



# TEST YOURSELF

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### SEPTEMBER, 2021

**Q.1** With reference to Latham's Snipes, consider the following statements:

1. They breed in Japan and on the East Asian mainland.
2. They are seen in small groups in freshwater wetlands
2. The International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species classifies them as Least Concern.

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

**Q.2** Consider the following Pairs:

1. Gharial — Critically Endangered
2. Mugger crocodile — Least Concern
3. Saltwater crocodiles — Vulnerable

Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

**Q.3** Recently in the news, UN Resolution 2593 is related to which of the following?

- (a) Minimum wages for workers
- (b) Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.
- (c) US troops departure from Afghanistan
- (d) Afghan land not to be used for terrorist activities

**Q.4** Which Indian states share the longest border with Myanmar?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Nagaland
- (c) Manipur
- (d) Mizoram

**Q.5** With reference to West Nile Virus (WNV), consider the following statements:

1. Birds are the natural hosts of the virus.
2. Human-to-human transmission of WNV through casual contact has not been documented yet.
3. It is only found in Africa and Europe.

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

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

**Q.6** With reference to Atal Pension Yojana (APY), consider the following statements:

1. It can be subscribed by any Indian citizen in the age group of 18-60 years.
2. It provides a minimum guaranteed pension ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000.
3. The amount of pension is guaranteed for a lifetime to a spouse on the death of the subscriber.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.7** With reference to Scrub Typhus, consider the following statements:

1. It is a disease caused by a virus.
2. Its cases are reported only in China and Japan
3. No vaccine is available to prevent scrub typhus.

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

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

**Q.8** Irrawaddy dolphin recently seen in the news, the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species classifies it as:

- (a) Critically Endangered (CR)
- (b) Endangered (EN)
- (c) Vulnerable (VU)
- (d) Least Concern

**Q.9** Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1.	Article 47	Raise the level of nutrition and improve public health
2.	Article 48	Prohibit cow slaughter and improve their breeds

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Q.10** Consider the following Rights:

1. Right to safety
2. Right to choose
3. Right to be informed
4. Right to consumer education
5. Right to be heard
6. Right to Seek redressal

Which of the rights given above is/are Consumer Rights?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) All of the above

**Q.11** Which of the following currencies are included in the basket of Special Drawing Rights (SDR)?

1. Indian Rupee
2. British pound sterling
3. Japanese yen
4. Chinese renminbi

Select the correct answer using the code given

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

**Q.12** Blue straggler recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- (a) Missile System
- (b) Supercomputer
- (c) Class of stars
- (d) Animal Species

**Q.13** He is known as a pioneer of the academic movement for interfaith understanding in India. His most important works, Majma-ul-Bahrain (Mingling of Two Oceans) and Sirr-i-Akbar (Great Mystery) are devoted to the cause of establishing connections between Hinduism and Islam. He wrote 'Risala-i-hak Numa' (The Compass of the Truth), the 'Shathiyat or Hasanat-ul-Arifin' and the 'Iksir-i-Azam' He was:

- (a) Dara Shikoh
- (b) Rabindranath Tagore.
- (c) Baba Amte
- (d) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

**Q.14** With reference to Deputy Speaker, consider the following statements:

1. The Deputy Speaker is subordinate to the Speaker.
2. He has a special privilege of becoming the Chairman of any Parliamentary Committee to which he is a member.
3. He has voting rights at first instance unlike the Speaker.

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

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

**Q.15** With reference to Article 19 of Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It is protected against private as well as state actions.
2. These rights are available to citizens and shareholders of the company but not to legal persons like a Company or Corporations

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

**Q.16** Arrange the following water bodies from North to South direction.

1. Bering Sea
2. Sea of Japan
3. Sea of Okhotsk
4. East China Sea

Select the correct sequence using the codes given below:

- (a) 1234
- (b) 1324
- (c) 1342
- (d) 1243

**Q.17** With respect to the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), consider the following statements:

1. It aimed to oversee the financial regularities mainly in the banking sector.
2. It is an executive body constituted under the Executive Order by the Ministry of Finance.
3. The Finance Secretary is the Chairman of the FSDC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Q.18** With reference to the Inter-State Council, consider the following statements:

1. It is a permanent constitutional body established under Article 263 of the Indian constitution.
2. It is established by the President of India.
3. The Union Home Minister is the chairman of the council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.19** Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, recently in news, is a Project Agreement between India and

- (a) US
- (b) Russia
- (c) Israel
- (d) Australia

**Q.20** With reference to the Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER), consider the following statements:

1. It compares a nation's currency value against the weighted average of a basket of other major currencies.
2. The decrease and increase in the index denote depreciation and appreciation of the Rupee respectively.
3. It takes into account inflation as well.

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

**Q.21** With reference to Bhitarkanika National Park, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's largest mangrove forest.
2. It became a Ramsar site in 2002.
3. It is situated in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.22** Komodo Dragon is recently seen in the news, The International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species classifies it as

- (a) Data Deficient (DD)
- (b) Least Concern (LC)
- (c) Endangered (EN)
- (d) Near Threatened (NT)

**Q.23** Which of the following countries is /are part of a collaboration for INSPIRESat-1?

- 1. Singapore
- 2. United States of America
- 3. Taiwan
- 4. India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.24** Durand Line is the international land border between which of the following countries?

