



TEST YOURSELF

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

OCTOBER, 2021

1. With reference to Silver Economy, consider the following statements:
 1. Its main element is gerontechnology as a new scientific, research and implementation paradigm.
 2. It relates to reducing the import of gold, gems and other minerals.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

2. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding DigiSaksham?
 1. It is a digital skills programme to enhance the employability of youth.
 2. It was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2 only
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. With reference to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), consider the following statements:
 1. It aims to conserve Antarctic marine life.
 2. India has been a permanent member of the CCAMLR since 1986.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2 only
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following statements:
 1. Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 aims to make cities garbage-free
 2. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0) aims to make cities water secure.Which of the statements given above is/are *not* correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2 only
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- 5 Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)?
1. It is released by The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
 2. It measures the combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries.
 3. The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
6. In 1883, he became a member of the Royal Asiatic Society. In 1877, he toured India to propagate the philosophy of Vedas and earned the title of "Pandit" from the pundits of Kashi. In 1905, he published the first issue of "The Indian Sociologist" and founded "The Indian Home Rule Society".

He was:

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
 - (b) Subhas Chandra Bose
 - (c) Shyamji Krishna Varma
 - (d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
7. Which of the following states are covered in the Godavari basin?
1. Chhattisgarh
 2. Maharashtra
 3. Gujarat
 4. Karnataka

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
- 8 Consider the following statements:
1. A trust comprises three key parties: 'Settlor', 'Trustee' and 'Beneficiaries'.
 2. A trust is a separate legal entity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

- 9 Global Financial Stability Report is published by:
- (a) International Monetary Fund
 - (b) World Economic Forum
 - (c) World Bank
 - (d) European Union
10. Which of the following Committees is **not** related to Police reforms?
- (a) Malimath Committee
 - (b) Justice Thomas Committee
 - (c) Ribeiro Committee
 - (d) None of the above
11. With reference to Solar Conjunction, consider the following statements:
1. It is the period when Earth and Mars are obscured from each other.
 2. It occurs every four years.
 3. This phenomenon can be effectively used for transferring instructions to Mars missions.
- Which of the statements given above is/are *not* correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3 only
- 12 With reference to Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR), consider the following statements:
1. It is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu state.
 2. The climate of Mudumalai is moderate.
 3. Eight percent of bird species found in India are recorded in Mudumalai.
- 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 only

13. Which of the above statements is/are correct regarding Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)?

1. It is a joint initiative of the World Bank and IMF.
2. It is a cross border cooperation drive to curb funding to terrorists.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below

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

14. With reference to Antarctic Treaty, consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

15. With reference to Kayakave Kailasa, which of the statements given is **incorrect**?

- (a) It is launched in the Union Budget 2020-2021.
- (b) The Launching Ministry is the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- (c) It will enable SC/ST entrepreneurs in providing bulk LPG transportation.
- (d) State run energy firms are also part of it.

16. On the basis of carbon content, arrange these coals in descending order:

1. Anthracite
2. Lignite
3. Peat
4. Bituminous

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

17. Consider the following statements:

1. The anti-defection laws were introduced to ensure a more stable government.
2. It does not apply if 1/3rd members of a certain party defect to others.
3. There is a time limit of 3 months for the speaker to decide on any defection case.

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

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

18. With reference to Kayakave Kailasa, which of the statements given is **incorrect**?

- (a) It is launched in the Union Budget 2020-2021.
- (b) The Launching Ministry is the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- (c) It will enable SC/ST entrepreneurs in providing bulk LPG transportation.
- (d) State-run energy firms are also part of it.

19. With reference to Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in India, consider the following statements:

1. It has been borrowed from British jurisprudence.
2. Justice PN Bhagwati and Krishna Iyer revolutionised this juristic approach in India.
3. This approach permits the courts to take up cases suo motto.

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) 2 only

20. Which of the following recommendation(s) was/were made by the Sarkaria Commission with reference to President Rule?

1. Sparing use of Article 356
2. Following constitutional conventions by Governor in case of hung assemblies.
3. Localized Emergency in specific troubled areas.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

21. Corbett National Park recently seen in the news, it is situated in which of the following states?
- (a) Assam
 - (b) Madhya Pradesh
 - (c) Meghalaya
 - (d) Uttarakhand
22. RTS, S vaccine recently seen in the news, are related to which of the following diseases?
- (a) Malaria
 - (b) Tuberculosis (TB)
 - (c) Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)
 - (d) Dengue
23. Which of the following best explains the objective of Counter Magnetic Cities?
- (a) Cities or towns are developed to prevent migration of people.
 - (b) Cities or towns are developed to counter growth of neighbouring cities.
 - (c) Cities or towns are developed to decongest metropolitan towns.
 - (d) Cities or towns are designed to avoid traffic during peak hours.
24. Consider the following statements.
1. Credit rating agencies rate the loan repaying capacity.
 2. India and China allege biases in the credit rating agencies.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
25. With reference to Ayushman Bharat, consider the following statements:
1. States to conform to Union guidelines for implementation.
 2. Health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family will be provided.
- 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

26. With reference to Henley Passport Index 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
2. It lists the world's most travel-friendly passports.
3. Afghanistan and Singapore stood at the top of this year's list.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

27. EXERCISE AJEYA WARRIOR recently commenced between which of the following countries?

- (a) India and United Kingdom
- (b) Australia and India
- (c) Russia and Nepal
- (d) Bangladesh and Srilanka

28. Which of the following comes under the "Living Standards indicator" in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)?

1. Cooking Oil
2. Sanitation
3. Drinking Water
4. Electricity
5. Nutrition
6. Housing

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. Consider the following statements.

1. Construction Workers Welfare Board (CWWB) is a tripartite entity with equal representation from workers, employers and the government.
2. It will be funded by a cess levied at the rate of 1 percent of the total cost of construction

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

31. Arrange the following Civil Services Reforms committees in chronological order.

1. Y K Alagh committee
2. Nigavekar Committee
3. Surinder Nath Committee
4. Baswan Committee

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

32. Consider the following statements:

1. The first nationalization of commercial banks in India took place in 1980.
2. The intention of strategic disinvestment is to transfer the ownership of a non-performing organization to more efficient private players.

Which of the statements given above is/are *incorrect*?

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

33. He returned to India in 1929, influenced by Marxism and radical thought to some extent and joined the Indian National Congress. In 1948 he, together with most of the Congress Socialists, left the Congress Party and in 1952 formed the Praja Socialist Party. He launched 'Sampoorna Kranti' (total revolution) in 1974 against corruption in public life.

- (a) Subhash Chandra Bose
- (b) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- (c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- (d) Jayaprakash Narayan

34. Javan Gibbon saw in the news, International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species classifies it as
- Critically Endangered (CR)
 - Near Threatened (NT)
 - Endangered (EN)
 - Extinct (EX)

35. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

36. With reference to Red Sanders, consider the following statements:

- It is known for its rich hue and therapeutic properties.
- It usually grows in the rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil.
- It is declared Near Threatened in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (I.U.C.N.) red list.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3 only

37. With reference to Rabies, consider the following statements:

- It is a zoonotic viral disease.
- Rabies deaths in humans are not preventable
- India is endemic for rabies accounting for 36% of the world's deaths.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3 only

38. Consider the following statements:

1. In the Equalisation Levy, the payment should be made to a non-resident service provider.
2. Minimum Alternate Tax is applied so that Companies pay at least a certain amount of corporate tax to the government.

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. Which of the following countries are part of Nordic Countries?

1. Greenland
2. Denmark
3. Faroe islands
4. Åland

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

40. Arrange the following Civil Services Reforms committees in chronological order.

1. Y K Alagh committee
2. Nigavekar Committee
3. Surinder Nath Committee
4. Baswan Committee

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1234
- (b) 1324
- (c) 4312
- (d) 3142

41. Which of the following statements is/ are correct about the Nation Human Rights Commission (NHRC)?

1. Only the former Chief Justice of India can be the chairperson of NHRC.
2. The chairperson has a term of 6 years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever comes earlier.
3. It has very limited power with respect to human rights violations by the Armed Forces.

Choose from the options given below.

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

42. The first phase of the Indo Nepalese rail link passing through Janakpur has been completed recently. Which two cities are connected by this rail link?

- (a) Kathmandu and Raxual
- (b) Jayanagar and Kurtha
- (c) Gorakhpur to Lukla
- (d) Champaran to Bardidas

43. Arrange the following space-related organizations chronologically (according to their foundation).

1. ISRO
2. INCOSPAR
3. Antrix
4. Indian Space Association (ISpA)
5. New Space India Limited (NSIL)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

44. Recently, Lucy Mission was seen in the news, the objective of the scheme is to

- (a) Study Solar Coronal Mass Ejection
- (b) Study Trojan asteroids
- (c) Explore the Exoplanets
- (d) Study of Planet Venus

45. Which of the following countries are members of the International Energy Agency (IEA)?

1. Australia
2. Canada
3. India
4. Japan
5. New Zealand

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

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

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

47. Which of the following countries share a border with Afghanistan?

1. Turkmenistan
2. Iran
3. Uzbekistan
4. Tajikistan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

48. With reference to Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It prohibits identified single-use plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential by 2024.
2. In order to stop littering, the thickness of plastic carry bags has been decreased from 75 microns to 50 microns.

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. World Economic Outlook Report is published by

- (a) International monetary fund
- (b) World bank
- (c) UNDP
- (d) OECD

50. Consider the following statements:

1. The Saraswati River originated from Kapal Tirith in the Himalayas in the west of Kailash
2. The river flowed through Haryana and Rajasthan states before entering Pakistan.

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. Kunming Declaration was seen in the news recently, it is related to:

- (a) Refugee Crisis
- (b) Drug Trafficking
- (c) International Organised Crime
- (d) Biodiversity Conservation

52. With reference to Flower scorpionfish, consider the following statements:

1. It belongs to the order of ray-finned fish.
2. It was discovered in the Pacific Ocean off Japan almost a century ago in 1929.
3. It has been found in the Indian Ocean also.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

53. Double 10, recently seen in news, is related to

- (a) Taiwan's national day.
- (b) New weighing unit for atoms.
- (c) Increasing population to food ratio.
- (d) Energy transfer rule across trophic levels.

54. With reference to Abhinav Bharat Society, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was initially founded as Mitra Mela by Madam Bhikaji Cama.
- 2. The society was associated with several revolutionaries with branches in various parts of India and London.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

55. Which of the following categories of women can undergo legal and safe medical termination of pregnancy till 24 weeks?

