

NEXT IAS

TEST YOURSELF

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY, 2022

1. Consider the following statements
 1. Rice and pulses are the key kharif crops.
 2. Production of Wheat is higher than Rice in India.
 3. India is the world's largest producer and exporter of rice in the world.Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 2 and 3 only
2. Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) recently released by which of the following?
 - (a) Reserve Bank of India
 - (b) State Bank of India
 - (c) Ministry of Finance (MoF)
 - (d) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
3. With reference to special powers of Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:
 1. Power to transfer a subject from the State List to Union List for a specified period.
 2. To create additional All India Services.
 3. To endorse Emergency for a limited period when the Lok Sabha remains dissolved.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 3 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
4. With reference to Indian Railways, consider the following statements:
 1. India has the fourth-largest rail network in the world.
 2. Sikkim is the only Northeastern state which is not connected to a rail network.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. With reference to e-Shram portal, consider the following statements:
1. It was launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.
 2. It would allow the workers to get the direct benefit transfer (DBT) through the e-Shram unique ID number.
 3. All eligible registered workers on eSHRAM portal get an Accidental Insurance cover of 2 Lacs under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana(PMSBY)from the date of issue of policy.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
6. Recently, The State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2022 report was released by which organisation?
- (a) Wildlife Conservation Society
 - (b) Botanical Survey of India
 - (c) United Nations Environment Programme
 - (d) Food and Agriculture Organisation
7. With reference to Transnistria, consider the following statements:
1. It lies between Romania to its west and Ukraine towards its east.
 2. Its economy is dependent on Russia for subsidies and free gas.
 3. It has its own government, Parliament, armed force and constitution.
- 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. With reference to Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) mission , consider the following statements:
1. It is a joint program between NASA and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) .
 2. It was designed to observe cosmic objects in far-infrared wavelengths.
 3. It discovered water molecules (H₂O) on the sun-facing side of the Moon.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

9. With reference to Federalism in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Preamble mentions India to be a Federal state.
- 2. The constitution of India under the Article 1 has described India as a federation.

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

10. Which of the following are mentioned under 8th Schedule as well as Classical Languages of India?

- 1. Kannada
- 2. Malayalam
- 3. Odia
- 4. Sanskrit
- 5. Marathi
- 6. Santhali

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

11. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Prisons detained therein' is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.
- 2. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provides regular guidance to States on various issues concerning prisons and prison inmates.

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

12. With reference to Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) , consider the following statements:

1. It helps to make the diesel generator less dependent on surface air.
2. It offers the possibility of increasing underwater endurance .
3. It has a force multiplier effect on the lethality of a diesel electric submarine .

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

13. This rule allows judges to add or ignore any of the words in the statute while interpreting in order to protect the purpose of creating that law and give fair and equal justice to everyone. Which of the following doctrines resemble this?

- (a) Doctrine of purposive construction
- (b) Doctrine of Colourable legislation
- (c) Doctrine of Eclipse
- (d) Doctrine of Basic Structure

14. With reference to Sedition, consider the following statements:

1. It is a bailable and non-cognizable offence.
2. It is dealt in Section 124A of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

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

15. Recently, the term “Green Strategic Partnership” was in the news, which of the following statement is true?

- (a) It was framed with the objective that the Antarctic shall continue to be a zone that shall be used for peaceful purposes only.
- (b) It set targets aimed at a reduction in the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances (ODS).
- (c) It provides a legally binding framework for the conservation of biodiversity, sustainability in use of biological resources and the equitable sharing of benefits and knowledge.
- (d) The India - Denmark partnership with focus on green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management.

- 16.** With reference to Smart Cities Mission (SCM), consider the following statements:
1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2015.
 2. The mission is being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD).
 3. It aims to 'smarten up' cities with eco-friendly hi-tech solutions to urban problems.
- 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
- 17.** SPARSH portal recently seen in the news ,it is related to which of the following?
- (a) Women Empowerment
(b) Skill Development
(c) Space Research
(d) Pension sanctioning
- 18.** Consider the following statements with respect to 'office of profit':
1. It has been explicitly defined in the Constitution.
 2. The Constitution provides immunity to legislators in case of certain specified offices.
- 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
- 19.** With reference to Front of Package Labelling (FoPL) system, consider the following statements:
1. It guides customers to make informed and healthy choices.
 2. The FoPL system rates packaged food from half a star to five stars.
 3. Rating is done on the basis of salt, sugar and fat content.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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

1. India, as a founding member, initiated CDRI as a global partnership with 27 countries in 2019.
2. CDRI works on infrastructure and not disaster risk management in general.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. With reference to Jog Falls , consider the following statements:

1. It is created by the Sharavathi River.
2. It is the second-highest plunge waterfall in India.
3. It is situated in Kerala.

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

22. Shigella recently seen in the news, it is related to

- (a) Viruses
- (b) Bacteria
- (c) Fungi
- (d) Parasites

23. With reference to Collegium System, consider the following statements:

1. Article 124 and 217 gives power to the Collegium system for Supreme Court and High Court respectively.
2. The Second Judges Case devised the procedure of the Collegium System.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

24. The term 'Twin deficit' often seen in the news related to economy, it is a
- (a) High Current Account Deficit and High Fiscal Deficit
 - (b) High Budget Deficit and High Fiscal Deficit
 - (c) High Capital Account Deficit and High Fiscal Deficit
 - (d) High Current Account Deficit and High Revenue Deficit
25. With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements :
1. It is chaired by the Chief Election Commissioner of India.
 2. Its orders can be challenged before the Supreme Court.
- Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
26. Which of the following statements is not correct regarding Planet Venus?
- (a) Its atmosphere is highly rich in carbon dioxide.
 - (b) The temperature of Venus is too high.
 - (c) Its structure is similar to Earth's but larger in size.
 - (d) It spins from east to west.
27. Which of the following are works of Rabindranath Tagore?
1. Bhanusimha
 2. Manasi
 3. Geetanjali
 4. Kumarasambhava
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2, and 4 only
28. With reference to Sealed cover jurisprudence, consider the following statements:
1. It is accepting information from government agencies in sealed envelopes that can only be accessed by judges.
 2. It is only used by the High Court .

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

29. With reference to Uniting for Consensus (UfC) or the Coffee Club, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an official Intergovernmental group comprising all UNSC members.
- 2. It is a movement in opposition to the possible expansion of permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council.
- 3. G4 nations include India and Pakistan among others.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

30. Which of the following conditions are favourable for the formation of Tropical Cyclones?

- 1. Sea surface with a temperature higher than 27° C
- 2. Coriolis force
- 3. Large differences in the vertical wind speed
- 4. High pressure area

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

31. Consider the following statements

- 1. He founded the Servants of India Society.
- 2. He started an English weekly newspaper, "The Hitavada".
- 3. He was a mentor to both Mahatma Gandhi and Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

Which of the following personality is been discussed in the above statements?

- (a) Rabindranath Tagore
- (b) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- (c) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (d) Ambica Charan Mazumdar

32. With reference to Indian Police Services (IPS), consider the following statements:

1. It is constituted under Article 312 of the Constitution of India
2. It replaced the Indian (Imperial) Police in 1948.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

33. In the context of the National Film Heritage Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Its primary objective is to showcase classical Indian cinema on global platforms.
2. It is implemented by the National Film Archive of India which comes under the Ministry of Culture.

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

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

34. With reference to Shanghai Cooperation Organization, consider the following statements:

1. India became a member of SCO in 2017.
2. Turkmenistan has been a founding member.
3. The SCO's official languages are French and Chinese.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. Consider the following statements regarding the Electoral Bonds:

1. An Electoral Bond is like a promissory note.
2. It can be purchased in cash or digitally through any commercial bank.
3. All the Political Parties are eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

36. Consider the following statements

1. Under the El Nino event, the surface temperature of the Pacific ocean increased more than usual causing heavy rainfalls in Australia.
2. While El-Nino leads to drought events in the subcontinent, La-Nina is primarily associated with flood events.

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. With reference to the Battle of Haldighati, consider the following statements:

1. It was fought between Maharana Pratap and Mughal forces led by Raja Man Singh.
2. Aftermath of the battle, Goganda, Udaipur, and Kumbhalgarh were all under Maharana Pratap's control.

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

38. With reference to Tissue Culture Plants in India, consider the following statements:

1. Plant seeds are cultured under controlled conditions of light, temperature, and humidity.
2. Netherland is the highest importer of tissue culture plants from India in 2021.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. With reference to the Revolt of 1857, which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Place — Leadership

1. Faizabad — Maulvi Ahmadullah
2. Bijnor — Firoz Shah
3. Moradabad — Abdul Ali Khan
4. Mandsaur — Mohammad Khan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

40. With reference to Judicial Activism, consider the following statements:

1. The concept came up in the United Kingdom.
2. It was introduced in India in the 1970s by Justice P N Bhagwati.

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. With reference to Birdlife International, consider the following statements :

1. It is a specialised agency of the United Nations.
2. It publishes the State of the World's Birds, which is a biennial report.

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

42. With reference to The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Rules, any grievance raised by a user needs to be acknowledged within 24 hours and should be resolved within a period of 15 days.
2. Prajwala Case is related to it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

43. With reference to National Livestock Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2014-15.
2. It seeks to ensure quantitative and qualitative improvement in livestock production systems
3. It is being implemented as a sub-scheme of White Revolution - Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

44. This temple is built in Chalukyan Style on the Prabhas Pattan or Veraval Port of Gujrat. It was raided by Mahmud of Ghazni and is believed to have been plundered at least 17 times. India's first president Dr Rajendra Prasad performed the Pran Pratishtha Ceremony over here. Which is the temple being referred to in the above paragraph?

- (a) Ranchhodrai Temple
- (b) Dwarkadhish Temple
- (c) Modhera Sun temple
- (d) Somnath Temple

45. Which of the following are the reasons for Land Degradation?

1. Salinity
2. Soil erosion
3. Waterlogging
4. Fertility loss

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) All of the above

46. With reference to the Pardoning Power of President and Governor consider the following statements

1. Both President and Governor can grant a pardon in cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial.
2. The pardoning power of the Governor does not extend to death sentence cases.
3. Reprieve means a delay allowed in the execution of a sentence, usually a death sentence.

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

47. With reference to Marital Rape in India, consider the following statements:

1. Section 375 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) provides an exception for marital rape.
2. The Principle of Consent in perpetuity allows marital rape.

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 InSight, consider the following statements:

1. It is NASA's mission to the Moon.
2. It is part of the Discovery Program.

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

49. Formosa Strait is located between which of the following?

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

50. With reference to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), consider the following statements:

1. It was founded with the signing of an agreement by five countries namely the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
2. India is not a member of OPEC.

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

51. With reference to State Election Commissions (SECs), consider the following statements:
1. The power of conducting elections to the Corporations, Municipalities, Zilla Parishads, Panchayat Samitis, Gram Panchayats and other local bodies is vested with SECs.
 2. SECs are independent of the Election Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

52. With reference to Ujjwala Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme provides LPG connections to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households only.
2. It is launched by the Ministry of Power.

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

53. Which of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) Article 324 of the Constitution entails the provisions related to the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners.
- (b) The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.
- (c) Election commissioners receive salaries and allowances similar to those of a judge of the Supreme Court.
- (d) Chief Election Commissioner holds his office at the pleasure of the president.

54. What can be the possible steps to prevent inflation?

1. Change the monetary policy.
2. Controlling the money supply.
3. Higher Income Tax rate.
4. Invest in long-term investments.

Which of the given above options are correct?

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

55. Consider the following statements with reference to Kaziranga National Park

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

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

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

56. With reference to recent findings of the excavation at Mayiladumparai, consider the following statements :

1. The site is located in modern-day Tamil Nadu.
2. The site is linked to the Paleolithic age alone.

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

57. With reference to Minorities, consider the following statements:

1. Jains have been notified as minority communities under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
2. Naya Savera is a scheme of interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies for students belonging to Minority Communities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

58. With reference to Ecologism, consider the following statements:

1. Shallow Ecologism is more suitable in developing countries.
2. Deep ecologism believes that humans should radically change their relationship with nature.

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

59. “Gold Tranche” (Reserve Tranche) refers to
- (a) a loan system of the World Bank
 - (b) one of the operations of a Central Bank
 - (c) a credit system granted by WTO to its members
 - (d) a credit system granted by IMF to its members
60. Which of the following phenomenon leads to the formation of monsoon in India?
1. The presence of the low-pressure area, east of Madagascar due to intensive heating of the island.
 2. The movement of the westerly jet stream to the north of the Himalayas
 3. The presence of the tropical easterly jet stream over the Indian peninsula during summer.
- 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
61. With reference to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005, consider the following statements:
1. It provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of skilled workers every financial year to adults in rural areas.
 2. It comes under the category of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
 3. At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
62. Consider the following statements regarding Human Cell Atlas (HCA):
1. It is an initiative of the International Science Council (ISC).
 2. The project will facilitate the development of better drugs and also aid regenerative medicine.
 3. In India, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is undertaking mapping under the HCA.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

63. With reference to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. The Act penalises rape or sexual assault of a transgender person.
2. It moots the idea of providing reservations to the transgender community.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

64. 'Global Financial Stability Report' is prepared by the

- (a) European Central Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- (d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

65. With reference to International Maritime Organization (IMO), consider the following statements:

1. It is an entity of the United Nations (UN).
2. India is a member state of this.
3. The MARPOL Convention was adopted at IMO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

66. Consider the following statements regarding Endosulfan:

1. It is a snow-white coloured pesticide that occurs naturally in the environment.
2. Newborns may suffer from congenital anomalies like cerebral palsy due to exposure to their parents.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

67. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the newly created Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve?