- (a) Pakistan and Afghanistan
- (b) Nepal and China
- (c) Bangladesh and Myanmar
- (d) India and Pakistan

**Q.25** Consider the following statements, with reference to International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- 1. It is a specialized international financial institution of the United Nations.
- 2. It works in the field of poverty eradication in the rural areas of developing countries.
- 3. India is not a member country of IFAD.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.26** With reference to the Nipah virus (NIV), consider the following statements:

- 1. It was first recognized in 1999 in Malaysia.
- 2. It is transmitted from animals to humans.
- 3. The case fatality rate is estimated at 40% to 75%.
- 4. There are currently no drugs available specific for Nipah virus infection

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.27** Which of the following countries is /are part of the Golden Crescent?

- 1. China
- 2. Afghanistan
- 3. Iran
- 4. Pakistan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**Q.28** With reference to ASER, consider the following statements:

- 1. Only those children are included who are in School or have dropped out.
- 2. It has been conducted every year in all rural districts of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.29** Consider the following statements regarding support mechanisms for Startups.

- 1. Startup accelerators provide the handholding from the inception of an idea to an entrepreneur.
- 2. Incubators often provide a very short term (less than half year) mentoring support to the growing business.
- 3. Investors seek the profit from the potential idea of the future.

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

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



**Q.30** With reference to Account Aggregator (AA) network, consider the following statements:

1. It is a non-banking financial company engaged in the business related to financial information pertaining to its customers.
2. The AA framework was created through an inter-regulatory decision by RBI and other regulators.

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

**Q.31** Which of the following countries have shared borders with El Salvador?

1. Honduras
2. Guatemala
3. Mexico
4. Cuba

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

1. It is a herbivorous mammal.
2. It is endemic to India.
3. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies it as Critically Endangered (CR)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.33** With reference to Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), consider the following statements:

1. CDS acts as the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
2. The Department of Military Affairs is headed by the Chief of Defence Staff.

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

**Q.34** With reference to the Account Aggregator (AA) network, consider the following statements:

1. It is a non-banking financial company engaged in the business related to financial information pertaining to its customers.
2. The AA framework was created through an inter-regulatory decision by RBI and other regulators.

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

**Q.35** Consider the following statements regarding support mechanisms for Startups.

1. Startup accelerators provide the handholding from the inception of an idea to an entrepreneur.
2. Incubators often provide a very short term (less than half year) mentoring support to the growing business.
3. Investors seek the profit from the potential idea of the future.

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

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

**Q.36** With reference to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:

1. It is a regional development bank headquartered in Beijing, China.
2. China has the largest proportion of shares in ADB followed by Japan.
3. It has more than 80 members.

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

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

**Q.37** Which of the following rivers are tributaries of the Brahmaputra river?

1. Dibang
2. Lohit
3. Dhansari
4. Bhogdoi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.38** With reference to C-295MW aircraft, consider the following statements:

1. It is a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology
2. The first 16 of these aircraft will be delivered in flyaway condition by Russia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.39** Consider the following statements regarding MUDRA loans.

1. MUDRA is given in five categories.
2. As per recent data, nearly 10 percent of the MUDRA loan has turned into NPAs.
3. The Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units provides lenders guarantee upto 75 percent of losses in Mudra loans.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.40** Consider the following statements:

1. Equality before Law connotes equal treatment under equal circumstances both in privileges and liabilities.
2. Equal protection of Law connotes absence of any special privileges in favor of any person.

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

**Q.41** Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary recently seen in the news, it is situated in which of the following States/Union Territories?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

**Q.42** With reference to the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) System, consider the following statements:

1. It is capable of engaging multiple targets at ranges up to 70 km.
2. It is developed jointly by India and France

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.43** Which of the following parameters are used in NIRF Ranking?

1. Graduation Outcomes
2. Outreach and Inclusivity
3. Peer Perception
4. International students
5. Faculty student ratio

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Q.44** Consider the following statements regarding Minimum Support Price (MSP):

1. They are declared by the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP).
2. Recently, a disproportionate hike in MSP for rice was announced to change the skewed nature of Indian Agriculture.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.45** Consider the following statements:

1. Lingyats are the members of the Hindu sect having a wide following in the Southern part of India.
2. They are the worshippers of Shiva.
3. Lingayats and the Veerashaivas both have rejected the Vedas and the caste system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Q.46** Niranjanpur wetland recently seen in the news, it is situated in which of the following states?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Bihar

**Q.47** Which of the following have been notified as minority communities under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

- 1. Muslims
- 2. Christians
- 3. Buddhists
- 4. Zoroastrians

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.48** With reference to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), consider the following statements:

- 1. It measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products.
- 2. It is currently calculated using 2004-05 as the base year
- 3. It is compiled and published by National Statistics Office (NSO) on yearly basis.

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

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

**Q.49** Which of the following are enhancers used in Rice fortification?

- 1. Ferric pyrophosphate
- 2. Citric acid
- 3. Trisodium citrate
- 4. Iodine

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

Which of them are used as enhancers?

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

**Q.50** With reference to disinvestment, consider the following statements:

1. Minority Stake Sale happens when GoI ownership is still above 51%.
2. Asset Monetization involves the creation of new sources of revenue by unlocking underutilized public 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

**Q.51** He abandoned his high school studies in 1916 to join Gandhi's ashram (ascetic community) at Sabarmati, near Ahmedabad. His writings and teachings revolutionised Sarvodaya social order, one that emphasised the importance of non-violence, goodwill and equality in society. He was the founder of the Bhoodan Movement ("Land-Gift Movement").