- 1. Pregnancy due to incest relation
- 2. Pregnant divorcee getting married.
- 3. Destitute women from a severe earthquake hit area.

Choose from the correct options.

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

56. Consider the following statements regarding India-U.S.A. Economic & Financial Partnership Dialogue.

1. It is an example of track 2 diplomacy.
2. In the recent meeting, there was convergence by both curbing money laundering and climate finance.
3. The US has promised to provide technical support for the development of GIFT City in Gujarat.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

57. With reference to Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual report jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
2. India has a level of hunger that is extremely alarming.

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 UN Human Rights Council, consider the following statements:

1. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues.
2. It is made up of 47 United Nations Member States.
3. The members shall be eligible for immediate re-election after two consecutive terms

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

59. With reference to Endosulfan, consider the following statements:

1. It is a pesticide that does not occur naturally in the environment.
2. It has a distinct odour similar to turpentine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

60. With reference to the bilateral military exercises with India, which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Military Exercise — Participant Nation

1. Surya Kiran — Nepal
2. Vajra Prahar — US
3. Dharma Guardian — Japan
4. Garuda Shakti — France

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

61. Which of the following is/are correct about Hypersonic Engines?

1. They navigate at speeds in the range of 1.2 Mach to 5 Mach.
2. Hypersonic weapons are tough to detect and have a longer reach.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below

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

62. Which of the following countries are involved in the International Space Station (ISS) programme?

1. Russia
2. Japan
3. Canada
4. United States of America

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

- 63.** With reference to Zeolites, consider the following statements:
1. They are crystalline solid structures made of silicon and aluminium.
 2. They occur naturally and are also produced industrially.
 3. They are noted for their lability toward ion exchange and reversible dehydration.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 64.** With reference to Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), consider the following statements:
1. A general allocation of SDRs requires Board of Governors approval by a 75 per cent majority of the total voting power.
 2. IMF members can voluntarily exchange SDRs for currencies among themselves.
- 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
- 65.** Consider the following statements with reference to the e-Shram portal:
1. It will maintain a database of both organised & unorganised sector workers.
 2. It is launched by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- 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
- 66.** With respect to the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO), consider the following statements:
1. El Nino events are sometimes referred to as the warm and wet half phase of ENSO and La Nina as the cold phase of the ENSO.
 2. Under the El Nino event, the surface temperature of the Pacific Ocean increased more than usual causing heavy rainfalls in Australia.
- 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

67. With reference to the Bengal Florican recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:
1. These species are endemic to mainly India and Bangladesh.
 2. They are classified as Critically Endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
68. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Geospatial Energy Map?
1. It has been launched by NITI Aayog and ISRO.
 2. It has more than 25 layers on the map.
- 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
69. 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
70. With reference to National Urban Digital Mission, consider the following statements:
1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY).
 2. Its vision is to improve the ease of living for citizens by creating a national urban digital ecosystem.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

71. In India, which of the following can be commercially and legally grown?

1. Golden Rice
2. BT Brinjal
3. DMH-11 Mustard

Choose the correct option from the codes given below.

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

72. Which of the following countries were the founding members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

1. Iran
2. Kuwait
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Venezuela.

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, 3 and 4

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

1. It is under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. It envisages a supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household.
3. The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Union Territories.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

74. With reference to World Economic Outlook 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual Survey by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. The global economy is projected to grow 4.9 per cent 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

75. Which of the following statements is correct regarding sub-standard assets?
- Asset which has remained as an NPA for a period exceeding twelve months.
 - Asset classified as an NPA for a period not exceeding six months.
 - Asset classified as an NPA for a period not exceeding twelve months.
 - None of the Above
76. With reference to Global Food Security Index (GFSI), consider the following statements:
- It is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model constructed from 58 unique indicators.
 - It measures the drivers of food security across both developing and developed countries.
 - India is ranked at 101st position in the GFS Index 2021
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
77. With reference to Mahaparinirvana Temple, consider the following statements:
- It is located in Andhra Pradesh.
 - The reclining nirvana statue of Mahavira is inside the temple.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
78. Who was the founder of the Varman dynasty?
- Pushyavarman
 - Samudravarman
 - Bhaskar Varman
 - Mahendravarman
79. With reference to Reclining Buddha, consider the following statements:
- Reclining Buddha was first depicted in Mathura school of Art.
 - Parinirvana Stupa has a reclining Buddha in a red sandstone monolith at Sarnath.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

80. Which of the following is not a member of New QUAD, recently seen in the news?
- India
 - Israel
 - Saudi Arabia
 - USA
81. Recently two lakes situated west of the Tanggula mountains of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region have reported an increase in size and depth due to glacial melting. Identify one of the Lake
- Aral Sea
 - Lake Chibzhang Co
 - Lake Baikal
 - Lake Tso Moriri
82. With reference to Sovereign Gold Bond, consider the following statements:
- The Bonds will be sold through all commercial banks, Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks.
 - The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with an exit option after the 5th year.
 - The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50 per cent per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1,2 and 3
83. Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary recently seen in the news, it is situated in which of the following states?
- West Bengal
 - Odisha
 - Assam
 - Bihar
84. With reference to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), consider the following statements:
- These schemes are 100% funded by the Union government and implemented by the respective state government machinery.
 - They are mainly formulated on the subjects in the Union List.
 - MGNREGA comes under the category of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3

85. With reference to Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Special Purpose Vehicle with an authorized capital of Rs. 10000 Cr.
2. It has been mandated to create the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

86. Which of the following reasons can be attributed to the Heavy rains recorded in the month of October?

1. Western Disturbances
2. Two High Pressure systems in Bay Of Bengal and Arabian Sea.
3. Delayed monsoon withdrawal

Choose the correct option

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

87. With reference to Amur Falcons, consider the following statements:

1. They breed in Siberia and Northern China.
2. The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species classifies them as Near Threatened (NT).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

88. Zero Waste Cities Challenge launched to find grassroots solutions to resource efficiency, waste collection and recycling in which of the following countries?

1. South Africa
2. Vietnam
3. India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

89. Regarding the net zero targets recently in the news, consider the following statements.

1. Net-zero means to stop the carbon emissions and bring them to zero.
2. "India: Transforming to a Net-Zero Emissions Energy System" report was released by NITI Aayog.

Which of the above options is/are correct?

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

90. With reference to International Solar Alliance (ISA), consider the following statements:

1. International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization.
2. The sunshine countries lie completely between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

91. Regarding the geographical extent of western ghats, consider the following statements

1. It stretches across the five states.
2. It starts from the mouth of the river Narmada to Kanyakumari.

Which of the above options is/are correct?

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

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

1. It is caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*.
2. It is spread to humans and animals through direct contact with the contaminated source.
3. It is predominantly a disease of tropical climates, especially in Southeast Asia and northern Australia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

93. Which of the following are the right bank's tributaries of Sabarmati River?

1. Dhamni
2. Siri
3. Watrak
4. Hathmati

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

94. With reference to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a project to improve infrastructure within Pakistan.
2. The goal of CPEC is to transform Pakistan's economy by modernizing its road, rail, air and energy transportation systems.

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

95. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Atma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. Under this, critical care services will be made available in all districts that have a population of over 5 lakh.
2. The scheme is primarily focussing on rural areas.

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. Consider the following statements:

1. A surcharge is a tax on tax.
2. Surcharge becomes part of the Public Accounts of India.
3. It is a part of a divisible pool of taxes as given in Article 271 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

97. Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in:
- Nepal
 - Bhutan
 - Myanmar
 - China
98. With reference to Dada Phalke Award, consider the following statements:
- It was started in 1969.
 - It is presented annually at the National Films Awards ceremony.
 - Actor Amitabh Bachchan is the recipient of the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
99. With reference to NIPUN Bharat, consider the following statements:
- It has been launched under the aegis of the central sector scheme of Samagra Shiksha.
 - It aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 6 to 18 years.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
100. Mullaperiyar Dam, recently seen in the news, is currently operated by?
- Kerala
 - Karnataka
 - TamilNadu
 - Andhra Pradesh
101. With reference to Bush frog, consider the following statements:
- It is endemic to the Western Ghats.
 - Aggressive Pesticide application is a threat to the bush frog.
 - It is classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3 only

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

- (a) Australia
- (b) United States of America
- (c) Japan
- (d) South Africa

103. Consider the following statements regarding Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

- 1. It will be implemented by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- 2. The project is modelled around the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) project.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

- 1. It comes under Section 124A of Indian Penal Code.
- 2. Offence is committed when any person by words or otherwise brings hatred towards the government established by law.
- 3. It was introduced by the British.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

105. Gorongosa National Park was sometimes seen in the news, it is located in which of the following countries?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Australia
- (c) South Africa
- (d) Mozambique

106. Consider the following statements regarding traffic management policy framework for drones.

- 1. Unmanned Traffic Management Service Providers would be established.
- 2. It will segregate a drone from other aircrafts in the airspace below 5,000 feet in the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

107. Which of the following statements about Agni V missiles is/are correct?

1. It is India's longest-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
2. It has been imported from Russia.
3. It has the capability of carrying a nuclear warhead of about 1.5 tonnes.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below

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

108. In the context of digital technologies for entertainment, consider the following statements:

1. In Augmented Reality (AR), a simulated environment is created and the physical world is completely shut out.
2. In Virtual Reality (VR), images generated from a computer are projected onto real-life objects or surroundings.
3. AR allows individuals to be present in the world and improves the experience using the camera of a smartphone or PC.
4. VR closes the world, and transposes an individual, providing a complete immersion experience.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

109. The 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in which of the following states?

1. Assam
2. Meghalaya
3. Tripura
4. Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

110. With reference to Nag River revitalization project, consider the following statements:

1. It was conceptualized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. It is an ambitious project of Kerala state.

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

111. Which of the following countries have been sanctioned under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)?

1. Russia
2. Turkey
3. North Korea
4. Iran

Choose the correct option.

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

112. Raveendran Committee recently in the news is related to:

- (a) Setting up CERT-In facility in Bangalore.
- (b) Investigate allegations of surveillance using the Pegasus spyware
- (c) Effect of Red Echo attacks on Indian Infrastructures
- (d) Recommend steps for free data flow with trust.