1. It is located in the Rajasthan state and is India's 52nd Tiger Reserve.
2. The Tiger Reserve will act as a buffer between Ranthambore and Sariska Tiger Reserves.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

68. With reference to the Thomas Cup, consider the following statements:

1. It is an international tennis competition held annually in the UK.
2. The United States is the country with the maximum registered wins in the history of the tournament.

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

69. Recently, the "Seoul Declaration" was in the news. What is the aim of this declaration?

- (a) Neglected Tropical Diseases eradication programme
- (b) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Human Rights
- (c) Women's rights
- (d) Worldwide forest-related and environmental problems

70. With reference to the Arctic Council, consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental forum for sustainable development and environmental protection of the Arctic.
2. It is a treaty-based international legal entity for the allocation of resources to the member states.
3. India enjoys the status of an 'Observer' in the Council.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

71. Which among the following statement(s) is/are true with respect to the Indian economy?
1. Demonetisation is the act of stripping money of its legal tender status.
 2. An increase in the Cash Reserve Ratio by the Reserve Bank of India increases the money multiplication in the market
 3. Haircut reflects the borrower's perception of the risk of falls in the value of assets.
- Select the correct option using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1 only
72. Consider the following statements:
1. 'Surat' is the fourth Guided Missile Destroyer of P15B class, while 'Udaygiri' is the second Stealth Frigate of P17A class.
 2. Both warships have been designed by the Dassault Aviation of France.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
73. With reference to Bhalia Variety of Wheat, consider the following statements
1. It is a variety of wheat that received GI certification from Punjab.
 2. This variety is grown in rainfed conditions without irrigation.
 3. It has high protein content and is sweet in taste.
- 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
74. In context of monkeypox disease, consider the following statements:
1. It is a viral zoonotic disease that occurs primarily in tropical rainforests.
 2. All the symptoms of the disease are similar to those of smallpox.
- 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

75. With reference to the Fostering Effective Energy Transition Report, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
2. The report builds on the trends from the Energy Transition Index (ETI).

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

76. Consider the following statements:

1. Drought in Numbers 2022 report was launched by the Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP).
2. The theme of 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) was 'Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

77. Denisovans recently seen in the news ,are related to

- (a) Nuclear Submarine
- (b) Mountain Peak
- (c) Archaic humans
- (d) Tropical Disease

78. Recently, which organisation released the World Inequality Report, 2022?

- (a) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- (b) International Economic Development Council
- (c) World Inequality Lab
- (d) World Economic Forum

79. In context of National Biofuel Policy, 2018, consider the following statements:

1. The government has amended the provision of the policy to increase the target of ethanol blending level in petrol to 30 percent by 2025 from 20 percent.
2. The new amendment will result in increased burden on the forex reserve of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

80. With reference to Filament barb , consider the following statements:

1. It is a common fish found inhabiting a whole array of habitats.
2. It is widely distributed across peninsular India including Cauvery and Krishna river .

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

81. Which of the following are exempted from the Places of worship Act that was recently in news?

1. The Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case.
2. Any places of worship that qualify as archaeological sites covered under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958.
3. Any place of worship is disputed, in August 1947.

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

82. Which of the following are likely impacts of depreciation of Rupee?

1. Increasing Current Account Deficit.
2. Oil becomes costly.
3. Attracts more investments from abroad
4. Export Oriented companies suffer.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

83. With reference to Reservation, consider the following statements:

1. In *Indira Sawhney vs Union of India* (1992), the Supreme Court had upheld the 50-percent ceiling on reservations.
2. There is no reservation for OBCs in Lakshadweep, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.
3. There are no separate political reservations for OBCs in State legislatures or local bodies.

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

84. Which of the following organisations releases the World Governance Indicators Index?

- (a) World Bank (WB)
- (b) Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- (c) Heritage Foundation (HF)
- (d) United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

85. With reference to the BRICS+, consider the following statements :

1. It was conceptualised by the India at the BRICS Summit of 2017.
2. It is a permanent arrangement under the ambit of BRICS.

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. Recently seen in the news, Caucasus mountains lies between:

- (a) Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea
- (b) Black Sea and Caspian Se
- (c) Caspian Sea and Aral Sea
- (d) Baltic Sea and Black Sea

87. With reference to Pangong Tso Lake, consider the following statements:

1. It is a freshwater lake.
2. Only one-third of the lake lies in Indian territory.
3. Pangong Tso also supports vegetation in deeper parts of the lake.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

88. With reference to the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, consider the following statements :

1. It is a multilateral initiative of the members of the ASEAN for greater trade synergy.
2. It includes market access commitments such as lowering tariff barriers.

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

89. Consider the following statements

1. Switzerland is the topmost FDI investor in India.
2. Maharashtra receives the highest FDI equity inflows.
3. Currently, 100% FDI in the Insurance Sector is allowed under the automatic route.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

90. With reference to Sowa-Rigpa, consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the oldest surviving and well-documented medical traditions of the world with a history of more than 2500 years.
2. It is practised only in Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

91. Consider the following statements regarding Raja Rammohan Roy:

1. He served in the Revenue Department of the East India Company.
2. He believed that monotheism is the fundamental principle of Vedanta philosophy.
3. He was bestowed with the title of Raja by the Mughal emperor.

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

92. With reference to the Phytoremediation, consider the following statements :

1. It is a bioremediation process that uses living organisms to remove toxic heavy metals from the soil.
2. The process can lead to faster removal of toxicity using hyperaccumulator plants.

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

93. Consider the following statements:

1. It is hot, dry and dusty.
2. It flows from the north or northwest in Iraq, Iran, and the Arabian Peninsula.
3. It is part of a widespread flow toward a low-pressure centre over Pakistan.

The statements given above are the most likely description of-

- (a) Chinook
- (b) Khamsin
- (c) Shamal
- (d) Siroco

94. Recently, “BioRRAP Portal” was in the news, with reference to that consider the following statements:

1. The portal is developed by DRDO.
2. It will cater to all those seeking regulatory approval required for biological research and development activity in the country.
3. Bio Economy’s contribution to the national GDP has also grown steadily in the past years.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

95. With reference to Neural Networks, consider the following statements:
1. Neural networks mimic human/animal brains with the use of data.
 2. Deep networks are the neural networks used for deep learning algorithms.
- 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
96. Which of the statements regarding the Inter-State Council is not correct?
- (a) Union Home Minister is the Chairman of the council.
(b) Council's decisions on inter-state disputes are binding in nature.
(c) The Council may meet at least thrice a year wherein all questions are decided by consensus.
(d) Both (a) and (b)
97. With reference to Sangita Kalanidhi award , consider the following statements:
1. It is considered the highest accolade in the field of Carnatic music.
 2. It was instituted by Sahitya Akademi.
- 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
98. Taiwan shares a border with which of the following countries ?
1. South Korea
 2. Japan
 3. Myanmar
 4. Philippines
- 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
99. With reference to the ASHA Programme, consider the following statements :
1. ASHA workers are trained government employees under the state health ministries.
 2. It is inspired from Chhattisgarh's Mitani programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

100. With reference to CSIR Aroma Mission, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is related to the Pink Revolution.
- 2. One of its aims is to enable effective buy-back mechanisms for the Lavender farmers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

101. Maya Pit viper is commonly found in which of the following states ?

- 1. Meghalaya
- 2. Mizoram
- 3. Assam
- 4. Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

102. With reference to Uighurs, consider the following statements:

- 1. They are a predominantly Muslim who live in China's North-Western Xinjiang Province.
- 2. They see themselves as culturally and ethnically close to Central Asian nations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

103. Devasnana purnima, chariot festival is related to which of the following temples?

- (a) Konark temple
- (b) Jagannath Puri temple
- (c) Lingaraj Temple
- (d) Martand Temple

104. With reference to International Labour Organisation (ILO), consider the following statements

1. It is a specialised agency of the United Nations.
2. India is a founder member of the ILO.
3. Global Wage Report is released by ILO.

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

105. India conducts military exercises such as “Yudh Abhyas”, “Vajra Prahar” and “Red Flag” with which country?

- (a) France
- (b) USA
- (c) Russia
- (d) Australia

106. With reference to Wild Boars, consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest of the wild pigs.
2. It occupies a wide variety of temperate and tropical habitats.
3. The IUCN Red list classifies it as Vulnerable.

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

107. Consider the following statements:

1. Formation of a new State requires a special majority in the parliament.
2. A bill calling for the formation of new States may be introduced in Lok Sabha only.
3. The bill is introduced only on the recommendation of the President.

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

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

108. With reference to Qutub Minar, consider the following statements:

1. Iltutmush completed the construction of Minar.
2. Red sandstone and marbles are used in its construction.
3. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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

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

109. With reference to Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to stop immoral trafficking and prostitution in India.
2. The act criminalizes prostitution or prostitutes per se.

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

110. Recently, “Pangong Tso Lake” was in the news, with reference to it, consider the following statements:

1. It is an endorheic lake.
2. The lake is identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance.
3. An Inner Line Permit is required to visit the lake.

Which of the given above statements are correct?

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

111. Recently, India joined the First Movers Coalition to decarbonise carbon-heavy sectors. It is an initiative of?

- (a) World Economic Forum and the US
- (b) World Meteorological Organisation and World bank
- (c) European Environment Agency and France
- (d) Global Environment Facility and Denmark

112. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the currently disputed 'data localisation' clause of Personal Data Protection Bill?

1. It is a cost effective tool for concerned companies as they can process the data in the data centres present within India's borders.
2. On the line of India, USA is also bringing legislations to control the digital information produced by their citizens and government agencies.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

113. Recently, India commenced Exercise Bongo Sagar with which of the following countries ?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Myanmar
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Bangladesh

114. With reference to Wagner Group, consider the following statements:

1. It is a network of contractors that supply soldiers for hire.
2. It is not registered as a legal entity anywhere in the world
3. It first surfaced in 2014, during Russia's annexation of Crimea.

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

115. Which of the following best describes PARAM PORUL which was recently in news?

- (a) A state-of-the-art supercomputer based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology.
- (b) India's humanoid robot modeled on the lines of Robot Sofia.
- (c) Nilgiri-class ship of the Indian Navy with the stealth-guided missile frigates.
- (d) An early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.

- 116.** He is known for coining the term 'Hindutva'. He wrote 'The Indian War of Independence, 1857' during his jail time. He started one of the most powerful social reform movements against untouchability in India, built Patit Pavan Mandir in the Ratnagiri district to allow entry to all Hindus, including Dalits. "He was the first to envision a casteless India. He established a secret organisation called Abhinav Bharat Society in 1904 .

He was:

- (a) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
 - (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
 - (c) Mahatma Gandhi
 - (d) Vinayak Damodar Savarkar
- 117.** Money Spiders, which were recently seen in the news, were discovered in which of the following regions in India?
- (a) Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary located in Sivalik Hills.
 - (b) Battimalv Island Sanctuary of Andaman and Nicobar.
 - (c) Muthanga range of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - (d) Lowland evergreen rainforests of Namdapha National Park.
- 118.** With reference to the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) which was recently launched by the government, consider the following options:

- 1. A government regulatory body
- 2. A super aggregator application or a platform
- 3. A central intermediary
- 4. A medium to help digitise business

Which of the following are the features of ONDC?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) None of the above
- 119.** With reference to the current macroeconomic scenario in India, consider the following statements :
- 1. Raising Corporate Tax would help in attaining economic growth
 - 2. Measures like Production Linked Incentive Schemes can aid industries in recovering from pandemic linked losses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

120. With reference to International North South Trade Corridor (INSTC), consider the following statements:

1. It was established by Iran, Russia and India for promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.
2. It links the Indian Ocean to the Caspian Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

121. Which of the following are Consumer Forest Rights under the Forest Rights Act?

1. Protect the community forest resource
2. Regenerate the community forest resource
3. Conserve the community forest resource
4. Manage the community forest resource

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

122. With reference to Aadhaar, consider the following statements:

1. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), an executive body, was created to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar".
2. Only the last 6 digits of the Aadhaar Number are visible in a Masked Aadhaar card.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

123. With reference to “Kosi river system”, consider the following statements:

1. It originates in Tibet.
2. It is one of the largest tributaries of the Brahmaputra.
3. It drains the northern slopes of the Himalayas in Tibet and the southern slopes in Nepal.