He was

- (a) Vinoba Bhave
- (b) Rabindranath Tagore
- (c) Sri Aurobindo
- (d) Shyamlal Gupta

**Q.52** Consider the following statements.

1. Both India and Europe are facing heatwaves and floods due to climate change.
2. The EU Green Deal has set the target of Gross Zero Emissions by 2070.
3. Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.53** He was an outstanding Indian writer of the nationalist period and is regarded as the father of the modern Tamil style. He is also known as 'Mahakavi Bharathiyar'. In his early life, he worked in various capacities like sub-editor of Swadesamitran, a Tamil daily and Chakravartini, a Tamil monthly. His English works were collected in Agni. He got involved in the extremist wing of the Indian National Congress (INC) party.

He was

- (a) Tiruppur Kumaran.
- (b) Subramania Bharati
- (c) Veera Mangai Velunachiyar
- (d) V.O. Chidambaram Pillai

**Q.54** The Bass Strait separates which of the following bodies?

- (a) Australia and New Zealand
- (b) Papua New Guinea and Australia
- (c) Australia Mainland and Tasmania
- (d) Australia and Indonesia

**Q.55** With reference to the Olive Ridley Turtles, consider the following statements:

- 1. They are endemic to most tropical regions of the Indian Subcontinent.
- 2. They are herbivores and mostly feed on seaweeds and algae.
- 3. They exhibit arribadas phenomenon.

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

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

**Q.56** With reference to Chief Minister (CM), consider the following statements:

- 1. A person who is not a member of the state legislature cannot be appointed as Chief Minister.
- 2. He/she is the sole link of communication between the Cabinet and the Governor.
- 3. He/She acts as the chairman of the concerned zonal council by rotation.

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

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

**Q.57** With reference to Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), consider the following statements:

- 1. Only the President can declare the whole State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
- 2. It gives the Army powers to search premises and make arrests without warrants.

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

**Q.58** With reference to the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is situated in the Terai region of northern India.
- 2. It is a mosaic of high Sal and teak forests.
- 3. It was declared a tiger reserve in 2008.

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

**Q.59** Consider the following statements regarding the Textile Sector of India:

1. Indian exports in the textile sector have almost stagnated over the past seven years.
2. The Production Linked Subsidy in the Textile sector will boost the export of Cotton and Jute Products.
3. One of the criticisms of the scheme is limited target beneficiary manufacturers due to minimum investment thresholds and select product lines.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.60** Consider the following statements regarding Foreign Contribution Regulation Act:

1. The NGOs under Prior Reference Category have to take clearance from the Reserve Bank of India.
2. It has been criticised for being over regulatory and has led to closure of multiple NGOs in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.61** He played an important role in introducing the philosophies of Yoga and Vedanta to the West. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called him the “Maker of Modern India”. In his honour, the Government of India in 1984 declared his birthday National Youth Day. He was:

- (a) Kabir das
- (b) Tulsi Das
- (c) Swami Vivekananda
- (d) Ramakrishna Paramahansa

**Q.62** With reference to National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), consider the following statements:

1. It was proposed after the Indian Parliamentary attack in 2001.
2. It is a secure database for information on terrorists and economic crimes.
3. It is exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.63** Which of the following statements is **NOT** correct regarding the BRICS Group?

- (a) BRICS comprises one third of the world population.
- (b) It contributes 24% of the world GDP.
- (c) It has 16% share in world trade.
- (d) It has a total combined area of 29.3% of the total land surface of the world.

**Q.64** Consider the following statements regarding digital agriculture:

- 1. It will use remote sensing data, AI tools for modernising agriculture in India.
- 2. Federated farmers' databases will be created and linked to the land records of farmers from across the country.
- 3. It involves only public players in agricultural inputs and services and logistics.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.65** Consider the following statements:

- 1. QUAD is an informal strategic forum between India, Japan, US and Australia.
- 2. The idea of QUAD was first mooted by the Indian Prime Minister in 2010.
- 3. Exercise Malabar is an initiative of all the QUAD members.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are **not** correct?

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

**Q.66** With the reference to the Connect Karo 2021, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is being organised by The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- 2. It brings together Indian and global leaders to develop practical solutions to protect nature.
- 3. Theme of 2021 is 'Clean, Green & Just'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.67** With the reference to the Groundswell report, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the World Health Organization (WHO).
2. It helps countries in addressing climate-driven migration related to issues.
3. According to a recent report, North Africa will have the largest number of internal climate refugees by 2050.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.68** Montreal Protocol is related to which of the following:

- (a) phasing out of ozone depleting substances
- (b) regulations on trade in endangered species
- (c) reducing carbon emissions
- (d) none of the above

**Q.69** Consider the following statements.

1. Arsenic pollution causes mottling of teeth and spinal cord deformation.
2. The permissible limit set by the Indian government for Arsenic in absence of alternate water source is 0.5 microgram per liter.
3. Golden rice is an Arsenic resistant rice variety.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.70** 'Shoonya' Programme seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- (a) Upliftment of Social infrastructure
- (b) Achieving the goal of net zero emission
- (c) Adoption of electric vehicles (EVs)
- (d) Manned mission of ISRO

**Q.71** With reference to National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), consider the following statements:

1. It was established on the recommendations of the Tarapore committee.
2. It maintains the National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO) but does not share it with the States/UTs.
3. 'Crime in India' report released by NCRB.

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

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

**Q.72** Which of the following countries are part of the AUKUS Alliance?

- 1. India
- 2. Australia
- 3. United States of America
- 4. China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.73** Consider the following statements.