113. With reference to Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It comes under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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

114. With reference to the UDAN scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched as a regional connectivity scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2010.
2. The first flight under the UDAN scheme was flagged in 2017 from Bhubaneswar to the Varanasi route.
3. It offers a unique opportunity to a common man to fly at an affordable price.

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. With reference to World Heritage forests: Carbon sinks under pressure report, consider the following statements:

1. It was released by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Bank.
2. The majority of the World Heritage forest carbon is stored in tropical sites.
3. India's Sundarbans National Park is among five sites that have the highest blue carbon stocks globally.

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

116. Which of the following countries have underwater vehicles for carrying out subsea activities?

1. Russia
2. Japan
3. France
4. China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

117. With reference to Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), consider the following statements:

1. It consists of securities and other financial assets held by investors in another country.
2. It provides the investor with direct ownership of a company's assets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

118. Who released the report titled “Health Insurance for India’s Missing Middle”?

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- (b) NITI Aayog.
- (c) Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- (d) Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

119. With reference to Sardar Patel National Unity Award, consider the following statements:

1. It is the highest civilian award in the field of contribution to the unity and integrity of India.
2. Not more than two Awards shall be given in a year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

120. With reference to the National Green Tribunal, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body formed under the Tenth Five-Year Plan.
2. It is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals within 1 year of the filing of the case.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation

1. (a)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Its main element is gerontechnology as a new scientific, research and implementation paradigm.

Statement 2 is not correct: The silver economy is the system of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services aimed at using the purchasing **potential of older and ageing people and satisfying their consumption**, living and health needs.

The silver economy is analyzed in the field of social gerontology (study of ageing) not as an existing economic system but as an instrument of ageing policy and the political idea of forming a potential, needs-oriented economic system for an ageing population.

2. (a)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: DigiSaksham is a **digital skills programme** to enhance the **employability of youth by imparting digital skills** that are required in an increasingly technology-driven era.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Minister for Labour and Employment launched DigiSaksham.

- This joint initiative with Microsoft India is an extension of the Government's ongoing programs to support the **youth from rural and semi-urban areas**.
- Through the DigiSaksham initiative, **free of cost training** in digital skills including basic skills as well as advanced computing will be provided to more than 3 lakh youths in the first year.
- The initiative gives priority to the **job-seekers of semi-urban areas** belonging to disadvantaged communities, including those who have lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Jobseekers can access the training through **National Career Service (NCS) Portal**.
- Under the DigiSaksham initiative, there will be basically three types of training viz. Digital Skills – Self paced learning, VILT mode training (Virtual Instructor-led) and ILT mode training (Instructor-led).

3. (c)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: It was established by an international convention in 1982 with the objective of **conserving Antarctic marine life**. This was in response to increasing commercial interest in Antarctic krill resources, a keystone component of the Antarctic ecosystem and a history of over-exploitation of several other marine resources in the Southern Ocean.

- It is an international commission with 26 Members, and a further 10 countries have acceded to the Convention. Based on the best available scientific information, the Commission agrees on a set of conservation measures that determine the use of marine living resources in the Antarctic.

Statement 2 is correct: **India has been a permanent member of the CCAMLR since 1986**. Work pertaining to the CCAMLR is coordinated in India by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through its attached office, the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) in Kochi, Kerala.

4. (d)

[SOL] Statements 1 and 2 are correct: The aim of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban(SBM-U 2.0) is to **make cities garbage-free** while the **Second Phase of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation is to make cities water secure.**

- o SBM-U 2.0 envisions to make all cities '**Garbage Free**' and ensure grey and black water management in all cities other than **those covered under AMRUT**, make all urban local bodies as ODF+ and those with a population of **less than 1 lakh as ODF++**, thereby achieving the vision of **safe sanitation in urban areas.**
 - ❑ The Mission will **focus on source segregation** of solid waste, utilizing the principles of 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), scientific processing of all types of municipal solid waste and remediation of legacy dumpsites for effective solid waste management.
- o AMRUT 2.0 mission will prove to be a major step towards making cities self-reliant and ensuring water security. Under this mission, drinking water surveys will be conducted to provide better water services to the people.
- o AMRUT 2.0 aims to provide **100% coverage of water supply** to all households in around **4,700 urban local bodies** by providing about 2.68 crore tap connections and 100% coverage of sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities by providing around **2.64 crore sewer/ septage** connections, which will benefit more than 10.5 crore people in urban areas.
- o It will adopt the **principles of circular economy** and promote conservation and rejuvenation of surface and groundwater bodies.

5. (b)

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for the Month of August 2021.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: ICI measures the combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity. The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

- The base year of the index has been revised to 2011-12 from 2004-05 in alignment with the new series of IIP.

6. (c)

[SOL] Shyamji Krishna Varma was one of the **greatest revolutionaries** that the Indian independence movement witnessed. He was a **lawyer, a journalist professionally** and he was also an expert in the **Sanskrit language.**

- He was born on October 4, 1857, in the city of Mandvi, located in the Kutch province of Gujarat.
- In 1883 He became a member of the Royal Asiatic Society
- Swami Dayananda Saraswati and Herbert Spencer were his chief inspirations on the path to revolution.
- In 1877 toured India to propagate the philosophy of Vedas and earned the title of "Pandit" from the pundits of Kashi
 - o In 1905 Published the first issue of "The Indian Sociologist" and founded "The Indian Home Rule Society".
 - o Officially declared open "India House" at 65, Cromwell Avenue, HighGate as living accommodation for Indian students in England.

7. (b)

[SOL] The Godavari is the **largest Peninsular river system**. It is also called the **Dakshin Ganga**.

- It rises in the **Nasik district of Maharashtra** and discharges its water into the **Bay of Bengal**.
- The Godavari basin extends over states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, Puducherry.

8. (a)

[SOL] In News

- The latest leak of offshore financial records has shown that the elites are finding ingenious new ways to ring-fence (protect) their assets from scrutiny at home.
- It is reshaping the secrecy industry in international finance after regulators worldwide have begun cracking down on global money flows

Statement 1 is correct. A trust comprises three key parties:

- ‘Settlor’: one who sets up, creates, or authors a trust;
- ‘Trustee’: one who holds the assets for the benefit of a set of people named by the ‘settlor’; and
- ‘Beneficiaries’: to whom the benefits of the assets are bequeathed.

Statement 2 is not correct. A trust is not a separate legal entity, but its legal nature comes from the ‘trustee’.

9 (a)

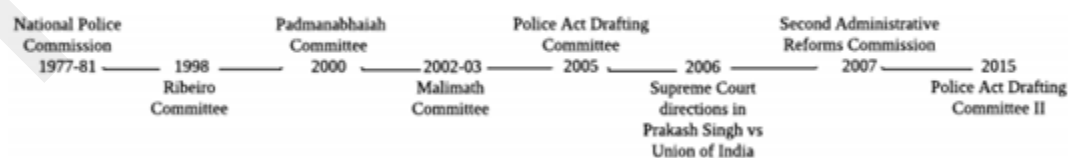
[SOL] **Option a is correct:** The Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) is a semiannual report by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.

- It assesses the **stability of global financial markets** and emerging-market financing with primary focus on current conditions, especially financial and structural imbalances, that could risk an upset in global financial stability and access to financing by emerging-market countries.
- It is released **twice per year**, in April and October.
- GFSR **replaced** two previous reports by the IMF, the annual International Capital Markets Report and the quarterly Emerging Market Financing Report.
- The **Global Financial Stability Report 2021** pointed out that for emerging markets and developing economies, adoption of cryptocurrency might be luring but they also come with a set of potential macro-financial risks, especially with respect to asset and currency substitution.

10. (d)

[SOL]

Committees constituted for the Police Reform:



Source: PRS.

Image Courtesy: [PRS](https://prs.org/)

11. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Solar conjunction is the period when **Earth and Mars**, in their eternal march around the Sun, are **obscured from each other** by the **fiery orb of the Sun itself**.

- The two planets are **temporarily invisible to each other** like dancers on either side of a huge bonfire.

Statement 2 is not correct: Solar conjunction occurs every two years.

- Before solar conjunction, the mission team sends up any necessary commands.

Statement 3 is not correct: Mission controllers at NASA's **Jet Propulsion Laboratory** respond in a variety of ways.

- o They **turn off some instruments**. They **collect data from others** and **store it**.
- o No one **attempts to send new instructions to Mars during solar conjunction**.

12. (d)

[SOL] **Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct:** It is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu state spread over 321 sq. km. at the tri-junction of three states, viz, **Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu**.

- It has a common boundary with **Wyanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala)** on the West, **Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka)** on the North, and the **Nilgiris North Division** on the South and East and Gudalur Forest Division on the South West, together forming a large conservation landscape for flagship species such as Tiger and Asian Elephant. The reception Centre is located at Theppakadu.
- The name Mudumalai means "the ancient hill range". Indeed, it is as old as 65 million years when the Western Ghats were formed.
- The climate of Mudumalai is moderate. It experiences cold weather during the month of December or the beginning of January and hot weather is experienced during the months of March and April.
- It has **tall grasses**, commonly referred to as "**Elephant Grass**", Bamboo of the giant variety, valuable timber species like Teak, Rosewood, etc,
 - o There are several species of endemic flora. Such a varied habitat is inhabited by a variety of animals which include tigers, **elephants, Indian Gaur, Panther, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Common Langur, Malabar Giant Squirrel, Wild Dog, Mongoose, Jungle Cat, Hyena**, among others.
- This reserve has a wide variety of more than **260 species of birds**.
- Eight percent of bird species found in India are recorded in Mudumalai.

13. (d)

[SOL] **In News**

- Recently, Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) launched its programme in Seychelles. India was chosen as the Partner Administration and has provided a Tax Expert for this programme.

Statement 1 is not correct. It is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Statement 2 is not correct. Aim: To strengthen developing countries' auditing capacity and multinationals' compliance worldwide. (**Not cross border cooperation**)

- It is a capacity-building programme for developing nations.

14. b

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

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

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

15. (a)

[SOL] **Kayakave Kailasa:**

- As per **Union Budget 2019-20**, Indian Scheme 'Kayakave Kailasa', the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** has **enabled SC/ST entrepreneurs** in providing bulk LPG transportation.
- **State run energy firms, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum and Indian Oil Corporation**, plan to spend US\$ 20 billion on refinery expansions to add units by 2022.

16. (d)

[SOL] On the basis of the proportion of carbon content, various types of coal are:

1. Anthracite (80-95%)
2. Bituminous (55-65%)
3. Lignite (45-55%)
4. Peat (35-45%)

17. (b)

[SOL] **In News**

- The Calcutta High Court has given West Bengal Assembly Speaker a deadline to pass an order in the defection case involving 3 MLAs.