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

124. Consider the following pairs:

Mission Space - Agencies

- 1. Perseverance - National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA)
- 2. Hope - European Space Agency(ESA)
- 3. Mars Express - Indian Space Research Organization(ISRO)

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

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

125. With reference to West Nile Virus(WNV), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae.
- 2. It was first isolated in a woman in the West Nile district of Uganda in 1937.
- 3. It is commonly found in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia.
- 4. To date, no human-to-human transmission of WNV through casual contact has been documented.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

126. Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the state of Goa?

- (a) It is the smallest state of India with Konkni as its official language.
- (b) India launched Operation Vijay and annexed Goa with the Indian mainland.
- (c) Goa is bordered by Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- (d) None of the above

127. Which of the following major modifications have been made in the existing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)?

1. Areas falling under Panchayati Raj institutions to be accounted under rural areas, whereas areas under Municipality to be treated as urban areas.
2. PMEGP applicants under aspirational districts and transgender will be entitled for higher subsidy.
3. All the States/UTs will be covered under the Scheme.

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

128. With reference to the Jal Jeevan Mission, consider the following statements :

1. The Programme comes under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. It aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2030 to all households in rural India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

129. With reference to Asia Media Summit (AMS), consider the following statements:

1. The World Economic Forum (WEF) organised the Summit.
2. It is a platform for broadcasters in the region to share their thoughts on Broadcasting and Information.

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

130. Which of the following are factors affecting Monsoon?

1. Mascarene High
2. Coriolis Force
3. Indian summer
4. El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)
5. Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Explanation

1. **[ANS] a**
[SOL] Recently, 600 rice mills in Telangana installed blending machines for rice fortification.
 - India is the world's second-largest producer of rice, and the largest exporter of rice in the world
 - Rice, maize, pulses such as urad, moong dal and millets are among the key kharif crops.
 - Wheat, Barley, Oats, Pulses, Mustard, Linseed are Rabi crops.
 - Production of Rice is higher than Wheat in India.

2. **[ANS] a**
[SOL] Recently, the Reserve Bank of India released a Report on Currency and Finance (RCF). RCF estimated 6.5-8.5 percent as a feasible range for medium-term GDP growth with a timely re-balancing of monetary and fiscal policies likely being the first step in this journey. The RCF cautioned that growth is at risk once general government debt exceeds a threshold of 66 percent of GDP.
 - India suffered among the biggest pandemic induced losses in the world in terms of output, lives and livelihoods, which may take years to recover.
 - Economic activity has barely recovered to pre-COVID levels even after two years.

3. **[ANS] d**
[SOL] Recently, an Indian Administrative Officer (IAS) officer, who resigned in 2019, has been reinstated by the central government.
 Statement 1 is correct: Rajya Sabha enjoys certain special powers compared to Lok Sabha: Power to transfer a subject from the State List to Union List for a specified period (Article 249).
 Statement 2 is correct: Rajya Sabha enjoys certain special powers compared to Lok Sabha: To create additional All India Services (Article 312).
 Statement 3 is correct: Rajya Sabha enjoys certain special powers compared to Lok Sabha: To endorse Emergency under Article 352 for a limited period when the Lok Sabha remains dissolved.

4. **[ANS] c**
[SOL] Recently, the Indian Railways has announced the closure of the Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology and Holistic Advancement (SRESTHA).
 Statement 1 is correct: Indian Railways (IR) has the fourth-largest rail network in the world, behind only the US, China and Russia. It is a network of 70,000km, spanning 29 states, three Union territories and 8,500 stations.
 Statement 2 is correct: Sikkim is the only Northeastern state which is not connected to a rail network. NH10 is the only road that connects the state with the rest of the country. The new rail line will be from Sevoke in West Bengal to Rangpo in Sikkim, a distance of 45 km.

5. **[ANS] b**
[SOL] Recently, Discussions were on to link the e-Shram portal with the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.
 Statement 1 is not correct : The Ministry of Labour & Employment launched the eSHRAM portal for creating a National Database of Unorganised Workers (UWs) including construction workers, migrant workers, gig workers and platform workers, street vendors, domestic workers, agriculture workers, etc on 26th August 2021.
 Statements 2 and 3 are correct : eSHRAM portal seeded with Aadhaar will be used to deliver all the social security benefits of the Central and State Governments for the unorganised workers.
 - All eligible registered workers on eSHRAM portal get an Accidental Insurance cover of 2 Lacs under PMSBY from the date of issue of policy.
 - It would allow the workers to get the direct benefit transfer (DBT) through the e-Shram unique

ID number.

6. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, The State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2022 report has been released by The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Option d is correct: It is a specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

- The goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
- With 195 members: 194 countries and the European Union, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.

7. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Ukraine war casts shadow over Transnistria as security alerts sow fear.

Statement 1 is not correct : Transnistria lies between Moldova to its west and Ukraine towards its east.

- Often described as a “remnant of the Soviet Union”
- It declared independence like Moldova did soon after the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : Transnistria is not recognised as independent even by Russia and its economy is dependent on Russia for subsidies and free gas.

- Most Transnistrians have dual citizenship of Russia and Transnistria or triple citizenship of Moldova, Transnistria, and Russia.
- Unlike the rest of Moldova, which speaks Romanian, the majority of people in Transnistria speak Russian and use the Cyrillic script like Russians.
- It has its own government (which is pro-Russian), Parliament, armed force, constitution, flag, anthem, etc.

8. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced the end of operations of its observatory Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) mission.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : SOFIA is a joint program between NASA and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), and is a telescope capable of making observations from onboard an aeroplane.

- It is a 2.7-meter infrared telescope sitting inside a Boeing 747SP aeroplane, flying at an altitude of 38,000-45,000 feet above the surface.
- It is globally unique and, with the start of regular operations in 2014.
 - It has been successfully used for scientific research during a total of approximately 800 flights.
- It was designed to observe cosmic objects in far-infrared wavelengths.
 - This allows researchers to watch star formation by looking through huge, cold clouds of gas
 - The project has generated 309 scientific studies.
 - In 2020, SOFIA discovered water molecules (H₂O) on the sun-facing side of the Moon.
 - In 2019, SOFIA also discovered helium hydride — the first molecule formed in the Universe almost 14 billion years ago.
 - SOFIA also identified atmospheric circulation patterns in Jupiter.
 - It also mapped the magnetic field within G47, one of the Milky Way's spiral arms.

9. [ANS] d

[SOL] It is argued that India is at an inflection point vis-a-vis Centre-State relations owing to increasing asymmetry.

Statement 1 is not correct: The preamble does not mention India as a Federal state.

Statement 2 is not correct: Article 1 of the Indian Constitution states, 'India, that is Bharat, shall be a union of states'. The word federation is not mentioned in the constitution. This means India is a union comprising of various states which are an integral part of it. Here, the states cannot break away from the union.

10. [ANS] c

[SOL] The recent remarks by a Hindi actor to the effect that Hindi is the national language of India sparked a controversy over the status of the language under the Constitution.

Languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule

1-অসমীয়া (Assamese)	2-বেঙ্গালি (Bengali)	3-ગુજરાતી (Gujarathi)	12-ଓଡ଼ିଆ (Oriya)	13-ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)	14-संस्कृतम् (Sanskrit)
4-हिंदी (Hindi)	5-ಕನ್ನಡ (Kannada)	6-کَاشْمِیَرِی (Kashmiri)	15-سنڌي (Sindhi)	16-தமிழ் (Tamil)	17-తెలుగు (Telugu)
7-कोंकणी (Konkani)	8-മലയാളം (Malayalam)		18-اردو (Urdu)	19-बड़ो (Bodo)	20-সাঁওতালি (Santali)
9-মৈতৈলোন্ (Manipuri)	10-मराठी (Marathi)	11-नेपाली (Nepali)	21-मैथिली, मथिली (Maithili)	22-डोगरी (dogri)	

Classical Languages

• Currently, six languages enjoy the 'Classical' status:

- Tamil (declared in 2004),
- Sanskrit (2005),
- Kannada (2008),
- Telugu (2008),
- Malayalam (2013), and
- Odia (2014).

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

11. [ANS] a

[SOL] According to the latest available data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for 2020, about 76% of all prison inmates in the country were undertrials, of which about 68% were either illiterate or school dropouts.

Statement 1 is correct : Prisons/'persons detained therein' is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Statement 2 is not correct : Administration and management of prisons is the responsibility of respective State Governments.

• However, the Ministry of Home Affairs provides regular guidance and advice to States and UTs on various issues concerning prisons and prison inmates.

12. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, French company Naval Group announced that it is unable to participate in India's P-75I project due to conditions mentioned in the request for proposal (RFP) related to the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct :

• AIP is a mechanism that allows the batteries to be charged even while the boat is submerged.

- However, even with AIP, the submarine needs to surface every three weeks or so.
- It offers the possibility of increasing underwater endurance by a factor of up to 3 or 4, which reduces the indiscretion ratio significantly”.
- It has a force multiplier effect on lethality of a diesel electric submarine as it enhances the submerged endurance of the boat several fold.
 - Fuel cell-based AIP has merits in performance compared to other technologies.
- It helps to make the diesel generator less dependent on surface air.
- India has been working to develop AIP technology indigenously as well.
 - There are different types of AIP mechanisms available and India is looking for the P-75I project is AIP based on fuel cells.
 - These cells convert chemical energy into electrical energy, recharging the batteries of the submarine.

13. [ANS] a

[SOL] In the absence of statehood for Delhi, there has been a prolonged confrontation on the relative powers of the elected government and the Lieutenant Governor/ Union government.

Doctrine of purposive construction:

- It is the modern version of mischief rule. It is actually more flexible compared to literal rule and golden rule which tends to concentrate more on the meaning of individual words or phrases. This looks for the purpose of the law.
- This rule allows judges to add or ignore any of the words in the statute while interpreting in order to protect the purpose of creating that law and give fair and equal justice to everyone.

14. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Central government sought more time to file a reply in plea challenging constitutional validity of the sedition charge under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Statement 1 is not correct: Sedition is a non-bailable, cognizable offence, which can invite imprisonment upto three years, or for life, and a fine as imposed by the court in session. Statement 2 is correct: Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which deals with sedition, was drafted by Thomas Babington Macaulay and included in the IPC in 1870. It defines Sedition as every speech or expression that “brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India”.

15. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, India and Denmark agreed to further strengthen the Green Strategic Partnership with a focus on green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management.

Option d is correct: India and Denmark both have ambitious goals within the climate agenda.

- India is the world’s third largest CO₂ emitter and by 2030, the country is expected to have doubled its carbon emissions.
- Denmark has an ambition to reduce CO₂ emissions by 70 per cent by 2030 and aims to undertake international leadership on SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy.
- By partnering, India and Denmark will demonstrate to the world that delivering on ambitious climate and sustainable energy goals is possible.
- The Green Strategic partnership builds on and consolidates the existing agreement establishing a Joint Commission for Cooperation between India and Denmark.
- Joint action plan for five years from 2021 to 2026 for the implementation of the "green strategic partnership that was firmed up.

16. [ANS] d

[SOL] Bhopal, Surat, Bhubaneswar, Udaipur, Ahmedabad, Varanasi and Indore are set to be declared India’s ‘first set of smart cities’.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : Smart Cities Mission (SCM) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2015.

- It will cover 100 cities and is being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and all state and union territory (UT) governments.
 - Of the 100 cities, the seven have taken a lead with most projects completed. Bhopal has completed 92% projects, Surat 82.44%, Udaipur 78%, Bhubaneswar 76%, Indore, Varanasi and Ahmedabad 70%.
- It aims to 'smarten up' cities with eco-friendly hi-tech solutions to urban problems.
 - The mission period ends in June 2023.

17. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Defence Ministry introduced a portal, System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH), to directly transfer pensions to pensioners. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Defence which aims at providing a comprehensive solution to the administration of pension to the defence pensioners in line with the vision of the government of India of Digital India, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and "Minimal Government, Maximum Governance".

- It is established with the objective of empowering a Defence Pensioner with regard to his pension account.
- It will initially cater to the new retirees on roll out and subsequently be extended to cover the existing defence pensioners.

18. [ANS] a

[SOL] Election Commission sent notice to Jharkhand C.M for allotment of mining lease to himself over Office-of-Profit charge.

Statement 1 is not correct: The office of profit has been interpreted as a position that brings to the office-holder some financial gain, remuneration or benefit. The amount of such profit is immaterial. The intent is to avoid the conflict of interests between the duties and interests of an elected member. The constitution does not explicitly define the phrase. However, it has evolved over decades with subsequent judicial pronouncements.

- whether the government is the appointing authority
- whether the government has the power to terminate the appointment
- whether the government determines the remuneration
- what is the source of remuneration
- the power that comes with the position.

Statement 2 is correct: Provisions of Articles 102(1)(e) and 191(1)(e) also protect a legislator occupying a government position if the office in question has been made immune to disqualification by law.

