis.
- They live in hill tops and maintain their livelihood through Jhum Cultivation and producing fruits. nowadays they are also accustomed with plain land cultivation and rearing of animals.
- Kukis are very much experts in hunting wild animals.
- Linguistically they speak a language that originated from the Kuki-Chin linguistic family and they have so many clans.
- Kukis are fond of music and dance.

Statements 3 and 4 are not correct : They do not arrange any marriage alliances outside their community.

- Tradition-ally they were not Christian. They had faith in lord Shiva beside different deities and spirits. But for the last fifty years the majority of them have embraced Christianity.
- They have their own customary laws and village council. LAL is a term to denote village chief. This is the reason for which Darlong uses Lal before their name.
- Kukis are presently a small tribe in the state and socio-economically more advanced.

114. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : 21 years after destroying Bamiyan Buddhas, Taliban now seek to preserve Buddhas. In their Roman draperies and with two different mudras, the Bamiyan Buddhas were great examples of a confluence of Gupta, Sassanian and Hellenistic artistic styles. Bamiyan is

situated in the high mountains of the Hindu Kush in the central highlands of Afghanistan.

- The valley, which is set along the line of the Bamiyan River, was once integral to the early days of the Silk Roads, providing passage for not just merchants, but also culture, religion and language.
- They are said to date back to the 5th century AD and were once the tallest standing Buddhas in the world.
- Salsal and Shamama, as they were called by the locals, rose to heights of 55 and 38 metres respectively, and were said to be male and female.
 - Salsal means “light shines through the universe”
 - Shamama is “Queen Mother”.
- The statues were set in niches on either ends of a cliff side and hewn directly from the sandstone cliffs.

115. [ANS] c

[SOL] Union Minister for Law and Justice in response to a question in the Lok Sabha stated that the government was exploring the possibility of allowing online voting for non-resident Indians (NRI).

Statement 1 is not correct: The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 was amended in 2016 to allow only service voters to use the ETPBS.

Statement 2 is not correct: Under this system, postal ballots are sent electronically to registered service voters. The service voter can then register their mandate on the ballot and send it back via ordinary mail.

Statement 3 is correct: As per the Indian Constitution, all Indian citizens above the age of 18 years who have registered themselves as voters are eligible to vote.

116. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthi rebels launched airstrikes targeting the country's capital, Sanaa.

- Jeddah: A Saudi Arabian port city on the Red Sea.
- Port Ghalib: It is located in Marsa Alam along the Southern Red Sea Coral Coast of Egypt.
- Port of Aden: It is located to the East of the Red Sea and Bab El Mandeb and an ideal location for a major port in Yemen.
- Al - Salif: It is a coastal village in western Yemen.
- Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.



Image Courtesy: News

117. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: It is launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

- Statement 2 is correct: The mission seeks to address the housing requirement of urban poor including slum dwellers.
- Statement 3 is not correct: The ownership of houses is provided in the name of a female member or in joint name.

118. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya signed an agreement to resolve part of their five-decade-old inter-state border dispute.

Option b is correct: The correct order of Hills in East to West direction is :

Jaintia -> Khasi -> Garo



119. [ANS] b

[SOL] Government of India has recently issued guidelines for electrification of any leftover un-electrified households identified before 31.03.2019 prior to Saubhagya for covering these under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : It was launched in October, 2017 with the objective to achieve universal household electrification by providing electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas and all poor households in urban areas in the country.

- It is one of the world's biggest universal electrification initiatives with collaborative and concerted efforts of the Centre and the States.
- It is a concurrent program to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana" (DDUGJY)
- Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) is the nodal agency for the operationalization of the scheme throughout the country. The prospective beneficiary households for free connection would be identified using Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.
 - Households not found eligible as per SECC data, would also be provided electricity connections on payment of Rs 500 recoverable in 10 instalments through electricity bills.

Statement 3 is not correct : All DISCOMs including Private Sector DISCOMs, State Power Departments and RE Cooperative Societies are eligible for financial assistance.

- Dedicated web portal for SAUBHAGYA has been developed to capture the information and progress of household electrification

120. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : The Rhino population in Kaziranga National Park of Assam increases by 200 according to the latest census. The greater one-horned rhino (or "Indian rhino") is the largest of the rhino species. They primarily graze, with a diet consisting almost entirely of grasses as well as leaves, branches of shrubs and trees, fruit, and aquatic plants. It is confined to the tall grasslands and forests in the foothills of the Himalayas.