Statement 1 is correct. The anti-defection laws were introduced in 1985 as the 10th Schedule to ensure a more stable government.

Statement 2 is not correct. It does not apply if **2/3rd members (Earlier it was 1/3rd)** of a certain party defect to others.

Statement 3 is not correct. There is **no** time limit for the Presiding officer to decide any defection case.

18. (a)

[SOL] **Kayakave Kailasa:**

- As per **Union Budget 2019-20**, Indian Scheme 'Kayakave Kailasa', the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** has **enabled SC/ST entrepreneurs** in providing bulk LPG transportation.
- **State-run energy firms, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum and Indian Oil Corporation**, plan to spend US\$ 20 billion on refinery expansions to add units by 2022.

19. (b)

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The concept of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) originated and developed in the USA in the 1960s. In the USA, it was designed to provide legal representation to previously unrepresented groups and interests.

Statement 2 is correct: In India, the PIL is a product of the judicial activism of the Supreme Court. It was introduced in the early 1980s. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer and Justice P.N. Bhagwati were the pioneers of the concept of PIL.

Statement 3 is correct: Public Interest Litigation is the power given to the public by courts through judicial activism. Such cases in which the victim does not have the necessary resources to commence litigation or his freedom to move court has been suppressed or encroached upon. The court can itself take cognisance of the matter and proceed suo motu or cases can commence on the petition of any public-spirited individual.

20. (b)

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

Statements 2 and 3 are not correct: The recommendations mentioned in statements 2 and 3 are made by the Punchhi Commission. Punchhi Commission was constituted by the Central Government in 2007 as a Commission on Centre-State relations. It was constituted to protect the interests of the States by trying to curb their misuse by the Centre. The commission recommended that the central government should try to bring only the specific area under its jurisdiction and that too for a short period, not more than three months. That means, the Commission recommended localizing the emergency provisions under Articles 355 and 356. The Commission recommended that the Governor should be allowed to follow “constitutional conventions” in the case of a Hung Assembly in the State.

21. (d)

[SOL] Corbett National Park is situated in Nainital, Uttarakhand. Spans over an extent of 520 square km.

- o The whole area comprises **hills, marshy depressions, riverine belts, grasslands** and a **large lake**.
 - **Established** in 1936 as **Hailey National Park** after Sir Malcolm Hailey, the governor of the United Province.
 - It was renamed Ramganga National Park, named after the river that flows through it, shortly after Independence and was rechristened yet again as **Corbett National Park in 1956**.
 - Corbett has the glory of being **India's oldest and most prestigious National Park**.

22. (a)

[SOL] RTS, S was first authorised in 2015 by the European Medicines Agency for use in Africa in infants and children.

- The WHO recommended widespread use of the **RTS, S/AS01 (RTS, S)** malaria vaccine among children in **sub-Saharan Africa** and in other regions with moderate to **high P. falciparum malaria transmission**.
- The recommendation is based on results from an ongoing pilot programme in **Ghana, Kenya and Malawi** that has reached more than 800 000 children since 2019.

23. (c)

[SOL] Cities or towns are developed to **decongest metropolitan towns**. Counter-magnet cities are identified as those that can be developed as alternative centres of growth and **attract** migrants to them rather than Delhi. The counter magnet cities should be given priority when allocating funding for development of land, housing and infrastructure. Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurugram etc. Kanpur, Gwalior are examples.

24. (c)

[SOL] In News

- **Credit ratings agency 'Moody's'** has changed **India's sovereign rating** outlook from **'negative'** to **'stable'**.
 - o It also affirmed the country's foreign-currency and local-currency long-term issuer ratings at Baa3.

Statement 1 is correct. It is a company that assigns **credit ratings**, which rate a debtor's ability to pay back debt by making timely principal and interest payments and the likelihood of default.

Statement 2 is correct. India and China allege biases in the credit rating agencies as evident from Economic Survey.

25. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** In Ayushman Bharat, States are given flexibility to decide on mode of implementation.

Statement 2 is correct: Health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year will be provided.

26. (a)

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The Henley Passport Index is the original, authoritative ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.

- The index is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- It is the largest, most accurate travel information database –and enhanced by Henley & Partners' research team.
- It lists the world's most travel-friendly passports.
- The index covers 227 destinations and 199 passports.

Statement 3 is not correct: Japan and Singapore stood at the top of this year's list, with their passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to 192 countries, while **South Korea and Germany share the second position**.

- Meanwhile, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and Yemen are among the least powerful.
- **India**, which held the 84th rank last year, fell down to the 90th position, with its passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to 58 countries.
 - o India shares the rank with Tajikistan and Burkina Faso.

27. (a)

[SOL] Recently, The 6th Edition of India - UK Joint Company Level Military Training EXERCISE AJEYA WARRIOR has commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.

- The exercise is part of an initiative to **develop interoperability** and sharing **expertise with friendly foreign nations**.
- During this exercise, an Infantry Company from the Indian Army and an equivalent strength from UK Army would be sharing **their experiences gained** during the conduct of various military operations in their respective countries and overseas engagements.
 - o Together, both armies stand to benefit from their varied experiences.
- As part of the training, both the Armies **would familiarise** themselves with each other's weapons, equipment, tactics, techniques and procedures for **carrying out joint military operations**.
- There would be a series of Expert Academic Discussions on various subjects of mutual interest such as Combined Arms Concept, Sharing of Experiences in Joint Force, Operation Logistics etc

28. (c)

[SOL] The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). It has 10 indicators:

1. Health
 - a. Nutrition
 - b. Child mortality
2. Education
 - a. Years of Schooling
 - b. School Attendance
3. Living Standards
 - a. **Cooking Oil**
 - b. **Sanitation**
 - c. **Drinking Water**
 - d. **Electricity**
 - e. **Housing**
 - f. **Assets**

29. (a)

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

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

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

30. (c)

[SOL] **In News**

- The COVID-19 pandemic had widespread and devastating consequences to communities and enterprises in India and across the globe.
 - o The situation was particularly grim for the 453.6 million internal migrants in India.
 - It was evident by the **unprecedented 'reverse migration'** witnessed during the pandemic.
- Two acts constituted in 1996 address the issues faced by the construction workers.
 - o **The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act and**
 - o **the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act**
- These legislatures mandated the institution of a **Construction Workers Welfare Board (CWWB). (Hence, Statement 1 is correct.)**
 - o It is a tripartite entity with equal representation from workers, employers and the government.
 - o **Funded by: Cess at the rate of 1 percent of the total cost of construction (Hence, Statement 2 is correct.)**

31. (b)

[SOL] **Y.K. Alagh Committee (2001)** - It recommended significant changes and it was this committee along with the committee discussed next that led to the introduction of a Civil Services Aptitude Test at the Preliminary level from the year 2011.

- **Surinder Nath Committee (2003)** - The committee stressed the idea for domain expertise of bureaucrats, suggesting that assigning a particular domain to the officers should be a key step for their selection to the Central staffing scheme posts, identifying 11 domains.
- **Nigavekar Committee (2011)** is thought to induce a system in UPSC pattern to judge the communications skills of the candidate, be it in any language.
- **Baswan Committee (2015)** - The issue of the dearth of IAS and IPS officers was highlighted in the Baswan Committee Report as well. However, the number of officers who can be inducted through UPSC CSE is limited and this may lead to compromise with the quality of the recruits and problems in training them at LBSNAA.

32. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** It was in the year **1969, 19th July** when **14 of most major commercial banks functioning in India underwent nationalization** and then in the year 1980 another 6 banks were nationalized which enhanced the total number to 20.

Statement 2 is correct: The intention of strategic disinvestment is to transfer the ownership of a non-performing organization to more efficient private players.

33. (d)

[SOL] Jayaprakash Narayan was a **freedom fighter of great courage** and one of the pioneers of the **socialist movement in the country**.

- He was born on October 11, 1902, in Sitabdiara, a quiet village susceptible to floods, situated near the confluence of the Ganga and Saryu rivers, nearly 118 km from Patna.
- He was a **brilliant student**. He completed his matriculation with distinction, but quit college to take part in the **non-cooperation movement**.
 - o He later went to the **University of California, Berkeley**, where he was exposed to Marxism.
 - o JP returned to India in 1929, influenced by **Marxism** and radical thought to some extent and joined the Indian National Congress (Congress Party).
- In **1932** he was sentenced to a **year's imprisonment** for his participation in the civil disobedience movement against British rule in India.
 - o Upon release he took a **leading part in the formation of the Congress Socialist Party**, a left-wing group within the Congress Party, the organization that led the campaign for Indian independence.
 - o He was imprisoned by the **British again in 1939** for his opposition to **Indian participation in World War II** on the side of Britain, but he subsequently made a dramatic escape and for a short time tried to organize violent resistance to the government before his recapture in 1943.
 - o In 1948 he, together with most of the Congress Socialists, left the Congress Party and in **1952 formed the Praja Socialist Party**.
 - o Soon becoming dissatisfied with party politics, he announced in 1954 that he would thenceforth devote his life exclusively to the **Bhoodan Yajna Movement**, founded by Vinoba Bhave, which demanded that land be distributed among the landless.
 - He galvanised support for the **Bhoodan movement**, worked **relentlessly for the poor** and the **underprivileged** and, above all, became a symbol of the national conscience in the fight against corruption, anti-democratic conduct and repressive practices of Indira Gandhi's government in the 1970s.
 - o He grew from socialism to Sarvodaya, becoming the leader of resistance against a repressive, anti-democratic regime.
 - o He set up the Azaad Dasta in the Terai region of Nepal to resist British rule.
 - o Narayan, who had launched a '**Sampoorna Kranti**' (**total revolution**) in 1974 against corruption in public life, is the third person to get the prestigious award this year.
 - o Socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan was posthumously conferred with India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, for his "invaluable contribution to the freedom struggle and upliftment of the poor and downtrodden".

34. (c)

[SOL] **Javan Gibbon** is also known as the **silvery gibbon** and the **primate is unique to central and western Java**, where it plays a role in **regenerating forest vegetation** by dispersing seeds.