- Article 102 (1): A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as a member of either House of Parliament if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder.
- Article 191 (1): A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State specified in the First Schedule, other than an office declared by the Legislature of the State by law not to disqualify its holder.

19. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, experts stated that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s star ratings for food products may mislead consumers.

Statement 1 is correct: The rating will be the first such in India, a country burdened with lifestyle diseases. It aims at guiding consumers to opt for healthy food.

Statement 2 is correct: It rates the overall nutritional profile of packaged food and assigns it a rating from half a star to five stars. The decision was based on an Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Ahmedabad study commissioned by the FSSAI.

Statement 3 is correct: The Health Star Rating (HSR) format ranks a packaged food item based on salt, sugar and fat content and the rating will be printed on the front of the package.

20. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) commenced the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure 2022.

Statement 1 is correct: India initiated CDRI as a global partnership of 27 countries in 2019. It launched a programme to help small island states develop resilience to climate crises at the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November.

Statement 2 is correct: CDRI works on infrastructure and not disaster risk management in general. While CDRI is closely tracking the impact of heatwaves and other extreme events on infrastructure systems, it is not specifically looking at mortality alone. CDRI is working on a range of things in India including:

- Resilience of power systems to extreme temperatures and extreme events, extreme rainfall, etc.
- In multiple sectors, CDRI is looking at how to engage different states in making them disaster and climate-resilient.
- It is monitoring disasters like the heat waves in India.

21. [ANS] a

[SOL] Jog Falls project suffers setback as Centre asks Karnataka about impact assessment.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : Jog Falls is created by the Sharavathi River falling from a height of 253 m (830 ft), making it the second-highest plunge waterfall in India.

- It is also called by alternative names of Gerusoppa falls, Gersoppa Falls and Jogada Gundi.

Statement 3 is not correct : Located near Sagara, Shimoga District of Karnataka state.

22. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Kerala health department identified Shigella bacteria as the cause for the food poisoning incident in Kasaragod.

Shigella is a bacterium that belongs to the enterobacter family -- a group of bacteria that reside in the intestine, not all of which cause disease in humans.

- It cause an infection called shigellosis
- It mainly affects the intestine and results in diarrhoea, sometimes bloody, stomach pain, and fever.
- There are four types of Shigella bacteria that affect humans.
 - These are Shigella sonnei, Shigella flexneri, Shigella boydii, and Shigella dysenteriae.
 - The fourth type causes the most severe disease because of the toxin it produces.
- It is a food- and water-borne infection, and can happen when someone consumes contaminated food.

23. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Supreme Court Collegium led by the Chief Justice of India has recommended two names for appointment as apex court judges.

Statement 1 is not correct: There is no such law or constitutional provision that mentions or defines the collegium system.

Statement 2 is correct: In The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association Vs Union of India, 1993, a nine-judge Constitution Bench overruled the decision and devised a specific procedure called 'Collegium System' for the appointment and transfer of judges in the higher judiciary.

24. [ANS] a

[SOL] Option A is correct: In simple terms, the current account measures the flow of goods, services, and investments into and out of the country. It represents a country's foreign transactions and, like the capital account, is a component of a country's Balance of Payments (BOP). The Current Account Deficit (CAD) is the shortfall between the money flowing in on exports, and the money flowing out on imports. Current Account Deficit and Fiscal Deficit (also known as "budget deficit" is a situation when a nation's expenditure exceeds its revenues) are together known as twin deficits and both often reinforce each other, i.e., a high fiscal deficit leads to higher CAD and vice versa.

25. [ANS] c

[SOL] The commission set up by the Union Government submitted its final report for the delimitation of Assembly and parliamentary constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir.

Statement 1 is not correct: Delimitation is the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body for electoral purposes. The job of delimitation is assigned to the Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission.

- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India includes following members:
 - Retired Supreme Court judge
 - Chief Election Commissioner
 - Respective State Election Commissioners.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Delimitation Commission in India is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law.

- Its orders cannot be called in question before any court.
- These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India on this behalf.

26. [ANS] c

[SOL] Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working on an orbiter mission to Planet Venus.

Option c is correct: Venus is Earth's closest planetary neighbour which is similar in structure but slightly smaller than Earth, it is the second planet from the sun. Thus, Venus has been called Earth's twin.

- Venus is wrapped in a thick, toxic atmosphere filled with carbon dioxide that traps in heat.
- The temperature of Venus is too high, and its atmosphere is highly acidic, just two of the things that would make life impossible.
- Surface temperatures reach a scorching 880 degrees Fahrenheit (471 degrees Celsius), hot enough to melt lead.
- It has no moons and no rings.
- It spins from east to west, the opposite direction from all other planets in our solar system but the same as Uranus.
- Venus' solid surface is a volcanic landscape covered with extensive plains featuring high volcanic mountains and vast ridges.

27. [ANS] c

[SOL] Birth anniversary of India's first Nobel Award winner Rabindranath Tagore was observed recently.

Rabindranath Tagore was born on 7 May 1861 to Debendranath Tagore and Sarada Devi in Kolkata (Calcutta).

- He is popularly known as 'Gurudev'.
- He was primarily known as a writer, poet, playwright, philosopher and aesthetician, music composer, choreographer, and painter.

- He was influenced by the classical poetry of Kalidasa and started writing his own classical poems.
- He released his first collection of poems under the pen name 'Bhanusimha' at 16 years of age.
- He published several books of poetry in the 1880s and completed Manasi (1890), a collection that marks the maturing of his genius.
- He wrote the National Anthems of India and Bangladesh.
- He wrote the song Banglar Mati Banglar Jol (Soil of Bengal, Water of Bengal) to unite the Bengali population after the Bengal partition in 1905.
- He also wrote the famed 'Amar Sonar Bangla' which helped ignite a feeling of nationalism amongst people.
- In 1913, he became the first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel 'Geetanjali'

28. [ANS] a

[SOL] The Supreme Court said it will look into the issue of "sealed cover jurisprudence" which is adopted by government and prosecuting agencies by handing over "confidential" documents to the court in a sealed cover.

Statement 1 is correct but statement 2 is not correct : Sealed cover jurisprudence is a practice used by the Supreme Court and sometimes lower courts, of asking for or accepting information from government agencies in sealed envelopes that can only be accessed by judges. While a specific law does not define the doctrine of sealed cover, the Supreme Court derives its power to use it from Rule 7 of order XIII of the Supreme Court Rules and Section 123 of the Indian Evidence Act of 1872.

29. [ANS] b

[SOL] Besides France, five Nordic countries comprising Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden have affirmed their support for India's permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Option b is correct: Uniting for Consensus (UfC), nicknamed the Coffee Club, is a movement that developed in the 1990s in opposition to the possible expansion of permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council.

- Under the leadership of Italy, it aims to counter the bids for permanent seats proposed by G4 nations (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) and is calling for a consensus before any decision is reached on the form and size of the Security Council.
- It is an informal group comprising 40-odd member states, mostly middle-sized states who oppose bigger regional powers grabbing permanent seats, has been instrumental in holding back reforms to the United Nations Security Council over the past six years.

30. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Sea surface with a temperature higher than 27° C provides a continuous source of water to the storm leading to formation and intensification of tropical cyclone storms.

Statement 2 is correct: Coriolis force is formed due to the rotation of the Earth on its axis. It deflects bodies towards their right in the Northern hemisphere and towards their left in the Southern hemisphere. Coriolis force provides circular movement to the cyclone.

Statement 3 is not correct: Small differences in the vertical wind speed is required for formation and intensification of tropical cyclone storms.

Statement 4 is not correct: Cyclones are characterised by a low pressure area at the Centre, which is called the Eye of the Cyclone. Therefore, a pre-existing low pressure area is conducive to the formation of a cyclone.

31. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News: PM paid tributes to Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his birth anniversary.

Option b is correct: Gokhale founded the Servants of India Society(SIS) in Maharashtra's Pune on June 12, 1905. The SIS launched campaigns for the promotion of education, health care and sanitation. It also made efforts to eradicate social evils such as untouchability and oppression of women. He started an English weekly newspaper, The Hitavada (The people's paper). He was a mentor to both Mahatma Gandhi and Mohammed Ali Jinnah. Gandhi Ji, in his autobiography, described Gokhale as "pure as crystal, gentle as a lamb, brave as a lion and chivalrous to a fault and the most perfect man in the political field."

- Similarly, Jinnah was so inspired by Gokhale that his aspiration, during the early years of his political life, was to become a "Muslim Gokhale".

32. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Vice President of India called for renewed thrust to implement reforms in police forces.

Statement 1 is correct: The Indian Police Service (IPS) constituted under Article 312 of the Constitution of India, is one of the three All India services, the other two being the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Forest Service (IFS).

Statement 2 is correct: The Indian Police Service (IPS) replaced the Indian (Imperial) Police in 1948, a year after India's Independence.

33. [ANS] c

[SOL] The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced a total budget of Rs 597 Crore towards large scale preservation of films under the National Film Heritage Mission.

Both the statements are not correct: The National Film Heritage Mission is an important initiative to preserve and conserve the country's cinematic heritage.

- Launch year: It was launched by the Information & Broadcasting Ministry in the year 2016.
- Nodal Agency: National Film Archive of India (NFAI) is the nodal organization for the implementation of this project.
- Objectives:
 - Undertake film condition assessment
 - Preventive conservation of around 150,000 film reels
 - Digitization of around 3500 films, picture
 - Sound restoration of around 2000 landmark films of Indian cinema
 - Construction of Preservation and Conservation facilities (vaults), training and workshops
 - Creating a comprehensive Web-based End to End IT solution.

National Film Archive of India (NFAI)

- Established in 1964 under the aegis of the I&B Ministry, the National Film Archive of India aims to trace, acquire and preserve the heritage of national cinema and a representative collection of world cinema.

34. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: India and Pakistan were made members in 2017.

Statement 2 is not correct: Turkmenistan is not a party to SCO.

Statement 3 is not correct: The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.

- It currently has 8 members with the latest being India and Pakistan who were made members in 2017. Note: Turkmenistan is not a party to SCO.

35. [ANS] a
[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: An Electoral Bond is like a promissory note that may be purchased by a person who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India.
Statement 2 is not correct: One can purchase these bonds only digitally or through cheques. As of now, only SBI is authorised to issue the Electoral Bonds.
Statement 3 is not correct: Only the Political Parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 (43 of 1951) and which secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, shall be eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds.
36. [ANS] b
[SOL] In Context: The La Nina is being blamed this year for worsening the longest spell of heat waves in north, west and Central India.
Statement 1 is not correct: El-Nino: It leads to warming in surface temperature of the eastern Pacific Ocean region. This is associated with an increase in rainfall along the western coast of South America and a decrease in rainfall over the Indian subcontinent. It also leads to westerly winds, instead of the generally occurring easterly winds.
Statement 2 is correct: La-Nina: It is the reverse phenomenon of El-Nino. The temperatures over the eastern Pacific Ocean increases, along with a decrease in rainfall. Also, the rainfall over the Indian subcontinent increases, along with augmentation of the strength of surface-level easterly winds.
El-Nino causes higher temperatures and lesser rainfall over the Indian subcontinent, during the monsoon season. On the other hand, la-Nina increases the rainfall and decreases the temperature. Therefore, it is the La-Nina which is (ironically!) much warmly welcomed in the Indian subcontinent.
While El-Nino leads to drought events in the subcontinent, La-Nina is primarily associated with flood events. These disasters affect the socio-economic status of the affected communities.
37. [ANS] a
[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: It was fought in the year 1576 between Maharana Pratap and Mughal forces led by Raja Man Singh of Amber (general of the Mughal emperor Akbar). Maharana Pratap bravely fought the war but eventually lost it. According to some mythological texts, Chetak who was Maharana Pratap's loyal horse, also gave up his life when Maharana Pratap was leaving the battlefield. Maharana re-gathered his forces, fought and won against the Mughals after six years in 1582.
Statement 2 is not correct: After the battle, Maharana Pratap able to make a successful escape, the battle failed to break the deadlock between the two powers. Subsequently, Akbar led a sustained campaign against the Rana, and soon, Goganda, Udaipur, and Kumbhalgarh were all under Akbar's control.
38. [ANS] c
[SOL] Recently, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), conducted a webinar on "Export Promotion of Tissue Culture Plants such as Foliage, Live Plants, Cut Flowers, and Planting Material".
Statement 1 is correct: Plant tissue culture is defined as culturing plant seeds, organs, explants, tissues, cells, or protoplasts on a chemically defined synthetic nutrient media under sterile and controlled conditions of light, temperature, and humidity.
Statement 2 is correct: The top ten countries importing tissue culture plants from India are the Netherlands, USA, Italy, Australia, Canada, Japan, Kenya, Senegal, Ethiopia and Nepal. In 2020-2021, India's exports of tissue culture plants stood at US\$17.17 million, with the Netherlands accounting for around 50% of the shipments.