- The Great one-horned rhino is commonly found in Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and in Assam, India.

121. [ANS] a

[SOL] A research paper from Dublin City University in Ireland, reviewing India's entrepreneurial policy Startup India, affirmed its positive impact in reducing regional entrepreneurial disparities. Initiatives for Promoting Startups:

- Atmanirbhar Bharat: Digital India Atmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge.
- Make in India: Promotion to indigenously made goods and services under the initiative.
- Start-Up India Programme: A flagship initiative, intended to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and start-ups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.
- Start-up India Digital Platform: It is the world's largest virtual incubator with over 300,000 registered start-ups and aspiring entrepreneurs.
- Start-up Grand Challenge: It channelizes the entrepreneurial capacity between Indian and Korean start-ups to work together and build solutions for the challenges facing the world.
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM): Launched by NITI Aayog as a flagship programme, it aims to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in India.
 - Some initiatives of AIM are AIM iCREST and Mentors of Change.
- Project Chunauti: It is a start-up challenge under the Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS) initiative. Selected startups are provided human resources, legal, intellectual property rights (IPR) and Patent matters guidance as well as other incubation and mentorship facilities.

- National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI): It is an umbrella programme for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups.
122. [ANS] a
[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct. The Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable batteries which use an intercalated lithium compound as one electrode material, compared to the metallic lithium used in a non-rechargeable lithium battery.
Statement 2 is correct. Lithium ions move from the negative electrode to the positive electrode during discharge and back when charging.
123. [ANS] c
[SOL] Statement 1 is correct. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was created at the Baghdad Conference in September 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
Statement 2 is not correct. OPEC+ is a loosely affiliated entity consisting of 13 OPEC members and 10 of the world's major non-OPEC oil-exporting nations. India is not a member.
Statement 3 is correct. India is the world's third-largest consumer of oil and imports 85% of its oil needs and is often vulnerable to global supply and price shocks.
124. [ANS] d
[SOL] Option d is correct: The BRIC group was renamed BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) after South Africa was accepted as a full member at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in 2010. BRICS consists of the major emerging economies of the world, comprising 41% of the world's population. It contributes 24% of the world's GDP. It has a 16% share in world trade. The total combined area of 29.3% of the total land surface of the world. During the Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (Brazil) in 2014, the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB - Shanghai, China). They also signed the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement to provide short-term liquidity support to the members.
125. [ANS] d
[SOL] Recently, the Centre told the Delhi High Court that social media platforms must be held accountable for subjugating rights.
Option d is correct: The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 define a significant social media intermediary ("SSMI") as a social media intermediary whose number of registered users in India is more than 50 lakh registered users.
- As of today's date, some of the sizable SSIMs in India are WhatsApp, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
126. [SOL] With space junk posing an increasing threat to Indian assets in space, ISRO is building up its orbital debris tracking capability by deploying new radars and optical telescopes under the NETRA project.
Option d is correct: The Fengyun-1C satellite is a part of the anti-satellite test (ASAT) by China.
- Most Space debris comprises human-generated objects, such as pieces of spacecraft, tiny flecks of paint from a spacecraft, parts of rockets, satellites that are no longer working, or explosions of objects in orbit flying around in space at high speeds.
 - Hurling at an average speed of 27,000 kmph in LEO, these objects pose a very real threat as collisions involving even centimetre-sized fragments can be lethal to satellites.
127. [ANS] a
[SOL] In News: A draft recommendation on 'biodiversity and health' was released during the Convention on Biological Diversity concluded recently.
Option a is correct: The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is known informally as the Biodiversity Convention.

- It is a multilateral treaty.
- The convention was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and entered into force in 1993.
- The United States is the only UN member state which has not ratified the convention.
- It has two supplementary agreements, the Cartagena Protocol and Nagoya Protocol.
 - The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty governing the movements of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology from one country to another.
 - The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity is another supplementary agreement to the CBD.
- It has been ratified by 196 nations.
- The CBD's governing body is the Conference of the Parties (COP). This ultimate authority of all governments (or Parties) that have ratified the treaty meets every two years to review progress, set priorities and commit to work plans.
- The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) is based in Montreal, Canada.

128. [ANS] c

[SOL] Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) is chaired by the Prime Minister.

One of the standing committees of the cabinet. It comprises 11 ministers and 3 special invitees.

Major functions:

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