- Javan Gibbons have a fluffy appearance because of their very dense and long silvery-grey fur.
- They have very long forelimbs, long fingers and shorter thumbs which make them great brachiators (use their arms to swing between branches).
- **Diet:** Javan Gibbons are **omnivores and eat fruits, some leaves and sometimes nectar and grubs.**
- **In the wild:** They live in family groups made up of a male and female and up to three juvenile offspring. Like other gibbons, the territory is maintained by patrols, physical conflict and loud calling.
- Conservation International estimates there are around 4,000 Javan gibbons left. They are listed as **endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.**

35. (d)

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

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

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

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

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

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

36. (d)

[SOL] Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct: Red sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*), known for their *rich hue and therapeutic properties*.

- It is *high in demand across Asia*, particularly in *China and Japan*, for use in *cosmetics and medicinal products* as well as for making furniture, woodcraft and musical instruments.
- Red Sanders usually *grow in the rocky*, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil and a hot and dry climate.
- It is declared *Near Threatened* in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (I.U.C.N.) red list
- It is listed in *Appendix II* of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- It is among the endangered species of wood found in Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh.

37. (c)

[SOL] Statement 1 and 3 are correct: *Rabies* is a *zoonotic viral disease*.

- It is caused by the *Rabies virus, of the Lyssavirus genus, within the family Rhabdoviridae*.
 - o It is a *Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) virus* that is present in the saliva of a rabid animal (dog, cat, monkey, etc). *India is endemic for rabies accounting for 36% of the world's deaths*.

Statement 2 is not correct: Rabies is 100% fatal but 100% vaccine-preventable.

- o Rabies deaths in human are **100% preventable through prompt** and appropriate medical care.
 - ☐ Vaccinating dogs is the most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in people.

38. (c)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Equalisation Levy is a direct tax, which is withheld at the time of payment by the service recipient. The two conditions to be met to be liable to equalisation levy:

- **The payment should be made to a non-resident service provider;**
- The annual payment made to one service provider exceeds Rs. 1,00,000 in one financial year.

Statement 2 is correct: MAT or Minimum Alternate Tax is a provision in Direct tax laws to limit tax exemptions availed by companies, so that they pay at least a minimum amount of corporate tax to the government. The key reason for introduction of MAT is to ensure minimum levels of taxation for all domestic and foreign companies in India.

39. (d)

[SOL] The Nordic region, or Norden, may be defined as consisting of the **five sovereign states**:

- Denmark,
- Finland,
- Iceland,
- Norway and
- Sweden,
- plus the three autonomous territories connected to these states:
 - o the Faroe Islands and
 - o Greenland (Denmark) and
 - o Åland (Finland).

40. (b)

[SOL]

- **Y.K. Alagh Committee (2001)** - It recommended significant changes and it was this committee along with the committee discussed next that led to the introduction of a Civil Services Aptitude Test at the Preliminary level from the year 2011.
- **Surinder Nath Committee (2003)**- The committee stressed the idea for domain expertise of bureaucrats, suggesting that assigning particular domain to the officers should be a key step for their selection to the Central staffing scheme posts, identifying 11 domains.
- **Nigavekar Committee (2011)** is thought to induce a system in UPSC pattern to judge the communications skills of the candidate, be it in any language.
- **Baswan Committee (2015)** - The issue of dearth of IAS and IPS officers was highlighted in the Baswan Committee Report as well. However, the number of officers which can be inducted through UPSC CSE is limited and this may lead to compromise with the quality of the recruits and problems in training them at LBSNAA.

41. (c)

[SOL] In News

- PM Modi will address 28th NHRC Foundation Day programme on Oct 12, 2021.

Statement 1 is not correct. Its chairperson is the **former** Chief Justice of India or **former Judge of the Supreme Court**.

Statement 2 is not correct. The chairperson has a term of **5 years or up to the age of 70 years, whichever comes earlier**.

Statement 3 is correct. It has very limited power with respect to human rights violations by the Armed Forces.

42. (b)

[SOL] In News

- The rail link between Nepal and India is ready to resume on the neighbouring country's first-ever broad gauge passenger service.
 - Nepal has been asked to start operations preferably by this year.
- India decided to carry out the entire gauge conversion work, including trains to operate on the link **in 3 phases**.
 - The first stretch is a **34-km line between Bihar's Jayanagar and Nepal's Kurtha. (Hence, statement B is correct.)**
 - ❑ In between these two lies the **Hindu pilgrimage city of Janakpur Dham**.

43. (b)

[SOL]

- India decided to go to space when the Indian National Committee for Space Research (**INCOSPAR**) was set up by the Government of India in **1962**. With the visionary Dr Vikram Sarabhai at its helm, INCOSPAR set up the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) in Thiruvananthapuram for upper atmospheric research.

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, formed in 1969, superseded the erstwhile INCOSPAR. Vikram Sarabhai, having identified the role and importance of space technology in a Nation's development, provided ISRO the necessary direction to function as an agent of development. ISRO then embarked on its mission to provide the Nation space based services and to develop the technologies to achieve the same independently.
- **Antrix Corporation Limited** was set up in 1992 to market the products and services of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **New Space India Limited (NSIL)** is a Public Sector Undertaking of Government of India and commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation. It was established on **6 March 2019** under the administrative control of the Department of Space (DoS) and the Company Act 2013.
- **Indian Space Association (ISpA)**: It is an industry body of government and private companies launched recently (in 2021). The ISpA aims to supplement the Centre's efforts in commercial space exploration and space-based communication.

44. (b)

[SOL] Option B is correct: NASA is set to launch its first spacecraft to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids. Named after an ancient fossil 3.2 million-year-old ancestor who belonged to a species of hominins.

45. (b)

[SOL]

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) is made up of 30 member countries, 8 association countries, and 3 accession countries. A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the OECD. IEA member countries are required to maintain total oil stock levels equivalent to at least 90 days of the previous year's net imports. **India** became an Associate Member of IEA in 2017.
- **30 Member countries** are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The **8 Association countries** are Brazil, China, **India**, Indonesia, Morocco, Singapore, South Africa and Thailand.

46. (d)

[SOL] In News: The IMF has projected that India will grow at 9.5% and 8.5% this fiscal year and next after a contraction of 7.3% last year in its latest **World Economic Outlook** report. India's debt to GDP ratio increased from 74% to 90% during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Statement 1 is not correct: Tax-to-GDP ratio represents the size of a country's tax kitty relative to its GDP. It is a representation of the size of the government's tax revenue expressed as a percentage of the GDP. The higher the tax to GDP ratio the better the financial position the country will be in. The ratio represents that the government is able to finance its expenditure. A higher tax to GDP ratio means that the government is able to cast its fiscal net wide. It reduces a government's dependence on borrowings.

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

47. (d)

[SOL] Afghanistan is a **landlocked** multiethnic country located in the heart of south-central Asia. The nearest coast lies along the Arabian Sea. It is bounded to the east and south by **Pakistan** (including those areas of Kashmir administered by Pakistan but claimed by India), to the west by **Iran** and to the north by the Central Asian states of **Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan**. It also has a short border with Xinjiang, China, at the end of the long, narrow Vākhān (Wakhan Corridor), in the extreme northeast.

48. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, which prohibits identified single-use plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential **by 2022**.

The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022:-

- earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;
- plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packaging films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.

Statement 2 is not correct: In order to stop littering due to light weight plastic carry bags, with effect from 30th September, 2021, **the thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased from fifty microns to seventy five microns** and to one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022. This will also allow reuse of plastic carry due to increasing in thickness.

49. (a)

[SOL] **In News**

- The IMF has projected that India will grow at 9.5% and 8.5% this fiscal year and next after a contraction of 7.3% last year in its latest **World Economic Outlook** report. (**Hence option A is correct.**)
- India's debt to GDP ratio increased from 74% to 90% during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - o It is a cause of concern.

50. (a)

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Haryana government proposed to spend Rs 215 crore on the construction of a dam meant for the revival of the Saraswati river.

Statement 1 is correct: The river originated from **Kapal Tirith in the Himalayas** in the west of Kailash, flowed southward to Mansarovar and then turned towards the west.

Statement 2 is not correct: The river **flowed through Haryana, Rajasthan and North Gujarat**.

- It also **flowed through Pakistan before meeting the Western Sea** through the Rann of Kutch and was approximately 4,000 km in length.

51. (d)

[SOL] **Option d is correct:** The Kunming Declaration was adopted by over **100 countries on October 13, 2021, in China** at the first part of the ongoing virtual 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity**.

- It calls upon the parties to **“mainstream” biodiversity protection in decision-making and recognises** the importance of conservation in protecting human health.
- **Kunming Declaration** acknowledges that the aim of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.
- Securing and maintaining a high-level political commitment to reverse the loss of biodiversity this decade is a critical first step to addressing the current nature crisis.

52. (d)

[SOL] **Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct:** Flower scorpionfish is also known as Hoplosebastes Armatus and it **belongs to the order of ray-finned fish** that is also known as Scorpaeniforme. It was discovered in the Pacific Ocean off Japan almost a century ago in 1929. A unique, lesser-known fish species that was till now thought to be found only in the **Pacific Ocean has been found in the Indian Ocean** too.

53. (a)

[SOL] **Option A is correct: In News:** Tensions between China and Taiwan have escalated since October 1, when China observes its National Day. 1st Oct marks the birth of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Coinciding with the 72nd anniversary celebrations, China flew over 100 fighter jets into Taiwan's air defence identification zone. It jangled nerves in Taiwan and set off alarm around the world that it was preparing to take over the island by force.

- **October 10 — “double 10”**
- Taiwan observes October 10- “double 10”- as its **national day**
- It was on this day in 1911 that sections of the **Manchu army** rose in rebellion.
- Ultimately **overthrowing the Qing dynasty** and ending 4,000 years of the monarchy.

54. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Mitra Mela, a secret organization of the revolutionaries was established by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and his brother Ganesh Damodar Savarkar at Nashik in 1899. It was later renamed Abhinav Bharat Society (Young India Society) in 1904, taking after Giuseppe Mazzini's Young Italy. Veer Savarkar was also the founder of the **Free India Society in England and Madam Bhikaji Cama** was its founding leader.

Statement 2 is correct: The society grew to include several hundred revolutionaries and political activists with branches in various parts of **India**, extending to **London** after Savarkar went to study law.

55. (d)

[SOL] **All the statements are correct:** The government has notified new rules related to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021.

- In this, the gestational limit for termination of a pregnancy has been increased from 20 to 24 weeks for certain categories of women.