- 1. Montreal protocol tries to phase out Ozone Depleting Substances.
- 2. Stratospheric Clouds and Polar Vortex aggravate the formation of Ozone Hole.
- 3. HydrofluoroCarbons, covered under the Kigali amendment, are Ozone Depleting Substances.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.74** The Mura-Drava-Danube biosphere reserve is spread across five countries. Which of the following countries host this biosphere reserve?

- 1. Austria
- 2. Slovenia
- 3. Croatia
- 4. France
- 5. Portugal

Choose from the codes below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 3, 4 and 5
- (d) All of the above

**Q.75** With reference to Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), consider the following statements:

1. It is given in the form of revenue share to the government.
2. AGR includes annual license fee (LF) and spectrum usage charges (SUC).

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

**Q.76** Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)?

1. It is a security pact between the Commonwealth of Independent Nations.
2. Its members are India, Uzbekistan, Russia.
3. It is headquartered in Moscow, Russia.

Choose from the options given below:

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

**Q.77** With reference to Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC), consider the following statements:

1. Banks can sell their stressed or bad assets to the ARC at a mutually agreeable price.
2. It is the responsibility of the ARC to recover the bad debts or associated securities in a market-led process

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.78** With the reference to the Faroe Islands, consider the following statements:

1. It is an archipelago in the North Atlantic ocean.
2. It is an autonomous territory of Sweden.
3. It has a subpolar oceanic climate (Cfc).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.79** With the reference to Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Education (MoE).
2. It provides 75 % more fellowship amount than most of the other PhD Schemes.

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

**Q.80** Consider the following statements with the reference to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

1. It is a political, economic and military organisation.
2. The SCO's official languages are French and Chinese
3. India is not a member of SCO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.81** Which of the following has published the report, titled 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India'?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Ministry of Education
- (c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs

**Q.82** With reference to GST Council, consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body instituted under Article 278A of the constitution.
2. The vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one-fourth of the total votes cast.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.83** Inverted duty structure, recently in news, relates to:

- (a) It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.
- (b) It comes up in a situation where import duties on input goods are higher than on finished goods.
- (c) It is a specific form of duty structure that the government imposes in order to protect domestic producers by countering the negative impact of import subsidies.
- (d) None of the above

**Q.84** With reference to National investigation Agency (NIA), consider the following statements:

1. The Central Government issued directions to Suo-Moto to take over the investigation of the case.
2. A State Government can request the NIA to take over the investigation of a 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

**Q.85** Which of the following are valid criticisms of Artificial Intelligence.

1. Increased threat to privacy.
2. Mass scale population behaviour manipulation.
3. More lethal strategic weapons.
4. Lack of any governing universal ethical code of conduct.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.86** Which of the following Penguins belongs to a genus of the Banded group?

1. Humboldt
2. Magellanic
3. Galapagos
4. Chinstrap

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.87** The Western Ghats spread through which of the following states?

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Kerala
3. Gujarat
4. Tamil Nadu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.88** Which of the following statements is/ are correct about the National Register of Citizens (NRC)?

1. NRC was published only once in 1951.
2. The Assam Accord was signed by Indira Gandhi to reduce immigration burden on India.
3. Only Foreigners Tribunals are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner.

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

**Q.89** Which of the following countries are members of G20?

1. Argentina
2. Indonesia
3. India
4. Japan
5. South Korea
6. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Q.90** With reference to the Arctic Council, consider the following statements:

1. It was established by the eight Arctic States through the Ottawa Declaration.
2. It is a treaty-based international legal entity for the allocation of resources to the member states.
3. India is one of the observer member states of the Council.

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

**Q.91** With reference to State Food Safety Index, consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by NITI Aayog.
2. It provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety for States/Uts.

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

**Q.92** With reference to the BEAMS flagship program, consider the following statements:

1. It is undertaken by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
2. Its aim is to protect & conserve the pristine coastal and marine ecosystems through holistic management of resources.

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

**Q.93** Which of the following are the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Group?

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

Choose the correct option from the codes given below.

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

**Q.94** With reference to Jal Jeevan Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide tap water to all rural Households by 2022.
2. Rain water harvesting is also a component under the Scheme.

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

**Q.95** With reference to Western disturbances, sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. These are extra-tropical cyclones originating over the Mediterranean sea.
2. A general decrease in the prevailing night temperature at a place indicates its arrival in India.
3. They are brought into India by the Subtropical westerly jet streams.
4. These are good for the Kharif crop, especially wheat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



**Q.96** Consider the following pairs:

Species Name — Conservation status

Javan Rhinos — Critically Endangered

Black rhinos — Least Concern

White rhinos — Near Threatened

Greater One-Horned Rhinos — Vulnerable

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

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

**Q.97** With reference to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:

1. It encompasses 68 members from within Asia
2. Japan holds the largest proportion of shares in ADB.
3. It is an official United Nations Observer

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.98** Which of the following best describes the systemic risk in an economy?

- (a) A slump in the equity or commodity market.
- (b) Failure of an industrial giant having contagious impact on all sectors.
- (c) Vulnerability of the start ups to fail within 1 year.
- (d) Less women labour force participation rate.

**Q.99** With reference to ammonium nitrate, consider the following statements:

1. Pure ammonium nitrate is not an explosive on its own.
2. The United Nations has classified it as 'dangerous goods'.

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

**Q.100** With reference to the African Swine Fever, consider the following statements:

1. It is a contagious hemorrhagic viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs.
2. It is the only virus with a double-stranded DNA genome.
3. It is also called Hog Cholera.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Q.101** Which of the following declarations are correctly matched with its organisation.