39. [ANS] c
[SOL] Recently, the Prime Minister of India paid homage to all those who were part of the events of 1857.
Place — Leadership
1. Faizabad — Maulvi Ahmadullah
2. Bijnor — Mohammad Khan
3. Moradabad — Abdul Ali Khan
4. Mandsaur — Firoz Shah
Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.
40. [ANS] b
[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The concept of Judicial Activism came up in the United States of America (USA).
Statement 2 is correct: It was introduced in India in the mid 1970s. Justice V R Krishna Iyer, Justice P N Bhagwati, Justice O Chinnappa Reddy and Justice D A Desai laid the foundations of judicial activism in the country.
41. [ANS] c
[SOL] The State of the World's Birds, which is an annual review of environmental resources, has been released recently.
 - Birdlife International is a global partnership of non-governmental organizations that strives to conserve birds and their habitats.
 - It was founded in 1922 as the International Council for Bird Protection.
 - The group was renamed International Committee for Bird Preservation in 1928, International Council for Bird Preservation in 1960, and BirdLife International in 1993.
 - BirdLife International has identified 13,000 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas and is the official International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List authority for birds.
Objectives:
 - Preventing the extinction of bird species
 - Identifying and safeguarding important sites for birds
 - Maintaining and restoring key bird habitats
 - Empowering conservationists worldwide.
It publishes a quarterly magazine, BirdLife: The Magazine, which contains recent news and authoritative articles about birds and their conservation in addition to 'The State of the World's Birds' Report which is annual.
42. [ANS] c
[SOL] The Government of India is working to bring in more stringent norms for social media platforms.
Statement 1 is correct: The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 call for a Grievance Redressal Officer to resolve the grievances of the user. The details of such an officer need to be posted on the social media website. Any grievance raised by a user needs to be acknowledged within 24 hours and should be resolved within a period of 15 days from the date of receipt of the complaint.
Statement 2 is correct: The Supreme Court in a suo motu writ petition (Prajwala case), in its order dated 11/12/2018, had observed that the Government of India may frame necessary guidelines to eliminate child pornography, rape and gang-rape imageries, videos and sites in content-hosting platforms and other applications.

43. [ANS] d
[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: National Livestock Mission (NLM) launched in 2014-15
Statement 2 is correct: It seeks to ensure quantitative and qualitative improvement in livestock production systems and capacity building of all stakeholders.
Statement 3 is correct: The scheme is being implemented as a sub-scheme of White Revolution - Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana from April 2019.
44. [ANS] d
[SOL] Somnath Temple:
 - It is the first among the 12 Jyotirlingas which are symbolic representations of Lord Shiva.
 - Located at the Veraval Port or Prabhas Pattan in Saurashtra, Gujarat, the present temple is built in the Chalukyan style.
 - This Architecture is also known as the “Kailash Mahameru Prasad” style.
 - It reflects the skill of the SompuraSalats, one of Gujarat’s master masons.
 - Raids
 - In AD 1026, Mahmud of Ghazni first looted the temple, and then came Afzal Khan, the commander of Ala-ud-din Khilji and later Aurangzeb.
 - It is said that the temple was looted and destroyed as many as seventeen times.
 - Post Modern History
 - The Iron man of India, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel was instrumental in the construction of the present temple.
 - The first President of India Dr Rajendra Prasad installed the Jyotirling in the new temple on May 11, 1951.
45. [ANS] d
[SOL] Land degradation within dryland regions (arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions) is termed as ‘desertification’.
Reasons for Land Degradation are as following:
 - Loss of Fertility by Mismanagement
 - Soil Erosion
 - Salinity/Alkalinity
 - Waterlogging
 - Floods and Droughts
46. [ANS] b
[SOL] Recently, the centre claimed that the President and not the Tamil Nadu Governor has exclusive power to decide Rajiv Gandhi's assassination convict A.G. Perarivalan's plea for pardon. Option b is correct: Court Martial: The power of the President to grant pardon extends in cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial but Article 161 does not provide any such power to the Governor.
 - Death sentence: The President can grant pardon in all cases where the sentence given is the sentence of death but the pardoning power of the Governor does not extend to death sentence cases.
 - The pardoning powers defined in the Constitution
 - Pardon: it means completely absolving the person of the crime and letting him go free. The pardoned criminal will be like a normal citizen.
 - Commutation: it means changing the type of punishment given to the guilty into a less harsh one, for example, a death penalty commuted to a life sentence.
 - Reprieve: it means a delay allowed in the execution of a sentence, usually a death sentence, for a guilty person to allow him some time to apply for Presidential Pardon or some other legal remedy to prove his innocence or successful rehabilitation.

- Respite: it means reducing the quantum or degree of the punishment to a criminal given some special circumstances, like pregnancy, mental condition etc.
- Remission: it means changing the quantum of the punishment without changing its nature, for example reducing twenty-year rigorous imprisonment to ten years.

47. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Delhi High Court delivered a split verdict in a batch of petitions challenging the exception provided to marital rape in the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Statement 1 is not correct: Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) defines rape as a criminal offence and states that a man commits rape if he has sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent or if she is a minor. However, according to Exception 2 to Section 375 “sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape.

Statement 2 is correct: This is the assumption that on marriage a woman gives consent held by her husband in perpetuity which she cannot retract. This concept in colonial-era law has roots in the antiquated idea that a woman is the property of her man.

48. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, NASA's InSight lander detected a quake on Mars, the largest ever observed on another planet.

Statement 1 is not correct: InSight, short for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport, is a Mars lander designed to give the Red Planet its first thorough checkup since it formed 4.5 billion years ago. It is the first outer space robotic explorer to study in-depth the "inner space" of Mars: its crust, mantle, and core.

Statement 2 is correct: This mission is part of NASA's Discovery Program for highly focused science missions that ask critical questions in solar system science.

49. [ANS] d

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

50. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq (Headquarters: Vienna, Austria) with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Statement 2 is correct: As of 2021, it has 13 member states. India is not a member of OPEC.

51. [ANS] c

[SOL] The Supreme Court noted that years of delay in conducting elections to over 23,000 local bodies in Madhya Pradesh shows the breakdown of the rule of law.

Statement 1 is correct: It's to be noted that the power of conducting elections to the Corporations, Municipalities, Zilla Parishads, District Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, Gram Panchayats and other local bodies is vested with the State Election Commissions (SECs).

Statement 2 is correct: SECs are independent of the Election Commission of India.

52. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, a Right to Information (RTI) application was filed to the three oil marketing firms to find out about the Ujjwala Scheme.

Statement 1 is not correct: The scheme provides LPG connections to women from Below Poverty

Line (BPL) households. Subsequently, the scheme was expanded in April 2018 to include women beneficiaries from seven more categories (SC/ST, PMAY, AAY, Most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers, Islands).

Statement 2 is not correct: Ujjwala Scheme is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

53. [ANS] d

[SOL] Option d is correct: Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice president of India shall be vested in the election commission. It also entails the provisions related to the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners.

- The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.
- The chief election commissioner and the two other election commissioners have equal powers and receive equal salaries, allowances and other perquisites, which are similar to those of a judge of the Supreme Court.
- Chief Election Commissioner can be removed by the president on the basis of a resolution passed to that effect by both the Houses of Parliament with the special majority, either on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. Thus, he does not hold his office till the pleasure of the president, though he is appointed by him.

54. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, Inflation faced by Indian consumers shot up to a nearly eight-year high of 7.8% from 6.95%.

How do we prevent inflation?

- Change the monetary policy: The primary strategy is to change the monetary policy by adjusting the interest rates. Higher interest rates decrease the demand in the economy. This results in lower economic growth and therefore, lowers inflation.
- Controlling the money supply can also help in preventing inflation.
- Higher Income Tax rate can reduce spending, and hence resulting in lesser demand and inflationary pressures.
- Introducing policies to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of the economy helps in reducing the long term costs.
- Invest in long-term investments: When it comes to long-term investments, spending money now for investments can allow you to benefit from inflation in the future.

55. [ANS] c

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

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

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

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

56. [ANS] b

[SOL] Carbon dating of findings of excavation in Tamil Nadu bring forth evidence of iron being used in India 4,200 years ago.

Option b is correct: Excavations at a small hamlet called Mayiladumparai which is in Tamil Nadu have pushed back the date since iron has been used in India.

It is linked to the Iron age and Neolithic ages.

57. [ANS] a
[SOL] Recently, public interest litigation (PIL) is under the consideration of the Supreme Court of India challenging the power of the Centre to notify minority communities at a national level. Statement 1 is correct: Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. Statement 2 is not correct: Naya Savera: Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates/students belonging to Minority Communities. Padho Pardesh: Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for the Student belonging to Minority Communities.
58. [ANS] b
[SOL] With prolonged heat waves, it becomes pertinent to learn about environmental philosophy that reinvent the relationship between nature and humans — shallow and deep ecologism. Statement 1 is not correct: Exponents of Shallow ecologism believe in continuing our present lifestyle, but with specific tweaks aimed at minimising the damage to the environment. Also known as weak ecologism, it may include the use of vehicles that cause less pollution or air conditioners that do not release chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). This branch of ecologism primarily serves to maintain the lifestyle of those dwelling in developed countries. Statement 2 is correct: Deep ecologism believes that humans should radically change their relationship with nature. Its proponents reject shallow ecologism for prioritising humans above other forms of life, and subsequently preserving the environmentally destructive way of life in modern societies. Deep ecologism maintains that by sustaining this lifestyle, shallow ecologism further widens the inequalities between countries.
59. [ANS] d
[SOL] Option d is correct: Reserve tranche is a portion of the required quota of currency each member country must provide to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that can be utilised for its own purposes.
 - The SDR (Special Drawing Rights) is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves. The SDR is neither a currency nor a claim on the IMF.
 - Initially, SDR was defined as equivalent to 0.888671 grams of fine gold, which at the time, was also equivalent to one U.S. dollar but after the collapse of the Bretton Woods system, the SDR was redefined as a basket of five currencies namely the U.S. dollar, the Euro, the Chinese Renminbi, the Japanese Yen, and the British Pound Sterling.
60. [ANS] c
[SOL] Option c is correct: There are many reasons for the formation of monsoons in India.
 - The presence of the high-pressure area, east of Madagascar, approximately at 20°S over the Indian Ocean. The intensity and position of this high-pressure area affects the Indian Monsoon.
 - The Tibetan plateau gets intensely heated during summer, which results in strong vertical air currents and the formation of low pressure over the plateau at about 9 km above sea level. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.
 - The movement of the westerly jet stream to the north of the Himalayas and the presence of the tropical easterly jet stream over the Indian peninsula during summer. Hence, statements 2 and 3 are correct.

Following are a few more reasons for the formation of monsoons in the Indian Subcontinent:
1. The differential heating and cooling of land and water creates low pressure on the landmass of India while the seas around experience comparatively high pressure.

2. The shift of the position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in summer, over the Ganga plain (this is the equatorial trough normally positioned about 5°N of the equator. It is also known as the monsoon trough during the monsoon season).

61. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: MGNREGA aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the Central Government bears 100 per cent of the cost of unskilled labour, 75 per cent of the cost of semi-skilled and skilled labour, 75 per cent of the cost of materials and 6 per cent of the administrative costs. Central Sector Schemes are entirely and directly funded and executed by the central government. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented by state governments with some help from the central government.

Statement 3 is correct: The Act mandates that at least one-third beneficiaries have to be women.

62. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Human Cell Atlas is an open global initiative, founded in 2016, that charts the cell types in the healthy body, across time from development to adulthood, and eventually to old age. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

- Atlas will facilitate the development of better drugs and more accurate predictions of unintended toxicity.
- It will also aid regenerative medicine — the process of replacing, engineering or regenerating human cells, tissues or organs to establish normal function. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

IndiGen Project

- This programme, an initiative of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR), is about undertaking whole genome sequencing of thousands of individuals representing diverse ethnic groups from India.
- It is an independent project of CSIR. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

63. [ANS] d

[SOL] Petitions by transgender persons draw attention to the discrimination they face in employment avenues.

Statement 1 and 2 are not correct: The Act does not say anything about granting reservations to transgender persons. There is no provision penalising rape or sexual assault of transgender person.

64. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, The IMF lifted the yuan's weighting in the Special Drawing Rights currency basket.

The 'Global Financial Stability Report' is prepared by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). International Monetary Fund was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

- IMF and the World Bank are also known as the Bretton Woods twins because both were agreed to be set up at a conference in Bretton Woods in the US.
- It is governed by and accountable to the 190 countries that make up its near-global membership.
 - India became a member in December 1945.
- Aim: To ensure the stability of the international monetary system (the system of exchange rates and international payments) which enables countries and their citizens) to transact with each other.
 - Its mandate was updated in 2012 to include all macroeconomic and financial sector issues

that bear on global stability.