Key Highlights of the Amendments

- Under the new rules, 7 specific categories will be eligible for termination of pregnancy up to 24 weeks:
- Survivors of **sexual assault or rape or incest**; (**Option 1 is correct**)
- **Minors**;
- Change of **marital status during the ongoing pregnancy** (widowhood and divorce); (**Option 2 is Correct.**)
- Women with **physical disabilities**;
- Mentally ill women;
- **Foetal malformation** that has a substantial risk of being incompatible with life or if the child is born, he/ she may suffer from serious physical or mental abnormalities; and
- Women with pregnancy in **humanitarian settings or disaster or emergency situations**. (**Option 3 is Correct.**)

56. (b)

[SOL] The eighth ministerial meeting of the India-U.S.A. Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue was recently held in Washington D.C.

- The meeting was chaired by India's Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs and the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

Statement 1 is not correct. It is an example of track 1 diplomacy as ministers are directly involved.

Statement 2 is correct. In the recent meeting, there was convergence by both curbing money laundering and climate finance.

Statement 3 is correct. The US has promised to provide technical support for the development of GIFT City in Gujarat.

57. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a peer-reviewed annual report, jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels. The aim of the GHI is to trigger action to reduce hunger around the world.

Statement 2 is not correct: India ranks **101st out of the 116** countries with sufficient data to calculate 2021 GHI scores. With a score of 27.5, India has a level of hunger that is **serious**.

58. (d)

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** It is an *inter-governmental body* within the *United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights* around the globe and for *addressing situations of human rights violations* and making recommendations on them.

- It replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- It has the ability to *discuss all thematic human rights* issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.
- The Council is made up of *47 United Nations Member States* which are elected by the *UN General Assembly*.

Statement 3 is not correct: The members of the Council shall serve for a *period of three years* and *shall not be eligible for immediate re-election* after two consecutive terms.

59. (c)

[SOL] Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Endosulfan is a pesticide and It *does not occur naturally in the environment*.

- It is a *cream-to-brown-coloured solid* that may appear crystalline or in flakes.
- It has a *distinct odour similar to turpentine*.
- It is used to *control insects on food and non-food crops* and also as a wood preservative.
- It is sold as a mixture of two different forms of the same chemical (referred to as *α - and β -endosulfan*).
- Endosulfan can be released into the *air, water, and soil* in areas where it is *applied as a pesticide*.
- The health *effects of endosulfan depend* on how much endosulfan you are exposed to and the length of that exposure

60. (c)

[SOL] The following table represents the correct match of important Indian bilateral army exercises:

S.No.	Exercise Name	Participant Nations
1.	Surya Kiran	India & Nepal
2.	Vajra Prahar	India & US
3.	Dharma Guardian	India & Japan
4.	Garuda Shakti	India & Indonesia

61. (b)

[SOL] China in August tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic glide vehicle that circled the globe before speeding towards its target. It was claimed by a report in the London-based Financial Times, citing various sources.

Statement 1 is not correct. They navigate at speeds in the range of 5 Mach to 10 Mach.

Statement 2 is correct. Hypersonic weapons are tough to detect and have a longer reach.

62. (d)

[SOL] **Option d is correct:** International Space Station is a space station, or a habitable artificial satellite, in Low Earth Orbit (approximately 250 miles above Earth).

- The first piece of the International Space Station was launched in 1998, since then it is evolving.
- NASA and its partners around the world finished the space station in 2011.
- The ISS is one of the most ambitious international collaborations in human history.
- The ISS programme is a joint project between *five participating space agencies: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada).*
- The ownership and use of the space station are established by intergovernmental treaties and agreements.
- The station is divided into two sections, the Russian Orbital Segment (ROS) and the United States Orbital Segment (USOS), which is shared by many nations.
- ISS is the ninth space station to be inhabited by crews, following the Soviet and later Russian Salyut, Almaz, and Mir stations as well as Skylab from the US.

63. (d)

[SOL] **Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct:** Zeolites are *highly porous, 3-D meshes of silica and alumina.*

- They occur *naturally and are also produced industrially* on a large scale.
 - o In nature, they occur *where volcanic outflows have met water.*
 - o Synthetic zeolites have proven to be a *big and low-cost boon.*
- They are often also referred to as **molecular sieves.**
- The zeolites are noted for their lability toward ion exchange and reversible dehydration.
- They have a framework structure that encloses interconnected cavities occupied by large metal cations (positively charged ions) and water molecules.

64. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The IMF issues an international reserve asset known as Special Drawing Rights or SDRs, that can supplement the official reserves of member countries participating in the SDR Department (currently all members of the IMF). A general allocation of SDRs must be consistent with the objective of meeting the long-term global need for reserve assets and requires Board of Governors approval by an **85 per cent** majority of the total voting power.

Statement 2 is correct: Once agreed, the allocation is distributed to member countries in proportion to their quota shares at the Fund. Total global allocations are currently about SDR 204.2 billion (some \$293 billion). IMF members can **voluntarily exchange SDRs** for currencies among themselves.

65. (d)

[SOL] **In News:** Over four crore unorganised sector workers had been registered on the e-Shram portal in under two months of its launch.

Statement 1 is not correct: The portal will **maintain a database** of workers in the country's unorganised sector.

- Workers will be provided with an **e-SHRAM card which will have a 12 digit unique number**.
 - The details of workers will also be shared by the state government and departments.

Statement 2 is correct: The Ministry of Labour & Employment launched the National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW) or **e-Shram portal**. This will be a single-point reference to help authorities reach out to and track workers in the **informal sector, and offer welfare in times of crisis**.

- The database will include **construction workers, migrant workers, gig and platform workers, street vendors, domestic workers, agriculture workers, migrant workers** and similar other sub-groups of unorganised workers.
- It will be available in public for open access where workers can self-enrol through **Aadhaar and mobile numbers**.

66. (d)

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: ENSO is a single climate phenomenon, it has three states or phases. The two opposite phases are El Niño and La Niña. El Niño is the warming of the ocean surface, or above-average sea surface temperatures (SST), in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. And, La Nina is basically the opposite of an El Niño: Ocean temperatures along the eastern half of the tropical Pacific cool down and that part of the world dries out.

Statement 2 is not correct: During an El Niño event, the surface of the tropical Pacific Ocean gets warmer than usual, particularly at the equator and along the coasts of South and Central America. Warm oceans lead to low-pressure systems in the atmosphere above, which in turn leads to a lot of rain for the western coasts of South America.

67. (d)

[SOL] Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*). The species is found in very small numbers in **India and Cambodia**. About a hundred of them are present in Nepal and the species is extinct in Bangladesh. It is an **iconic species of topmost conservation priority** and it exhibits transboundary movements. It has a very **small, rapidly declining population** largely as a result of the **widespread loss of its grassland habitat**.

- IUCN status: Critically Endangered.**

68. (c)

[SOL] Geospatial Energy Map of India was launched by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 18 October 2021.

Statement 1 is correct. It has been launched by NITI Aayog and ISRO.

Statement 2 is correct. It has more than 25 layers on the map.

69. (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.

70. (b)

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: National Urban Digital Mission aims to build a shared digital infrastructure that will strengthen the capacity of the urban ecosystem to solve complex problems at scale and speed. It is built as a public good and provides the ecosystem actors the foundational digital building blocks, ready-to-use platforms, standards, specifications, and frameworks. It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.

Statement 2 is correct: Its vision is to improve the ease of living for citizens by creating a national urban digital ecosystem that delivers accessible, inclusive, efficient and citizen centric governance in India's 4400 towns and cities.

71. (d)

[SOL] Recently, candy giant Mars Wrigley carried out a mass recall of several batches of its Crispy M&Ms across Europe. It was due to the use of Genetically Modified rice flour that allegedly originated in India, according to the European Commission's rapid alert system. However, the Commerce Ministry pointed out that GM rice is not grown commercially in India, let alone export.

Option D is correct. India does not allow any GM crop to be grown in India except for BT Cotton.

72. (d)

[SOL] The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference on September 10–14, 1960, by **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela**.

- o Libya, UAE, Algeria, Nigeria, Angola, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Congo joined it later.
 - The OPEC Secretariat is the executive organ of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Located in Vienna.

73. (b)

[SOL] Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Jal Jeevan Mission envisages a supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.

- It is under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- It was launched in 2019.

Statement 3 is not correct: The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and **100% for Union Territories**.

- **Aims:**
 - o The mission ensures the functionality of existing water supply systems and water connections; water quality monitoring and testing as well as sustainable agriculture.
- It also ensures conjunctive use of conserved water; drinking water source augmentation, drinking water supply system, greywater treatment and its reuse.

74. (d)

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: World Economic Outlook is a Survey by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff usually published twice a year. It presents IMF staff economists' analyses of global economic developments during the near and medium term.

Statement 2 is not correct: The global economy is projected to grow **5.9 percent in 2021 and 4.9 percent in 2022**, 0.1 percentage point lower for 2021 than in the July forecast. The downward revision for 2021 reflects a downgrade for advanced economies—in part due to supply disruptions—and for low-income developing countries, largely due to worsening pandemic dynamics.

75. (c)

[SOL]

- **Sub Standard:** A sub-standard asset is one which is classified as an NPA for a period **not exceeding twelve months**.
- **Doubtful:** A doubtful asset is one which has remained as an NPA for a period exceeding twelve months.
- **Loss:** A loss asset is one where loss has already been identified by the bank or an external institution, but it is not yet completely written off, due to its recovery value, however little it may be.

76. (b)

[SOL] Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Global Food Security Index (GFSI) considers the issues of food affordability, availability, quality and safety, and natural resources and resilience across a set of 113 countries. The index is a **dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking** model constructed from 58 unique indicators that measure the **drivers of food security across both developing and developed countries**.

Statement 3 is not correct: According to the report, **India held 71st position with an overall score of 57.2 points on the GFS Index 2021** of 113 countries, fared better than Pakistan (75th position), Sri Lanka (77th Position), Nepal (79th position) and Bangladesh (84th position). But the country was way behind China (34th position)

77. (d)

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Mahaparinirvana Temple is located in Kushinagar in UP.

Statement 2 is not correct: The reclining nirvana statue of **Lord Buddha** inside the *temple is 6.10 mt. long* and is made of *monolith red sandstone of the 5th century A.D.*

- It represents the **'Dieing-Buddha'** reclining on his right side with his face towards the west.
- Being the death- place of Lord Buddha, it is a holy place for pilgrimage.