1. Dhaka Declaration: BIMSTEC
2. Kathmandu Declaration: SAARC
3. Bangkok Declaration: ASEAN.

Choose the appropriate option.

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

**Q.102** With reference to the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), consider the following statements:

1. It is a 100% Government owned entity set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
2. It offers a cashless, contactless, and paperless experience for sellers and buyers.

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

**Q.103** National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) is being rolled out on a pilot basis in which of the following union territories?

1. Chandigarh
2. Ladakh
3. Lakshadweep
4. Andaman and Nicobar Island

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.104** With reference to Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
2. The objective is to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-5 years.
3. It offers a package of six services, some of which are provided by the Ministry/Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.105** Arrange the following Electromagnetic Spectrum waves in ascending order of their wavelength.

1. Radio
2. Infrared
3. Microwave
4. Gamma
5. Ultraviolet

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 12345
- (b) 32145
- (c) 54321
- (d) 45231

**Q.106** With reference to the Medical device parks scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It has been notified by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2. The financial assistance to a selected Medical Device Park would be 70 per cent of the project cost of common infrastructure facilities.

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

**Q.107** With reference to Anti-Dumping Duties, consider the following statements:

1. It is a tariff imposed on imports manufactured in foreign countries.
2. It is imposed to protect local businesses and markets from unfair competition by foreign imports.
3. The anti-dumping duty can be anywhere from 0% up to 100% of the invoice value of the goods.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.108** Which of the following countries are part of Five Eye Grouping?

- 1. India
- 2. Japan
- 3. US
- 4. China
- 5. Canada
- 6. UK

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Q.109** Which of the following is correctly matched?

- 1. Patents: Issued to inventors to protect their inventions
- 2. Trademarks: Legal protections on creative works of the mind
- 3. Copyright: Legal protections on words, phrases, designs, or marks.

Choose from the correct codes given below.

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

**Q.110** Which of the following countries surround the Persian Gulf?

- 1. Iran
- 2. Qatar
- 3. Saudi Arabia
- 4. Yemen
- 5. United Arab Emirates
- 6. Bahrain

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Q.111** Being regarded as a brilliant student, the Maharaja of Sikar gave him a gold medal, ₹250 for books and a monthly scholarship of ₹10. He was the leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh from 1953 to 1968. He launched the weekly 'Panchjanya' and the daily 'Swadesh'. He was a journalist in 'Rashtra Dharma' daily, worked as an editor for 'Panchjanya' and wrote a column named 'Political Diary' for the weekly 'the Organiser'.

He was

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (b) Gulzarilal Nanda
- (c) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- (d) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

**Q.112** With reference to the report titled 'Clinicopathological Profile of Cancers in India, consider the following statements:

1. It was released by Niti Aayog
2. The proportion of all cancer cases was higher in females than males
3. Childhood cancers constitute 30 % of all cancers.

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

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

**Q.113** Which of the following best describes Blue Food?

- (a) A special Iranian cuisine prepared using blue colour.
- (b) Food like Sea Cucumber, Tilapia, Salmon, Catfish.
- (c) Food polluted with nitrate causing Blue baby syndrome.
- (d) Special feed prepared for fisheries to boost their production.

**Q.114** Which of the following statements is/are correct about social accountability?

1. Social accountability is an approach towards ensuring time bound resolutions with civic engagement.
2. It needs a strong voice and strong compact.
3. Citizens Charter is an example of Social accountability.

Choose from the options below?

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

**Q.115** With reference to High Court, consider the following statements:

1. The judges of the High Court are appointed by the Governor.
2. The salaries, allowances, leave, privileges are determined time to time by the Parliament.

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

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

**Q.116** He was a part of the larger social movement called the Bengal Renaissance, which started with the enlightened leadership of Raja Rammohan Roy. In his book, "Barno-Porichoy" (Introduction to the letter), He refined the Bengali language and made it accessible to the common strata of the society. He proposed and pushed for the Widow Remarriage Act of 1856 in India and raised concern for the abolition of child marriage and polygamy.

He was

- (a) Ishwar Chand Vidyasagar
- (b) Mahatma Gandhi.
- (c) Baba Amte
- (d) B. R. Ambedkar

**Q.117** With reference to SAUBHAGYA Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the world's largest electrification drives.
2. It covers both urban and rural households
3. The beneficiary would be identified using Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.118** Consider the following statements:

1. Cartelisation includes agreement between competitors to restrict competition.
2. Cartelisation may have severe socio-economic implications as compared to monopolistic markets.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.119** Which of the following countries are part of the Northern Triangle?

1. Guatemala
2. El Salvador
3. Honduras
4. Belize

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Q.120** Consider the following:

1. Bomb cyclones is a term used to indicate a mid-latitude cyclone that intensifies rapidly.
2. The names of the cyclones are maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization.

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

**Q.121** Which of the following states are covered in the Cauvery basin?

1. Karnataka
2. Tamil Nadu
3. Gujarat
4. Andhra Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.122** With reference to Meningitis, consider the following statements:

1. It is caused by bacterial and viral infections
2. It is transmitted from person to person through droplets of respiratory secretions
3. It is most common in 26 countries across sub-Saharan Africa.

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

**Q.123** Which of the following is/ are correct about Rabies?

1. It is a bacterial disease spreading through bat bite.
2. It is also known as hydrophobia as one of the symptoms is fear of fluids.
3. The government has recently launched an action plan for Rabies elimination by 2050.