- Financing: The IMF's resources mainly come from the money that countries pay as their capital subscription (quotas) when they become members.
 - Each member of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative position in the world economy.
 - Countries can then borrow from this pool when they fall into financial difficulty.
- Publications:
 - World Economic Outlook
 - Global Financial Stability Report
 - Fiscal Monitor
 - Global Policy Agenda

65. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: IMO is the United Nations specialized agency (not an Entity) with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.

Statement 2 is correct: India is a member state of IMO since 1959.

Statement 3 is correct: The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) convention was adopted at IMO to prevent and minimize pollution from ships - both accidental pollution and that from routine operations.

66. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Kerala government was slammed by the Supreme Court for doing “virtually nothing” for Endosulfan pesticide exposure victims.

Endosulfan is a pesticide and It does not occur naturally in the environment.

It is a cream- to brown-coloured solid that may appear in the form of crystals or flakes. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

It has a distinct odour similar to turpentine but it does not burn.

Endosulfan was used widely on crops like cashew, cotton, tea, paddy, fruits and others. The most important congenital anomalies are those associated with the brain, like mental retardation and also cerebral palsy. And this is due to the exposure of the parents of these children to endosulfan. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

67. [ANS] c

[SOL] The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Rajasthan was recently notified as India's 52nd tiger reserve.

Both the Statements are correct: This is Rajasthan's fourth tiger reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska and Mukundra.

- While Ramgarh doesn't have a high tiger population, it plays a critical role in the movement of tigers.
- The newly created tiger reserve will connect the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur district in the northeast with the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in the Kota district on the southern side.
- This reserve will also help control overpopulation and the consequent effect of overcrowding in Ranthambore.

68. [ANS] c

[SOL] India defeated the 14-time champions Indonesia to win the Thomas Cup for the first time. The tournament was held in Bangkok (Thailand).

Both the statements are not correct: It is also referred to as World Men's Team Championships, is an international badminton competition among teams representing member nations of the

Badminton World Federation (BWF), the sport's global governing body. The cup was donated in 1939 by Sir George Thomas for a series of men's international team competitions to be managed by the International Badminton Federation (IBF), of which Thomas was then president. It runs parallel with the Uber Cup, the global women's team championship. It was first held in 1948–1949 and it used to be once in a three-year event. The first tournament was held in 1948–49 and won by Malaya. The championship has been a biennial event since 1982. Just six nations lifted the Thomas Cup from 1948 to 1949. They are:

- Indonesia (14 victories)
- China (10 victories)
- Malaysia (5 victories)
- Japan (1 victory)
- Denmark (1 victory)
- India (1 victory)

69. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Seoul Declaration was adopted at the XV World Forestry Congress, held in Seoul, South Korea.

Seoul Declaration:

- Host: The five-day congress is hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- Period: It is held every six years.
- Aim: It aims to share worldwide forest-related and environmental problems, like climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification, and devise solutions through forests.
- Focus area: The Declaration focuses on identifying key areas that can help combat multiple crises humanity faces.
- Signatories: The Declaration is signed by 141 participant countries.
- Immediate need: There is a Need to triple investments for restoring degraded land by 2030.
 - Vast areas of degraded land across the globe require restoration.
 - For this, the investment in forest and landscape restoration globally must be tripled by 2030 to implement global commitments and meet internationally agreed goals and targets.

70. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, India has participated in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3).

Statement 1 is correct: The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction towards sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Arctic Council is not a treaty-based international legal entity like the UN bodies or trade, military or regional groupings like WTO, NATO or ASEAN. It is a much more informal grouping. It cannot and does not implement or enforce its guidelines, assessments or recommendations. That responsibility belongs to the individual Arctic States or international bodies.

Statement 3 is correct: Since 2013, India has enjoyed 'Observer' status in the Arctic Council with twelve other countries and it was renewed for another five-year term in 2018.

71. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Demonetisation is the act of stripping money of its legal tender status. A legal tender is a coin or note recognized by law as a means to settle a debt.

Statement 2 is not correct: An increase in the Cash Reserve ratio decreases the money multiplication in the market as the banks need to put more cash with them in reserve and the money moving into the market would be less naturally reducing its multiplication.

Cash Reserve Ratio: It is the percentage of money that banks need to have with them and not lend a loan so as to be ready for any unforeseen situations.

Statement 3 is not correct: A haircut is a difference between the loan amount and the actual value of the asset used as collateral. It reflects the lender's perception of the risk of a fall in the value of assets. In simple terms, taking a haircut means “agreeing to settle a deal for a loss” which means banks will settle for loss in a deal with the borrower when the borrower declares bankruptcy.

72. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : The Ministry of Defence launched two frontline warships of the Indian Navy – ‘Surat’ and ‘Udaygiri’ - at Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL).

Statement 1 is correct : ‘Surat’ is the fourth Guided Missile Destroyer of P15B class, while ‘Udaygiri’ is the second Stealth Frigate of P17A class.

Statement 2 is not correct : Both warships have been designed in-house by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built at MDL, Mumbai.

- The two warships will add might to the Indian Navy’s arsenal and represent to the world India’s strategic strength as well as the power of self-reliance.
- They are shining examples of India’s growing indigenous capability.
- The warships will be among the most technologically advanced missile carriers in the world that will cater to the present as well as future requirements.

73. [ANS] b

[SOL] Option b is correct: It is a variety of wheat that received GI certification in 2011.

- It has high protein content and is sweet in taste. The crop is grown mostly across the Bhal region of Gujarat which includes Ahmedabad, Anand, Kheda, Bhavanagar, Surendranagar, Bharuch districts. This variety is grown in rainfed conditions without irrigation.

74. [ANS] a

[SOL]

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

Statement 2 is not correct: The main difference between symptoms of smallpox and monkeypox is that the latter causes lymph nodes to swell (lymphadenopathy) while smallpox does not.

75. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: ‘Fostering Effective Energy Transition’ is a report released by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The 2022 report has called for urgent action by both private and public sectors to ensure a resilient energy transition.

Statement 2 is correct: The report builds on the trends from the Energy Transition Index to provide recommendations on how to navigate the transition through a turbulent macroeconomic and geopolitical environment.

76. [ANS] b

[SOL] United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) recently presented the Drought in Numbers, 2022 report at the 15th Conference of Parties (CoP15). Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

- 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) is currently underway in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.
 - The UNCCD’s 197 parties, which include 196 member States as well as the European Union are the part of the conference.
- The COP15 theme, ‘Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity’, is a call to action to ensure land, the lifeline on this planet, continues to benefit present and future generations. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

77. [ANS] c
[SOL] In News : Scientists have long assumed that Southeast Asia was once home to Denisovans
- The first physical evidence been verified recently
 - The wisdom tooth of a child, most likely a girl, was discovered in a cave in Laos, where it was likely deposited 13,000 to 16,000 years ago.
 - The Denisovans, an extinct group of archaic humans first discovered in a Siberian cave in 2008, were found outside of northern Asia too.
 - Denisovans are ancient cousins of modern humans about whom much remains to be known.
 - They lived lakhs of years ago, coexisting with Neanderthals in some regions, and interbreeding with early modern humans in some cases.
78. [ANS] c
[SOL] Recently, the Institute for Competitiveness released a report titled “The State of Inequality in India”.
- Option c is correct: World Inequality Report is a report by the World Inequality Lab at the Paris School of Economics that provides estimates of global income and wealth inequality based on the most recent findings compiled by the World Inequality Database (WID).
- Government policies bias and favour the rich which leads to a wider gap between the rich and the poor and this gap rapidly widening.
 - The wealthiest 10% of the world's population has more than 50% of the world's income.
 - While lower income groups which constituted around 50% of the population own only 2% of the world's wealth.
 - Inequality increases not only between rich and poor but the gap between rich and poor countries also widens.
79. [ANS] d
[SOL]
- Statement 1 is not correct: The government has decided to raise the ethanol target level in petrol upto 20 percent from current 10 percent level by 2025.
- Statement 2 is not correct: The higher blending percent will save ₹30,000 crore of foreign exchange per year as per NITI Aayog.
80. [ANS] c
[SOL] A team of scientists at the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos) has standardised the techniques for artificial breeding of Olive barbs (Kuruva Paral) and Filament barb (Kalakkodiyam)
- Statements 1 and 2 are correct : Filament barb is a common fish found inhabiting a whole array of habitats, both in the hill streams and streams of the lowlands and wetlands.
- It occurs in lowland, upper and middle reaches of rivers and also in estuaries, reservoirs and marshes.
 - It is widely distributed across peninsular India, in the east flowing Cauvery, Krishna and Tamiraparani rivers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and throughout the west flowing coastal floodplain rivers of Kerala, Karnataka and Goa. IUCN red list classifies them as Least Concern.
81. [ANS] d
[SOL] According to the Places of worship Act no person can convert any place of worship of any religious denomination or any section into a place of worship of a different section of the same religious denomination or of a different religious denomination or any section.
- Exemptions to the Act:
 - If any place of worship is disputed, in August 1947, or is pending in court will be exempted

from the provisions of this act and no suit shall lie in any court with respect to the conversion of the religious character of a place of worship, as existing on that date. Hence option 3 is correct.

- The act stipulates that it shall not apply to the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case, and to any suit, appeal or proceeding relating to it. Hence option 1 is correct.
 - Hence it was not taken into consideration during the Supreme Court's verdict back in 2019.
- It also exempts any places of worship that qualify as ancient and historical monuments, archaeological sites, or remains covered under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958. Hence option 2 is correct.

82. [ANS] a

[SOL] Point 1 is correct: Rising import costs and a growing current account deficit have been key reasons for the weakening of the rupee. India's merchandise trade deficit widened to \$20.1 billion in April.

Point 2 is correct: Oil and other imported components will get costlier, which will further lead to even higher inflation. India imports nearly 80% of its fuel requirements.

Point 3 is not correct: The US Federal Reserve's decision to tighten the monetary policy and hike interest rates has led foreign portfolio investors (FPI) to pull out Rs 168,000 crore since January 2022.

Point 4 is not correct: A strong dollar is good for export-oriented companies, but bad for import-oriented industries like oil, gas and chemicals. It is also bad for companies which pay foreign companies royalties for franchises in India. Exporters may benefit as the depreciation in currency improves the competitiveness of Indian goods and services. However, since most of the competing currencies are also depreciating against the US dollar, the benefit could be limited.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

83. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Supreme Court allowed local body elections in Madhya Pradesh with reservation for OBCs on the basis of a second report filed by the state backward classes commission.

Statement 1 is correct: In Indira Sawhney vs Union of India (1992), the Supreme Court had upheld the 50-percent ceiling on reservations, thereby limiting states' powers. The nine-judge Bench in the case also established factors such as caste, social status, and income to ascertain backwardness. The Bench also introduced the concept of the 'creamy layer' to exclude more wealthy individuals from seeking the benefit of reservations.

Statement 2 is correct: There is no reservation for OBCs in Lakshadweep, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh due to the absence of any citizens belonging to OBC communities.

Statement 3 is correct: For OBC communities, there are no separate political reservations in State legislatures or local bodies.

84. [ANS] a

[SOL] Option a is correct: Recently, the Government flagged a low score in the World Bank's governance index.

- The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project reports aggregate and individual governance indicators for over 200 countries and territories over the period 1996–2020, for six dimensions of governance:
 - Voice and Accountability
 - Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism
 - Government Effectiveness
 - Regulatory Quality

- Rule of Law
- Control of Corruption
- These aggregate indicators combine the views of a large number of enterprise, citizen and expert survey respondents in industrial and developing countries. They are based on over 30 individual data sources produced by a variety of survey institutes, think tanks, non-governmental organisations, international organisations, and private sector firms.

85. [ANS] d

[SOL]

Statement 1 is not correct: BRICS+ was first mooted by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in 2017 with the objective of widening the ambit of BRICS that can bring unity among developing countries and enhance South-South cooperation.

Statement 2 is not correct: It's not a permanent arrangement under BRICS.

86. [ANS] b

[SOL] Context

Recently, Armenia has been witnessing growing anti-government protests against possible concessions over the Nagorno-Karabakh territory, disputed with neighbouring Azerbaijan.

Explanation

- The great historic barrier of the Caucasus Mountains rises up across the wide isthmus separating the Black Sea (west) and the Caspian Sea (east) in the region where Europe and Asia converge.
- The Caucasus mountain region is occupied by Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.



87. [ANS] b

[SOL] Context

Recently, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that two bridges built by China in the Pangong area which have been under the illegal occupation of China since the 1960s.

Statement 1 is not correct: Pangong Tso is a long, narrow, brackish lake spanning the Indian/Chinese border, in a valley in the upper drainage basin of the Indus river, at the east end of the Karakoram Range.

Statement 2 is correct: Only the westernmost one-third of the lake lies in Indian territory. It is a chain of four interconnecting lakes, formed by natural damming of the valley. Five rivers fed by perennial springs and snowmelt flow into the Indian portion of the lake. The runoff from the west end of the lake flows northwest into the Shyok river, a tributary of the Indus.