78. (a)

[SOL] Option A is correct: The Varman dynasty (350-650) was the first historical dynasty of the Kamarupa kingdom. **It was established by Pushyavarman**, a contemporary of Samudragupta.

79. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Reclining Buddha was first depicted in **Gandhara art**, which began in the period between 50 BC and 75 AD, and peaked during the Kushana period from the first to the fifth centuries AD.

Statement 2 is not correct: Kushinagar, where the Buddha actually attained parinirvana, has a **6-metre-long red sandstone monolith** statue of the Reclining Buddha inside the **Parinirvana Stupa**.

80. (c)

[SOL] Recently, India and Israel agreed to resume long-pending negotiations on a free trade agreement, as External Affairs Minister met his Israeli counterpart in Jerusalem

- o Israel accepts travel for Indians with Covishield jab.

Option C is correct. UAE (not Saudi Arabia) is the member of the new QUAD.

81. (b)

[SOL] The two lakes — **Chibzhang Co and Dorsoidong Co** — in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region grew larger between October 1987 and 2021. (**Hence, Option B is correct.**)

- But much of these glaciers are retreating due to rising temperatures, accelerating ice loss and meltwater runoff.

82. (b)

[SOL] **Statements 1 is not correct:** The **Gold Bonds** are issued as **Government of India Stock** under the Government Securities (GS) Act, 2006.

- o These are issued by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on behalf of the Government of India.
- o The Bonds will be sold through **Scheduled Commercial banks**(except Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), designated post offices, and recognised stock exchanges viz., National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct: Maturity period is 8 years, with an option to exit the investment after the first five years.

- Gold bonds can be purchased in multiples of one unit.
 - o The upper limit for retail (individual) investors and HUFs is 4 kilograms (4,000 units) each per financial year.
 - o For trusts and similar entities, an upper limit of 20 kilograms per financial year is applicable.
 - o Minimum permissible investment is 1 gram of gold.
- A fixed rate of 2.5% per annum is applicable on the scheme, payable semi-annually.
 - o The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

83. (b)

[SOL] Option b is correct: Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary is situated at Bargarh district in Odisha.

- The *353-square kilometre sanctuary* is situated adjacent to the huge *Hirakud reservoir*.
- The sanctuary is an important *biogeographic zone from both the ecological and environmental* point of view.
- **Biodiversity:** It is home to over 40 species of mammals, 234 species of birds, 41 species of reptiles, 12 species of amphibians, 42 species of fishes, 85 species of butterflies and 38 species of spiders.

84. (c)

[SOL]

Statement 1 is not correct: In India's development plan exercise we have two types of schemes i.e central sector and centrally sponsored scheme. Under Central sector schemes, it is 100% funded by the Union government and implemented by the Central Government machinery. Central sector schemes are mainly formulated on subjects from the Union List. Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) a certain percentage of the funding is borne by the States in the ratio of 50:50, 70:30, 75:25 or 90:10 and the implementation is by the State Governments.

Statement 2 is not correct: Centrally Sponsored Schemes are formulated in subjects from the State List to encourage States to prioritise in areas that require more attention.

Statement 3 is correct: The centrally sponsored schemes are divided into two categories – core of the core schemes and core schemes. MGNREGA or the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act falls under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes: Core of the core schemes.

85. (b)

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), also known as BharatNet, is a Special Purpose Vehicle set up under Companies Act by Government of India with an authorized capital of **Rs. 1000 Cr.** Thus, BBNL is a Government of India Undertaking.

Statement 2 is correct: It has been mandated to create the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) in India. A total of around 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats spread over 6,600 Blocks and 641 Districts are to be covered by laying incremental fiber. The timeline for this ambitious project is two years. The project cost is estimated to be about 20,000 Cr which will be funded by the Universal service Obligation Fund (USOF).

86. (c)

[SOL] In News: Although the monsoon season ends in September, a delayed withdrawal and other factors have been causing heavy rainfall in several states.

Option 1 is correct: Western disturbances:

- o Begin to have significant interference in local weather over the extreme northern parts of India, commonly causing either rain or snowfall.
- o When a low-pressure system interacts with western disturbance, further intense rainfall occurs.

Option 2 is not correct: Two low-pressure systems were active simultaneously

- o One each over the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal regions.
- o Collectively, these triggered severe weather events over Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

Option 3 is correct: Delayed monsoon withdrawal

- o This year, however, the withdrawal began only on October 6 against a normal of September 17.
- o Even though the easterlies are beginning to replace the westerlies,
 - ☐ The former is yet to strengthen and fully establish.
 - ☐ The easterly winds indicate the arrival of the northeast monsoon
- o So far, the monsoon has withdrawn completely from the Western, Northern, Central and Eastern India regions.
- o But it remains active over the southern peninsula.
- o Thus, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have had significant rainfall during the last 10 days.

87. (a)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Amur Falcons are Scientifically termed as '**Falco amurensis**'.

- The Amur falcon is a *small raptor of the falcon family*.
- They breed in Siberia and Northern China and migrate to winter in Southern Africa.
 - o Migrates west through India and across the Arabian Sea to Southern Africa.

Statement 2 is not correct: The birds are the **least concern** under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

- The hunting of the bird was punishable under the Manipur Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and *could lead to three years of imprisonment and a fine of ₹25,000.*

88. (d)

[SOL] Waste Aid (a UK based international NGO) launched its Zero Waste Cities Challenge.

- o The competition was launched to find grassroots solutions to resource efficiency, waste collection and recycling in *South Africa, Vietnam and India.*
 - It is part of a programme to *encourage a circular economy* and *inclusive livelihood opportunities* in the city.
 - Prizes of €10,000 will be awarded to two innovation solutions that increase resource efficiency and reduce waste, in the three cities
 - It aims to find entrepreneurs with innovative business ideas that help reduce or recycle waste and create green employment opportunities.

89. (d)

[SOL] CoP 26 is soon to begin in Glasgow with focus on commitment to Net Zero.

- India doesn't rule out 'net zero' commitment but New Delhi insists on earlier pledges for tech transfer funds from developed countries.

Option 1 is not correct: Net-zero is also referred to as carbon-neutrality.

- It is a state in which a country's emissions are compensated by absorption and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.
- It does not mean that a country would bring down its emissions to zero.

Option 2 is not correct: "India: Transforming to a Net-Zero Emissions Energy System": A report released jointly by TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) and Shell.

90. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched at COP21 (2015), the UN climate meeting in Paris. This is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization. The Headquarters is in India with its Interim Secretariat being set up in Gurugram.

Statement 2 is not correct: It has 122 sun-belt countries as its prospective member countries and currently has 98 Signatory countries globally. The sunshine countries lie **either completely or partly** between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

91. (d)

[SOL] **In News:** Flash floods and back-to-back landslides in Kerala bring into focus the fragile ecosystem of the mountain chain that runs almost parallel to India's western coast.

Option 1 is not correct: The Western Ghats is a mountain chain that runs almost parallel to India's western coast.

- It stretches across six states: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Option 2 is not correct: It runs to a length of 1,600 km, starting from the mouth of the river Tapti near the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra to Kanyakumari, the southernmost tip of India in Tamil Nadu.

92. (d)

[SOL] **Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct:** Melioidosis, also called **Whitmore's disease**, is an infectious disease that can infect humans or animals. The disease is caused by the **bacterium Burkholderia pseudomallei**.

- The bacteria causing melioidosis are found in **contaminated water and soil**.
- Melioidosis is a **rare but serious disease** in the United States with 12 cases reported annually.
- The true burden of the disease is unknown in India but a 2016 modelling study by scientists at the University of Oxford predicted a global incidence of around 165,000 cases worldwide with an estimated case fatality of 89,000 (54%).
- This study suggested melioidosis to be endemic to India with an annual incidence of close to 52,500 cases.
- It is **spread to humans and animals through direct contact** with the contaminated source.
- It is predominantly a disease of **tropical climates**, especially in **Southeast Asia and northern Australia** where it is widespread.

93. (a)

[SOL] The Sabarmati is a **seasonal river** with its flows dominated by the **monsoon**.

- It originates from **Aravalli Hills, Rajasthan** and meets in the **Bay of Khambhat** in the Arabian sea.
- It passes through districts like **Udaipur in Rajasthan, and Aravalli, Sabarkantha, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and Kheda in Gujarat**.
- Its length is **371 km.** & total catchment area is **21,674 sq. km.**
- **Sei, Siri and Dhamni** are the right bank's tributaries and **Wakal, Harnav, Hathmati, Khari, Watrak** are left bank's tributaries.

94. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), massive bilateral project to improve infrastructure within Pakistan for better trade with China and to further integrate the countries of the region. It was launched in 2015.

Statement 2 is correct: The goal of CPEC is both to transform Pakistan's economy—by modernizing its road, rail, air, and energy transportation systems—and to connect the deep-sea Pakistani ports of Gwadar and Karachi to China's Xinjiang province and beyond by overland routes.

95. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Critical care services will be made available in all districts that have a population of over 5 lakh.

Statement 2 is not correct: Its objective is to **fill gaps in public health infrastructure**, especially in critical care facilities and primary care **in both urban and rural areas**. Under PMASBY, a national institution for health, four new national institutes for virology, a regional research platform for WHO South East Asia Region, nine biosafety level-III laboratories, five new regional national centres for disease control will be set up.

96. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct.** A surcharge is a charge (tax) on any tax, charged on the tax already paid.

Statement 2 is not correct. The surcharge goes to Consolidated Fund of India and can be spent for any purpose.

Statement 3 is not correct. It is not a part of a divisible pool of taxes as given in Article 271 of the Constitution. Union may keep it fully for its own usage.

97. (b)

[SOL] **In News:** China's legislature has adopted a new border law, to take effect on January 1. It calls on the state and military to safeguard the territory and 'combat any acts' that undermine China's territorial claims.

Option B is correct. Recently, China has also claimed Sakteng wildlife sanctuary aka Bhutan Nature park. It is in Bhutan, contiguous with Tawang Valley and does not touch China Border.

98. (a)

[SOL] Statements 1 and 2 are correct: The Government of India started it in 1969 to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke, known as the '*Father of Indian Cinema*'.

- o He made *India's first full-length feature film Raja Harishchandra in 1913*.
 - It is the highest honour for an *artist in Indian cinema*.
 - It is presented *annually at the National Films Awards* ceremony by the *Directorate of Film Festivals*, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
 - The recipients are honoured for their "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema."
 - The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh.