Choose from the codes below.

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

**Q.124** With reference to PM-KUSUM, consider the following statements:

1. The PM KUSUM Scheme was launched in 2020.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Power.

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

**Q.125** Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to Anti Defection Law?

1. Independent legislators are prevented from joining a political party.
2. Nominated legislators are given six months' time to decide if they want to join a party.
3. The power to decide the disqualification of an MP or MLA rests with the presiding officer of the legislature.
4. The law does not specify a time frame in which such a decision has to be made.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Q.126** With reference to the PM POSHAN scheme, consider the following statements.

1. It will replace the existing mid-day meal.
2. It will also include the preschool students.
3. The breakfast curriculum has also been included in the program.

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



**Q.127** With reference to Contempt of Court, consider the following statements:

1. The prior consent of the Attorney General (AG) of India is not required to suo motu initiate the inherent contempt powers of the Supreme Court.
2. The Contempt of Court Act of 1971 cannot limit this power of the court.
3. The suo motu contempt powers of the top court are drawn from Article 129 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.128** Consider the following pairs

*Enterprises — Annual Turnover (Maximum)*

1. Micro — 25 crores
2. Small — 50 crores
3. Medium — 250 crore

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

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

**Q.129** With reference to PRAGATI, sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) based multimodal platform.
2. It is designed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) team with the help of the National Informatics Center (NIC).
3. It monitors and reviews important programmes of only the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.130** Consider the following statements about Malaria.

1. It is caused by a Protozoa.
2. There is no vaccine till now for malaria.
3. Chloroquine and artemisinin-based combination therapy are two major treatments for Malaria worldwide.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**EXPLANATION**

1. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Latham's Snipe, formerly known as the Japanese Snipe, was once a popular game bird. Latham's Snipe is the largest snipe in Australia, with cryptic, mainly brown, plumage. It has incredible endurance, undertaking a non-stop, over-ocean flight between its breeding and non-breeding grounds. Latham's Snipe **breed in Japan and on the East Asian mainland.**

- Latham's Snipe is a non-breeding migrant to the southeast of Australia including Tasmania, passing through the north and New Guinea on passage.

**Statement 2 is correct:** They are seen in small groups or singly in freshwater wetlands on or near the coast, generally among dense cover. They are found in any vegetation around wetlands.

**Statement 3 is correct:** IUCN Red List classifies them as **Least Concern.**

2. (a)

[SOL] **Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*)** is also known as the gavial or the fish-eating crocodile. It is the longest among all living crocodilians

Conservation: **Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List)**

**Mugger crocodile** (*Crocodylus palustris*), also called marsh crocodile or broad-snouted crocodile. It is native to freshwater habitats from southern Iran and Pakistan to the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka. The mugger has been listed as **vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List since 1982.

**Saltwater crocodile** (*Crocodylus porosus*) is the earth's largest living crocodilian, with average-size males reaching 17 feet and 1,000 pounds. IUCN Red List: **Least Concern**

3. (d)

[SOL] The UN Security Council, under India's presidency, adopted a resolution (**Resolution 2593**) demanding that the territory of Afghanistan should not be used to threaten any country or shelter terrorists.

4. (a)

[SOL] **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram** share an international boundary with Myanmar. **Arunachal Pradesh** shares a **520-km border** with Myanmar while Nagaland shares a 215-km border with the country.



5. (b)

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** West Nile Virus (WNV) is a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae. It was first **isolated in a woman in the West Nile district of Uganda** in 1937. It was identified in birds in the Nile delta region in 1953.

- **Birds are the natural hosts** of the West Nile virus.
- Human infection is most often the result of **bites from infected mosquitoes**. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, which circulate the virus in their blood for a few days.
  - o **No human-to-human transmission** of WNV through casual contact has been documented.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** It is **commonly found** in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia.

6. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** was launched in 2015 with the objective of delivering old age income security particularly to the workers in the unorganised sector and the Government providing a guarantee of minimum pension after 60 years of age. **It can be subscribed by any Indian citizen in the age group of 18-40 years** having a savings bank account/ post office savings bank account.

It is administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

**Statement 2 is correct:** It provides a minimum guaranteed pension ranging from Rs **1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age**.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The amount of pension is guaranteed for a lifetime to a spouse on the death of the subscriber. In the event of the death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the entire pension corpus is paid to the nominee.

7. (b)

[SOL] **In News:** Mathura in western Uttar Pradesh have reported cases of a mystery fever, which has been identified as **scrub typhus**

**Statement 1 is not correct:** Scrub typhus, also known as bush typhus, is a disease caused by a **bacteria** called *Orientia tsutsugamushi*. It is spread to people through bites of infected chiggers (larval mites).

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Apart from **India**, cases of scrub typhus have been reported from rural areas of **Indonesia, China, Japan and northern Australia**.

**Statement 3 is correct:** **No vaccine is available to prevent scrub typhus**. It suggested the risk of contracting the infection by avoiding contact with infected chiggers.

- When travelling to regions where scrub typhus is common, people should avoid areas with lots of vegetation and brush where chiggers may be found.
- If someone gets infected by scrub typhus then it should be **treated with the antibiotic doxycycline**.

8. (b)

[SOL] Irrawaddy dolphins are found in coastal areas in South and Southeast Asia, and in three rivers: the Ayeyarwady (Myanmar), the Mahakam (Indonesian Borneo) and the Mekong. Irrawaddy dolphins fall under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and are mentioned in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of **Endangered Species**.