Statement 3 is not correct: Due to its extreme salinity, Pangong Tso does not have any vegetation in the deeper parts, but at the margins and marshy areas, typical, steppe vegetation is seen. Sedges and grasses are found towards the northern and eastern sides. The surrounding plateau and hills support low thorn scrub and perennial herbs.

88. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : The U.S President is set to launch IPEF to boost its economic presence in the Indo-Pacific region during the upcoming QUAD summit.

Statement 1 is not correct: It is an initiative of the USA to expand ties with key Indo-Pacific economies through robust supply chains excluding China.

Statement 2 is not correct: Unlike traditional trading blocks, it primarily focuses on supply chain arrangements and not on providing market access or lowering tariffs. The IPEF, unlike FTA, is more of a tailor-made mechanism that seeks the benefits of trade partnerships while insulating Americans from the downsides of trade liberalisation.

- Unlike FTAs, it does not include market access commitments such as lowering tariff barriers, as the agreement is more of an administrative arrangement.

89. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News - Recently, the centre said that India has reported highest FDI inflow worth \$83 billion in 2021-2022.]

- In the Financial Year 2021-22 it touched a highest ever figure of \$83.57 billion.
 - FDI increased by around 22% post-Covid from 2020 to 2022 at \$171.84 billion, in comparison to the inflows of \$141.10 billion reported pre-Covid from 2018 to 2020.
- Sector that received highest FDI: Computer software and hardware emerged as the top recipient sector of FDI equity inflows with an around 25% share, followed by the services and automobile sectors, both at 12%.
 - FDI equity inflows in manufacturing rose 76% in FY22.
- State specific data: The major recipient States of FDI equity inflows were Karnataka 53%, Delhi 17%, and Maharashtra 17%.
- Country specific data: Singapore was the topmost investor in India accounting for 27% of the FDI, followed by the US at 18% and Mauritius at 16%.
- Significance: India is rapidly emerging as a preferred country for foreign investments in the manufacturing sector.
 - The country's foreign investment inflows increased 20-fold since the financial year 2003-04 when it recorded mere \$4.3 billion.
- Parliament had passed the Insurance Amendment Bill 2021 to increase the FDI limit in the insurance sector to 74% from 49%.

90. [ANS] a
 [SOL] In News :The National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, under Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT) organised a National workshop on Sowa-Rigpa for the Sowa-Rigpa practitioners from North Eastern States .
 Statement 1 is correct : The Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine is one of the oldest surviving and well-documented medical traditions of the world with a history of more than 2500 years.
 Statement 2 is not correct : It is also popularly known as Amchi and popularly practised in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Darjeeling.
91. [ANS] d
 [SOL] Raja Rammohan Roy worked as a moneylender in Calcutta, and from 1809 to 1814 and from 1809 to 1814 He served in the Revenue Department of the East India Company.
 He was bestowed with the title of Raja by Akbar II, the Mughal emperor.
 • Gopal Krishna Gokhale called him the ‘Father of Modern India’.
 • Several historians consider him one of the pioneers of the Indian Renaissance.
 Monotheism: Rammohan was a strong propagator of monotheistic ideas which he believed to be the fundamental principle of Vedanta philosophy.
 ■ He believed that monotheism lay at the core of all religious texts.
92. [ANS] c
 [SOL] Scientists have planned to use hyperaccumulator plants to remove toxic metals from soil using the phytoremediation process.
 Statement 1 is correct: Phytoremediation is a bioremediation process that uses living organisms like plants, microalgae and seaweeds to remove toxic heavy metals from the soil.
 It is a sustainable and eco-friendly technology compared to other technologies used in removing toxicity from the soil.
 Statement 2 is correct: The process can be used for faster removal of toxicity using hyperaccumulator plants that absorb these substances from the soil in more significant amounts.
93. [ANS] c
 [SOL] Recently, over eight dust storms have hit Iraq, turning the skies orange and disrupting lives. Climate change is blamed to be the driving force.
 Option c is correct: Shamal is a hot and dry, dusty wind from the north or northwest in Iraq, Iran, and the Arabian Peninsula.
 • In June and July it blows almost continuously, but usually under 50 km (about 30 miles) per hour.
 • The wind causes great dust storms, especially in July, when Baghdad may experience five or more such storms.
 • The shamal is part of a widespread flow toward a low-pressure centre over Pakistan.
 Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.
94. [ANS] c
 [SOL] Recently, the Union Minister launched a Single National Portal for Biotech researchers and Start-Ups.
 • The Department of Biotechnology has developed the Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal (BioRRAP). The Portal BioRRAP will cater to all those seeking regulatory approval required for biological research and development activity in the country. This will provide more credibility and recognition to such biological research.
 • India is poised for becoming a Global Bio-manufacturing Hub and will figure among the top 5 countries of the world by 2025.
 • India is among the top 12 destinations for biotechnology globally and 3rd largest biotechnology destination in the Asia Pacific region.

- Bio Economy's contribution to the national GDP has also grown steadily in the past years to 2.7% in 2020 from 1.7% in 2017 and will touch new heights after 25 years of Bio-economy journey in the Centenary year of 2047.

95. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, Nvidia's rival Intel launched new Artificial Intelligence (AI) chips to provide customers with deep learning compute choices for training and inferencing in data centres.

Statement 1 is correct: A neural network is a series of algorithms that endeavours to recognize underlying relationships in a set of data through a process that mimics the way the human/animal brain operates. In this sense, neural networks refer to systems of neurons, either organic or artificial in nature. As such, they tend to resemble the connections of neurons and synapses found in the brain.

Statement 2 is correct: Neural networks with several process layers are known as "deep" networks and are used for deep learning algorithms. They are used in a variety of applications in financial services, from forecasting and marketing research to fraud detection and risk assessment.

96. [ANS] d

[SOL] The Inter-State Council, which works to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country, has been reconstituted with Prime Minister as Chairman and Chief Ministers of all States and six Union ministers as members. Hence statement (a) is incorrect.

- The council is a recommendatory body.
- The Council may meet at least thrice a year.
- All questions are decided by consensus. Hence statement (c) is correct.

Article 131:

- The council's function to enquire and advice upon inter-state disputes is complementary to the Supreme Court's jurisdiction under Article 131 to decide a legal controversy between the governments.
- The Council can deal with any controversy whether legal or non-legal,
- The difference is, council's function is advisory unlike that of the court which gives a binding decision. Hence statement (b) is incorrect.

97. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Recently, the Madras Music Academy announced Sangita Kalanidhi award winners for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Statement 1 is correct : Sangita Kalanidhi award is considered the highest accolade in the field of Carnatic music.

- It came into existence in 1942.
 - Prior to that, a senior musician/expert was invited to preside over the Music Academy's annual conference.

Statement 2 is not correct : It was instituted by Madras Music Academy.

- It is a landmark institution in the history of the fine arts. It emerged as an offshoot of the All India Congress Session held in Madras in December 1927.
- It was conceived to be the institution that would set the standard for Carnatic music.

98. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, a statement by the United States President suggested that any attempt by China to invade Taiwan would attract American military intervention.

- Taiwan, earlier known as Formosa, a tiny island off the east coast of China.
- It is where Chinese republicans of the Kuomintang government retreated after the 1949 victory of the communists — and it has since continued as the Republic of China(ROC).
 - The island is located in the East China Sea, to the northeast of Hong Kong, north of the

Philippines and south of South Korea, and southwest of Japan.

- Thus, What happens in and around Taiwan is of deep concern to all of East Asia.
- Taiwan sees itself as a de jure sovereign state but it is largely unrecognised by other countries
 - Just 15 countries around the world recognise Taiwan. Most are very small, many are remote island nations.

99. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) is a trained female community health activist, selected from the community itself and accountable to it. She is not a government employee.

- They are trained to work as an interface between the community and the public health system.
- Their position varies from state to state. In some states, they are equivalent to General Nurses and normal community workers in others.

Statement 2 is correct: The ASHA programme is inspired from Chhattisgarh's Mitani programme.

100. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) will organise a festival to promote lavender in Bhaderwah (Doda district) of Jammu and Kashmir.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Purple or Lavender Revolution was launched by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) Aroma Mission.

Statement 2 is correct: Aim of the Aroma mission:

- To develop and disseminate the aroma-related science and technology to reach the end users / clients of CSIR: Farmers, industry and society.
- To bring additional area under captive cultivation of aromatic cash crops, particularly targeting rain-fed and degraded land across the country.
- To provide technical and infra-structural support for distillation and value additions to farmers and growers all over the country.
- To enable effective buy-back mechanisms to assure remunerative prices to the farmers and growers.
- To achieve value-addition to essential oils and aroma ingredients for their integration into global trade and economy.

101. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, a Venomous green snake named Maya Pit viper has been discovered in Meghalaya. The snake has been named Maya's Pit Viper after the deceased mother of an Army officer, one of seven authors of a study on it.

- The name of the pit viper, recognised as *Trimeresurus mayae*, is also believed to allude to maya, meaning the supernatural powers, or the illusion related to local legends.
- The new species was relatively common in Meghalaya, Mizoram and even in Guwahati.

102. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the official documents from China's Xinjiang have shed new light on the 'violent methods used by authorities against Uighurs and other mostly Muslim minorities'.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : Uighurs are a predominantly Muslim, Turkic ethnicity who live in China's North-Western Xinjiang Province.

- They speak their own language, which is similar to Turkish, and see themselves as culturally and ethnically close to Central Asian nations
- They are mainly a sedentary village-dwelling people who live in the network of oases formed in the valleys and lower slopes of the Tien Shan, Pamirs, and related mountain systems.

103. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Odisha government's ambitious temple corridor project in Puri has become a subject of political controversy.

Jagannath Puri Temple:

- Devasnana Purnima – The annual bathing ritual, where the holy trinity is brought out from their sanctum seated in a raised platform and bathed with purified water drawn from a well within the temple premises.
- Chariot Festival – This happens during the month of June/July. During the festival, the Lord comes out to the street to greet his devotees, people irrespective of caste, creed & colour can seek his blessings.

104. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the ninth edition (World of Work) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Monitor has been released.

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

105. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Government of India and the Government of the United States of America have signed an Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA) at Tokyo, Japan

- Bilateral military exercises and defence exchanges are important aspects of deepening military-to-military cooperation between US and India.
 - In addition to a number of service-to-service exercises, in 2019 a tri-services exercise– Tiger Triumph- was conducted in November 2019.
 - Bilateral and regional exercises include: Yudh Abhyas (Army); Vajra Prahar (Special Forces); RIMPAC; Red Flag.
 - In November 2020, the Royal Australian Navy joined the U.S.-India-Japan MALABAR Naval Exercise held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.
 - Both sides have conducted a number of PASSEX with the US carrier groups in the Indian Ocean Region.

106. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Kerala government empowered local bodies to cull wild boars that pose a threat to agriculture crops or human life.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Wild Boars Scientific Name is *S. scrofa*

- It has by far the largest range of all pigs.
- It is sometimes called the European wild boar.
- It occupies a wide variety of temperate and tropical habitats, from semi-desert to tropical rainforests, temperate woodlands, grasslands and reed jungles; often venturing onto agricultural land to forage. It is found in a variety of habitats.
 - It is the largest of the wild pigs and is native to forests ranging from western and northern Europe and North Africa to India, the Andaman Islands, and China.

Statement 3 is not correct: IUCN red list Listed as Least Concern due to its wide range, abundance, tolerance to habitat disturbance, and presence in many protected areas

107. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the demands for a “Bhil Pradesh”, a separate state for tribal people in western India, have begun to be raised again.

Option a is correct: Article 2 of the Constitution deals with the admission or establishment of new states. A simple majority of the Parliament is required for the creation of a new state.

- “Parliament may by law admit into the Union, or establish, new States on such terms and conditions, as it thinks fit,”.
- Article 3 assigns to Parliament the power to enact legislation for the formation of new States.
- Parliament may create new States in a number of ways, namely by
 - Separating territory from any State
 - Uniting two or more States
 - Uniting parts of States
 - Uniting any territory to a part of any State.
- Parliament’s power under Article 3 extends to increasing or diminishing the area of any State and altering the boundaries or name of any State.
 - This process is called the reorganisation of the states.

108. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, a Delhi court reserved its order on a plea challenging the dismissal of a civil suit that sought to restore 27 Hindu and Jain temples inside the Qutub Minar complex in New Delhi.

Statement 1 is not correct: Qutab-ud-din Aibak, the first Muslim ruler of Delhi, commenced the construction of the Qutab Minar in 1200 AD, but could only finish the basement. His successor, Iltutmush, added three more storeys, and in 1368, Firoz Shah Tughlak constructed the fifth and the last storey.

Statement 2 is correct: The tower has five distinct storeys, each marked by a projecting balcony and tapers from a 15 m diameter at the base to just 2.5 m at the top. The first three storeys are made of red sandstone; The fourth and fifth storeys are of marble and sandstone.