Statement 3 is not correct: Recently, Legendary actor Rajnikanth was honoured with the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

99. (d)

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat).

- It is being implemented by the *Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)*, the Ministry of Education.
- A five-tier implementation mechanism will be set up at the *National- State- District- Block-School level in all States and UTs*, under the aegis of the *centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha*.
 - o It covers key technical aspects of *foundational literacy and numeracy* as well as the administrative aspects for effectively setting up an implementation mechanism at the National, State, District, Block and School level.

Statement 2 is not correct: It aims to achieve the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27, as envisaged by National Education Policy 2020.

- o It aims to cover the learning needs of children in the *age group of 3 to 9 years*.

100. (c)

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Supreme Court directed the *Supervisory Committee* to take an immediate and firm decision on the *maximum water level* that can be maintained at *Mullaperiyar dam amidst torrential rains in Kerala*.

Option C is correct. Under the lease agreement between the British and Travancore (Current Kerala), Tamil Nadu got the rights to operate Mullaperiyar Dam even though it is situated in Kerala on the Periyar River. It is a bone of contention and sub judice due to Kerala's wish to decommission it.

101. (d)

[SOL] Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Bush frog Scientific Name is *Raorchestes ponmudi*.

- o It is a species of frog in the **Rhacophoridae** family.
 - The bush frog's **life cycle is entirely different** unlike other frog species and water sources are not primarily needed for the growth of its eggs.
 - It eats up the shoot borer **Conogethes punctiferalis that enters** through immature panicles and attacks the shoots and stems, thus **destroying cardamom plants**, often on a large scale.
 - The bush frog is widely found in the **Ponmudi area of the Western Ghats (endemic to the Western Ghats)** and is familiar to cardamom planters.
- o The bush frog is also common in the CHR (Cardamom Hill Reserve) areas of Udumbanchola and Peerumade in the Idukki district.
 - Aggressive pesticide application is a threat to the bush frog.

Statement 3 is correct: The International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species classifies it as **Critically Endangered**.

102. (b)

[SOL] Lake Tahoe, a freshwater lake occupying a fault basin on the *California-Nevada border in the northern Sierra Nevada, U.S.A*

- It is Fed by numerous small streams, it is drained by the Truckee River to Pyramid Lake, Nevada, about 60 miles (100 km) northeast.
- It was visited in 1844 by the soldier-explorer John C. Frémont, the intensely blue lake took its name from the Washoe Indian word meaning "big water."
- Water is supplied through its western outlet, the Truckee, for the Newlands Irrigation Project in Nevada.
- The lake and the surrounding area of national forests have been developed as tourist resorts.

103. (c)

[SOL] **In News:** The Centre's initiative is seen as a step towards ending the dominance of platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart, which have been accused by the minister of wielding monopoly power and breaking the law.

Statement 1 is correct: The task of implementing DPIIT's (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) ONDC project has been assigned to the **Quality Council of India (QCI)**.

Statement 2 is correct: The ONDC project is **modelled around the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** project that is seen as a success by many.

- The UPI project allows people to send or receive money irrespective of the payment platforms on which they are registered.
- Similarly, ONDC will ensure that buyers and sellers in the e-commerce market transact regardless of the platforms on which they are registered.
- Thus, a buyer registered on Amazon, may directly purchase goods from a seller who sells on Flipkart.

104. (d)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The sedition comes under Section 124A of IPC.

Statement 2 is correct: According to the Section 124A, the offence of sedition is committed when any person by words or otherwise brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law.

Statement 3 is correct: It was introduced by the British in 1870.

105. (d)

[SOL] In News: In the Gorongosa National Park, evolutionary trends were witnessed which led to the **more tuskless female elephants**.

Option D is correct: It is located in the Southern end of the **Great African Rift Valley** in Mozambique, Southeast Africa. It is a more than 4,000 km square park comprising the valley floor and parts of surrounding plateaus. It encompasses savannas, woodlands, wetlands, and a wide pan of water called **Lake Urema**. Gorongosa was once a hunting reserve, and in 1960, it was first designated a national park.

106. (a)

[SOL] In News: The Ministry of Civil Aviation has notified a traffic management policy framework for drones, which envisages private, third-party service providers for ensuring safe operations. The framework has been issued under the Drone Rules 2021.

Statement 1 is correct: Established Unmanned Traffic Management Service Providers (UTMSP). It will extend automated, algorithm-driven software services instead of voice communication as in the traditional Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems.

Statement 2 is not correct: It will be responsible for segregating and separating a drone from other drones and manned aircraft in the airspace below 1,000 feet in the country.

107. (c)

[SOL] In News: India has successfully test-fired its **longest-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile, Agni-V**. It has a range of up to 5,000 kilometres and the missile can reach most parts of China.

Statement 1 is correct. It is India's longest-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile.

Statement 2 is not correct. It has been indigenously developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

Statement 3 is correct. It has the capability of carrying a nuclear warhead of about 1.5 tonnes.

108. (b)

[SOL] statement 1 is not correct: It is a combination of the real scene viewed by the user and a virtual scene generated by the computer. In augmented reality, users see and interact with the real world while digital content is added to it. Pokemon Go is an example of augmented reality.

Statement 2 is not correct: Virtual Reality is a Fully Artificial Environment, Full immersion in a virtual environment and VR replaces the actual world environment with 3D digital elements.

Statement 3 and 4 are correct: There's a different way to experience augmented reality, though – with special AR headsets, such as Google Glass, where digital content is displayed on a tiny screen in front of a user's eye.

109. (c)

[SOL] The 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram** to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states. This special provision is provided under **Article 244(2)** and **Article 275(1)** of the Constitution.

- The 6th schedule areas **remain within executive authority of the state** and have been **constituted as autonomous districts**, with a degree of autonomy within the State Legislature.

110. (d)

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are not correct:** The Nag River revitalization project conceptualized by the **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways** and **is an ambitious project for the people of Nagpur.**

- Nag river flows through Nagpur city, hence giving it the name.
- It is now a highly polluted water channel of sewage and industrial waste.
- It is approved under the National River Conservation Plan and will be implemented by the National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD).
- It will reduce the pollution level in terms of untreated sewage, flowing solid waste and other impurities flowing into the Nag river and its tributaries.
- Under this project, three STP projects with a capacity of 92 MLD, 500 km sewerage network, pumping station and community toilets will be constructed.
- The cost of the project is Rs 2,117-crore and a period of eight years has been fixed for this work.

111. (c)

[SOL] **In News:** India is likely to begin taking delivery of the S-400 in November

- It would potentially activate U.S. sanctions under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

Option C is correct: CAATSA is a **United States federal law** that imposed sanctions on

- o Iran, North Korea, and Russia. The USA suspended Turkey from its F-35 aircraft programme following Turkey's purchase of the S-400 from Russia. However, this was done without invoking CAATSA.

112. (b)

[SOL] **In News:** The Supreme Court has set up a panel to investigate allegations of potential surveillance of mobile phones using the Pegasus spyware.

- Under the case, the Union Government is alleged to have used spyware for surveillance on private citizens.

Option B is correct: **Raveendran panel** would now seek the government's response afresh and probe into government excesses. However, probe committees for government excesses like extra-judicial killings are often faced by a lack of cooperation from the government. The Justice Raveendran panel has been empowered to take the assistance of any serving or retired officer(s), legal expert(s) or technical expert(s). The committee is expected to submit its report in eight weeks.

113. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body.

Statement 2 is not correct: CARA comes under the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**, Government of India.

Additional information:

- It functions as the nodal body for the adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions. CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, 1993, ratified by the Government of India in 2003.
- CARA primarily deals with the adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.

114. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** It was launched as a regional connectivity scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct: The first flight under the UDAN scheme was flagged in 2017 from Bhubaneswar to the Varanasi route.

- It offers a unique opportunity to a common man to fly at an affordable price.
- It has played a major role in adding new airports and routes to the aviation landscape of the country.
- The 4th round of UDAN was launched in December 2019 with a special focus on North-Eastern Regions, Hilly States, and Islands.
- The UDAN 4.1 is focused on connecting smaller airports, along with a special helicopter and seaplane routes.

115. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** UNESCO, World Resources Institute (WRI) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released **World Heritage forests: Carbon sinks under pressure**.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: It provides the first global scientific assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and sequestration by forests in UNESCO World Heritage sites.

- It is combining satellite-derived data with monitoring information at the site level.
- Over the past 20 years, **World Heritage sites lost 3.5 million** hectares of forest (an area larger than Belgium) and forests in 10 World Heritage sites emitted more carbon than they absorbed.

116. (d)

[SOL] Recently, **India's First Manned Ocean Mission "Samudrayan"** was launched in Chennai by Union Minister Jitendra Singh.

- With the launch of this Unique Ocean Mission, India joins the elite club of nations such as the **USA, Russia, Japan, France and China** to have such underwater **vehicles for carrying out subsea activities**.
- A new chapter opens to explore ocean resources for drinking water, clean energy & blue economy.

117. (a)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) consist of **securities and other financial assets** held by **investors in another country**.

- o FPI holdings can include stocks, **ADRs, GDRs, bonds, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds**.

Statement 2 is not correct: FPIs does not provide the investor with direct ownership of a company's assets and is **relatively liquid** depending on the volatility of the market.

- Along with foreign direct investment (FDI), FPI is one of the common ways to invest in an overseas economy.
 - o FDI and FPI are both important sources of funding for most economies.

118. (b)

[SOL] In News: NITI Aayog suggests extending Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) coverage to ‘missing middle’. The report has recommended three models for increasing the health insurance coverage in the country.

Option B is correct: NITI Aayog Published the report titled ‘Health Insurance for India’s Missing Middle’.

119. (a)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Sardar Patel National Unity Award is the highest civilian award in the field of contribution to the unity and integrity of India. It seeks to recognize notable and inspiring contributions to promote the cause of national unity and integrity and to reinforce the value of a strong and united India. These are announced on the National Unity Day, i.e. the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel on 31st October. It consists of a medal and a citation and no monetary grant or cash award are attached.

Statement 2 is not correct: Not more than three Awards shall be given in a year. The Ministry of Home Affairs receives the nominations online. Any citizen of India without distinction of religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth, age or occupation and any institution/organization.

120. (d)

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established in 2010 (11th FYP) under the National Green Tribunal Act of 2010 as a statutory body. It is a specialised body for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

Statement 2 is not correct. It is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of the filing of the case.

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