9. (c)

**[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:** Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health: The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry: The State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.

10. (d)

**[SOL]** Consumer Rights include:

- **Right to Safety**
  - o Means the right to be protected against the marketing of goods and services, which are hazardous to life and property. The purchased goods and services availed of should not only meet their immediate needs, but also fulfil long term interests.
- **Right to be Informed**
  - o Means right to be informed about the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods so as to protect the consumer against unfair trade practices.
  - o Consumers should insist on getting all the information about the product or service before making a choice or a decision. This will enable him to act wisely and responsibly and also enable him to desist from falling prey to high pressure selling techniques.
- **Right to Choose**
  - o Means right to be assured, wherever possible of access to a variety of goods and services at competitive price. In case of monopolies, it means the right to be assured of satisfactory quality and service at a fair price. It also includes the right to basic goods and services. This is because the unrestricted right of the minority to choose can mean a denial for the majority of its fair share. This right can be better exercised in a competitive market where a variety of goods are available at competitive prices
- **Right to be Heard**
  - o Means that consumer's interests will receive due consideration at appropriate forums. It also includes the right to be represented in various forums formed to consider the consumer's welfare.
  - o The Consumers should form non-political and non-commercial consumer organizations which can be given representation in various committees formed by the Government and other bodies in matters relating to consumers.
- **Right to Seek redressal**
  - o Means right to seek redressal against unfair trade practices or unscrupulous exploitation of consumers. It also includes the right to fair settlement of the genuine grievances of the consumer.
  - o Consumers must make complaints for their genuine grievances. Many times their complaint may be of small value but its impact on the society as a whole may be very large. They can also take the help of consumer organisations in seeking redressal of their grievances.

- **Right to Consumer Education**

- o Means the right to acquire the knowledge and skill to be an informed consumer throughout life. Ignorance of consumers, particularly of rural consumers, is mainly responsible for their exploitation. They should know their rights and must exercise them. Only then real consumer protection can be achieved with success.

11. (d)

[SOL] **In News:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sharply increased its allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to India, in line with the country's existing quota in the fund. Special Drawing Right (SDR) is a kind of reserve of foreign exchange assets comprising leading currencies globally and created by the International Monetary Fund in the year 1969. SDR is often regarded as a 'basket of national currencies' comprising major currencies of the world - **US dollar, Euro, British pound sterling, Yen (Japan) & the Chinese renminbi (included in 2016).**

- The composition of this basket of currencies is reviewed every five years wherein the weightage of currencies sometimes get altered.
- SDR can be freely exchanged between the member countries instead of relying on the currency of any one particular country.

12. (c)

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, Indian researchers found that half of the blue stragglers in their sample are formed through mass transfer from a close binary companion star.

- Blue stragglers are a class of **stars on open or globular clusters** that stand out as **they are bigger and bluer** than the **rest of the stars**.
  - o They have intrigued scientists who have for long probed their origin.
- It is found in **old star clusters and appears** to be **lagging behind most of the other stars** in the cluster in its evolution toward a cooler, reddish state.
  - o Blue stragglers tend to be strongly concentrated toward the centre of the cluster.

13. (a)

[SOL] Dara Shikoh was born in Ajmer, the land of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, to whom his father Shah Jahan had prayed for a son. Dara Shikoh, who was Mughal emperor Shah Jahan's son and expected heir, was killed on the orders of his brother Aurangzeb in 1659 after losing the war of succession. At the age of twenty-five, Dara wrote his first book, Safinat-ul-Awliya, a concise document detailing the lives of the Prophet and his family, the Caliphs and of saints belonging to the five major Sufi orders then popular in India. Dara Shikoh is described as a "liberal Muslim" who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions.

- He had a deep understanding and knowledge of major religions, particularly Islam and Hinduism **is known as a pioneer of the academic movement for interfaith understanding in India.**
- He strove to develop cordial relationships between people by finding commonalities between Hinduism and Islam and bringing their cultures into dialogue.
- His most important works, **Majma-ul-Bahrain** (Mingling of Two Oceans) and **Sirr-i-Akbar** (Great Mystery) are devoted to the cause of establishing connections between Hinduism and Islam.
- He not only discovered commonalities but even said that the foundation of the two religions is the same, which is the belief, **"One Reality and One God"**. He had a pluralistic outlook and understood India's syncretic culture.

- Dara Shikoh acquired **proficiency in Sanskrit and Persian**, which enabled him to play a key role in popularising Indian culture and Hindu religious thought. He **translated the Upanishads** and other important sources of Hindu religion and spirituality from Sanskrit to Persian.
- Dara Shikoh had a keen interest in the fine arts and architecture. An album he dedicated to his wife is a treasure of Indian art.
- A rare miniature painting showing him with his spiritual masters is preserved in the library of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). As a talented architect, he designed the **beautiful Pari Mahal Garden Palace** in Srinagar and many other monuments. the **'Iksir-i-Azam'**.
- He also commissioned the **'Jug Bashist'** and the **'Tarjuma-i-Akwali-Wasili'**.

14. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Deputy Speaker is **NOT** subordinate to the Speaker. He is directly responsible to the House.

**Statement 2 is correct:** He has a special privilege of becoming the Chairman of any Parliamentary Committee to which he is a member.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** He has **NO** voting rights at first instance but can have the casting vote.

15. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** It is protected against **Only the state actions and not the private/individuals actions**.

**Statement 2 is correct:** These rights are available to citizens and shareholders of the company but not to legal persons like a Company or Corporations.