Statement 3 is correct: Qutub Minar and its monuments were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993.

109. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) in a significant order recognised sex work as a “profession” whose practitioners are entitled to dignity and equal protection under law.

Statement 1 is correct: Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) aims to stop immoral trafficking and prostitution in India and is divided into 25 sections and one schedule.

Statement 2 is not correct: The act does not criminalize prostitution or prostitutes per se, but mostly punishes acts by third parties facilitating prostitution like brothel-keeping, living off earnings, and procuring, even where sex work is not coerced.

110. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: It is an endorheic lake spanning eastern Ladakh and West Tibet.

Statement 2 is not correct: The lake is in the process of being identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance.

Statement 3 is correct: An Inner Line Permit is required to visit the lake as it lies on the Sino-Indian Line of Actual Control.

111. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, India joined the First Movers Coalition to decarbonise carbon-heavy sectors.

● Initiative:

- It is led by the World Economic Forum and the US government.
- It was launched at COP26 as a flagship public-private partnership to clean up the most carbon-intensive sectors.

● Aim:

- To create early markets for clean technologies through policy measures and private sector engagements.
- The coalition's members have committed to purchasing out of their total industrial materials and long-distance transport spending a percentage from suppliers using near-zero or zero-carbon solutions, despite the premium cost.

● Target:

- It is a global initiative aimed at decarbonising the heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors responsible for 30 percent of global emissions.
- The First Movers Coalition targets sectors, including aluminium, aviation, chemicals, concrete, shipping, steel and trucking.
 - A proportion expected to rise to over 50 percent by mid-century without urgent progress on clean technology innovation.
- The coalition also announced two new target sectors: carbon dioxide removal and aluminium, which join the four existing sectoral pledges (aviation, shipping, steel and trucking) launched at COP26.

● Participation:

- Besides India, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and the United Kingdom have also joined the US as government partners to create early markets for clean technologies.
- India, along with Japan and Sweden, has also joined the steering board of the coalition.

112. [ANS] d

[SOL] Localisation will make it mandatory for companies collecting critical consumer data to store and process it in data centres present within India's borders. Cost issues:

- According to Facebook's parent company Meta Platforms, requiring local storage and processing of data or similar requirements could increase the cost and complexity of delivering their services. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
- France, Austria, South Africa and more than 50 other countries are accelerating efforts to control the digital information produced by their citizens, government agencies and corporations.
 - Governments are increasingly setting rules and standards about how data can and cannot move around the globe.
 - The goal is to gain "digital sovereignty".
- Countries like the USA has criticised the policy of data localisation as a 'significant barrier to digital trade'. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
- EU had said in its response to India's data protection draft bill that "data localisation requirements appear both unnecessary and potentially harmful as they would create unnecessary costs, difficulties and uncertainties that could hamper business and investments".

113. [ANS] d

[SOL] The third edition of Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh. The first edition of the Exercise Bongo Sagar, was held in 2019. It is aimed at developing a high degree of interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations between the two navies.

114. [ANS] d

[SOL] Two alleged Wagner Group fighters from Belarus have been accused of murdering civilians near Kyiv, making them the first international mercenaries to face war crimes charges in Ukraine. Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct : Wagner Group is a network of contractors that supply soldiers for hire.

- The group reportedly took its name from Dmitry Utkin, a retired Russian military officer.
 - Mr. Utkin is said to have chosen Wagner to honour the composer, who was a favourite of Hitler's.
- The group is not registered as a legal entity anywhere in the world.
- It first surfaced in 2014, during Russia's annexation of Crimea.
 - There have been reports of its presence in the Middle East and Africa as well.

115. [ANS] a

[SOL] PARAM PORUL is a state-of-the-art supercomputer which was recently set up at NIT Tiruchirappalli.

- PARAM PORUL supercomputing facility is established under Phase 2 of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- Technology:
 - PARAM PORUL system is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology
 - This will obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reducing the operational cost.
 - The system is equipped with a mix of CPU nodes, GPU nodes, high memory nodes, high throughput storage and high-performance Infiniband interconnect.
 - This will cater to the computing needs of various scientific and engineering applications.
- Indigenous components:
 - The majority of the components used to build this system have been manufactured and assembled within the country.
 - It contains an indigenous software stack developed by C-DAC, in line with the Make in India initiative.

116. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Prime Minister of India has paid tributes to Veer Savarkar on his jayanti. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar Popularly known as Veer Savarkar, was born on 28 May 1883 in Nashik.

- He is known for coining the term 'Hindutva'
- He was against foreign goods and propagated the idea of Swadeshi. In 1905, he burnt all the foreign goods in a bonfire on Dussehra.
 - In his teenage years, Savarkar formed a youth organisation. Known as Mitra Mela (Group of Friends), this organisation was put into place to bring in national and revolutionary ideas.
 - He started one of the most powerful social reform movements against untouchability in India, built Patit Pavan Mandir in the Ratnagiri district to allow entry to all Hindus, including Dalits. "He was the first to envision a casteless India"
 - He established a secret organisation called Abhinav Bharat Society in 1904 with his brother, Ganesh Damodar Savarkar.

- He was associated with India House and founded student societies like Free India Society.
- He wrote 'The Indian War of Independence, 1857' during his jail time.

117. [ANS] c

[SOL] Money spiders have been recently found for the first time in India.

- They are found in the Muthanga range of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Regions of Occurrence:
 - These are commonly found in European meadows.
 - Only six species of spiders belonging to this genus have been identified from across the world so far.
 - It is the first report of this genus from India.

118. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the commerce and industry ministry said that it is all set to launch the pilot phase of open network for digital commerce.

- Department/ Ministry: It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
 - Nandan Nilekani advisory council has been set up to ascertain steps required to design and accelerate adoption of ONDC.
- Meaning: Open Network for Digital Commerce (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 Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative of the government to promote an open platform for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services through electronic networks.
 - The ONDC platform lies in the middle of the interfaces hosting the buyers and the sellers.
- Aim: 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 will be launched in five cities: Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Shillong and Coimbatore.
- Potential benefits of ONDC
 - Access to more buyers
 - Better discoverability of products and cost
 - Autonomy on terms because of multiple choices for being digitally visible
 - Lower cost of doing business
 - More options for value chain services like logistics and fulfilment
- These are not the features of ONDC
 - A government regulatory body
 - A super aggregator application or a platform
 - A central intermediary
 - A medium to help digitise business

119. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The private investment is already low as the sector is still recovering from the pandemic. Cutting corporate tax rates leads to increased investment, productivity gains, and, in turn, increased economic growth. Hence, raising corporate tax would further aggravate their financial health further impacting the economy.

Statement 2 is correct: The schemes like PLI for both large and medium industries should be expanded to other labour intensive sectors as well so as to thwart the global headwinds and come over the slowing economy.

120. [ANS] c

[SOL] Context

Recently, at the fourth Regional Security Dialogue, National Security Advisor (NSA) of India called for enhancing Afghanistan's capability to counter terrorism.

Explanation

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

Statement 2 is correct: It links the Indian Ocean to the Caspian Sea via the Persian Gulf onwards into Russia and Northern Europe. It is aimed at reducing the carriage cost between India and Russia by about 30 percent and bringing down the transit time by more than half.

121. [ANS] d

[SOL] Context : Recently, the Chhattisgarh government has become only the second state in the country to recognise Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights of a village inside a national park. Section 3(1)(i): The CFR rights under this Section of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act (commonly referred to as the Forest Rights Act or the FRA) provide for recognition of the right to “protect, regenerate or conserve or manage” the community forest resource.

122. [ANS] d

[SOL] Context Two days after it issued an advisory cautioning people against sharing a photocopy of their Aadhar card, the government withdrew the notification.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (“Aadhaar Act 2016”) on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). UIDAI was created to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India. The UID had to be -

- robust enough to eliminate duplicate and fake identities, and
- verifiable and authenticable in an easy, cost-effective way.

Statement 2 is not correct: Mask Aadhaar option allows one to mask Aadhaar number in downloaded e-Aadhaar. Masked Aadhaar number implies replacing the first 8 digits of Aadhaar number with some characters like “xxxx-xxxx” while only the last 4 digits of the Aadhaar Number are visible

123. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News - Recently, according to a new study it was found that the change in course of the Kosi River is not natural.]

Statements 1 and 3 are correct : Kosi originates in Tibet.

- The Kosi or Koshi is a trans-boundary river which flows through China, Nepal and India.
 - It drains the northern slopes of the Himalayas in Tibet and the southern slopes in Nepal.
- Kosi River is also known as Saptakoshi for its seven upper tributaries.
 - These include the Tamor River originating from the Kanchenjunga area in the east and Arun River and Sun Kosi from Tibet.
 - The Sun Koshi's tributaries from east to west are Dudh Koshi, Bhote Koshi, Tamakoshi River, Likhu Khola and Indravati.

- The Saptakoshi crosses into northern Bihar, India where it branches into distributaries before joining the Ganges near Kursela in Katihar district.
- The river basin is surrounded by ridges which separate it from the Yarlung Tsangpo River in the north, the Gandaki in the west and the Mahananda in the east.

Statement 2 is not correct :Kosi River is one of the largest tributaries of the Ganges.

124. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Recent study suggested that Mars' dramatic shift from a warm and wet planet to a cold and dry one may have been chiefly driven by greenhouse gases other than carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Successful Mars Missions Nation/ Agency

- Mars Orbiter USSR
- Marine series
- Viking series
- Pathfinder
- Rovers: Spirit, Opportunity (2003)
- Phoenix (2007)
- Curiosity (2011)
- Maven (2013-14)
- Perseverance (2021) NASA (USA)
- Mars Express (2001) European Space Agency (EU)
- Mangalyaan (MOM) (2014) ISRO (India)
- Amal (Hope Mission) (2021) UAE
- Tianwen 1 (2021) China

125. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News :The Kerala health department is on alert after the death of a 47-year-old from Thrissur due to the West Nile Virus.

All the statements are correct : West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne, single-stranded RNA virus.

- It is a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae.
- It is commonly found in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia.
 - It is not known to spread by contact with infected humans or animals.
 - To date, no human-to-human transmission of WNV through casual contact has been documented.
 - The virus was first isolated in a woman in the West Nile district of Uganda in 1937.

126. [ANS] c

[SOL] Goa is India's smallest state by area and is fourth-smallest by population.

- Capital: Panjim
- Official language: Konkani. Hence statement (a) is correct.

Geographical location:

- Goa is bounded on the North by Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra, on the East by Belgaum and on the South by Karwar Districts of Karnataka, and on the West by the Arabian Sea. Hence statement (c) is incorrect.

About the statehood day of Goa:

- After India gained independence in 1947, the people of Goa requested the Portuguese to leave Goan territory.
 - However, the Portuguese refused.
- In 1961, India launched Operation Vijay and annexed Goa and Daman and Diu with the Indian mainland. Hence statement (b) is correct.

- When Goa became a full state, elections were later held in the state
 - In 1962, Shri Dayanand Bhandarkar became the first elected Chief Minister of Goa.
- There was also talk of the merger of Goa with Maharashtra because Goa was located in the neighborhood of Maharashtra.
- In the year 1967, there was a referendum and the people of Goa chose to remain as a union territory.
- Later on 30 May 1987, Goa was given full statehood and thus Goa became the 25th state of the Republic of India.

127. [ANS] d

[SOL] The PMEGP has now been approved for continuation over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs.13554.42 Crore.

- The scheme is implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) functioning as the nodal agency at the national level.

Following major modifications/improvements have been made in the existing Scheme:

- Increasing the maximum project cost from existing Rs.25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh for manufacturing units and from existing Rs.10 lakh to Rs.20 lakh for service units.
- Modify definition of village industry and Rural Area for PMEGP. Areas falling under Panchayati Raj institutions to be accounted under rural areas, whereas areas under Municipality to be treated as urban areas.
- All Implementing Agencies are allowed to receive and process applications in all areas irrespective of the rural or urban category.
- PMEGP applicants under aspirational districts and transgender will be treated as Special category applicants and entitled for higher subsidy.
- States/districts covered: All the States/UTs will be covered under the Scheme.

128. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not Correct: It comes under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Statement 2 is not Correct: The Mission is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.

129. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister applauded the Indian media for its role during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Statement 1 is not correct: Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) in collaboration with its partners and international organisations is organising the Asia Media Summit (AMS).

Statement 2 is correct: The conference provides a unique opportunity for broadcasters in the region to share their thoughts on Broadcasting and Information.

130. [ANS] d

[SOL] The southwest monsoon has arrived in Kerala three days before its normal onset date of June 1.

Explanation

Major factors responsible for the onset of summer monsoon in India are:

- Mascarene High,
- Coriolis Force,
- Indian summer,
- El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and
- Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD).

Compared to the roles of Mascarene High, Coriolis Force, India's summer season and ENSO,

IOD's role has been discovered recently.
However, the relation between IOD and monsoon rainfall is still being debated and has not been fully comprehended.