16. (b)

[SOL] The correct sequence from North to South is: 1324

- Bering Sea
- Sea of Okhotsk
- Sea of Japan
- East China Sea

Note: Please see the map for detailed reference.

17. (b)

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Finance Minister chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).

**Option B is correct:** The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was constituted in December 2010. The FSDC was set up to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development. An apex-level FSDC is not a statutory body.

The membership of the FSDC is- The Finance Minister is the Chairman of the FSDC.

Members of FSDC include Heads of the Financial Sector Regulators listed below:

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA)
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- Other members are Finance Secretary, Chief Economics Advisor and Secretary of the Department of Financial Services.



18. (c)

**[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct:** The Inter-State Council is a non-permanent constitutional body set up by a presidential order on the basis of provisions in Article 263 of the Constitution of India. The Council is formed to discuss or investigate policies, subjects of common interest, and disputes among states.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Inter-State Council was set up in 1990 following the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. Article 263 empowers the President of India to set up an inter-state council to deal with federal issues.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** The council is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes six Union ministers and all chief ministers as members.

19. (a)

**[SOL]** Recently, India and the U.S. signed co-development agreement for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV). The Project Agreement (PA) was signed between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and U.S. Department of Defence (DoD) by the co-chairs of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Air Systems, under the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).

20. (b)

**[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:** The Reserve Bank of India tabulates the rupee's Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) in relation to the currencies of 36 trading partner countries. Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) is a weighted index that is, countries with which India trades more are given greater weight in the index.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The decrease in this index denotes depreciation in rupee's value; an increase reflects appreciation.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Nominal effective exchange rate (NEER) don't take into account inflation but Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) is the weighted average of nominal exchange rates, adjusted for inflation.

21. (b)

**[SOL] In News:** Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park is under severe threat due to the planned diversion of freshwater from the Brahmani river basin.

**Statements 1 and 3 are not correct:** It is India's **second-largest mangrove forest** after the Sundarbans in West Bengal. The floral diversity in Bhitarkanika is the 2nd largest after Papua New Guinea. It is situated in the **Kendrapara district of Odisha**.

- It is the only major **mangrove patch of the State of Odisha**.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It became a **Ramsar site in 2002** (the second site after Chilika Lake in Odisha).

22. (c)

**[SOL]** Komodo Dragon is a monitor lizard of the family Varanidae. It is the world's largest lizard. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has changed its status from **vulnerable to endangered**. **Endemic to a handful of Indonesian islands** and it lives on the edge of the **forest or in open savannah**, rarely **venturing higher than 700 metres above sea level**.

23. (d)

[SOL] INSPIRESat-1 is a **collaborative effort** by the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at the **University of Colorado Boulder in the U.S.A**, the **National Central University, Taiwan**, and the **Nanyang Technological University in Singapore**, apart from the **Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST)**.

- o INSPIRESat-1 CubeSat, developed under the **International Satellite Program in Research and Education (INSPIRE)**.

☐ A constellation of earth and space-weather observation satellites is envisaged under the INSPIRE programme.

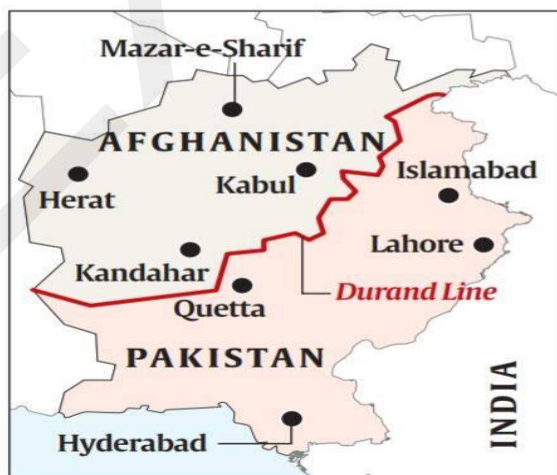
The INSPIRESat-1 mission was **originally planned for 2020** but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The small satellite that **weighs less than 10 kg** will be launched aboard an upcoming **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** mission of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- It is equipped with a Compact Ionosphere Probe for studying the earth's ionosphere.
- It has been fully integrated, tested and will be **placed in a low earth orbit**.
  - o A **low Earth orbit (LEO)** is an orbit around Earth with an altitude above Earth's surface from **160 km to 2,000 kilometres**.

24. (a)

[SOL] Durand Line is the **2,670-kilometre-long** international land border between **Afghanistan and Pakistan**.

- The agreement regarding this was signed on November 12, 1893, between the **British civil servant Sir Henry Mortimer Durand** and Amir Abdur Rahman, then the Afghan ruler.
- The line cut through **Pashtun tribal areas** on both sides of the border.
- The line stretches from Afghanistan's border with China to Afghanistan's border with Iran.
- With independence in 1947, Pakistan **inherited the Durand Line**.



25. (a)

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has made the commitment to **focus 30 per cent of its climate finance** to support **nature-based solutions** in rural small-scale agriculture by 2030.



**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** It is a specialized **international financial institution** of the **United Nations** working in the **field of poverty eradication** in the rural areas of developing countries. It was **established in 1977** and made an engagement in providing grants and loans with low interest for allied projects. It is headquartered in Rome, Italy

- **It aims to** increase the productive capacity of poor people and to strengthen the environmental sustainability & climate resilience of their economic activities.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** IFAD has 177 member states and works in partnership with the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

- India is also a member country.
- IFAD has been working in India since 1979.
- In India, IFAD is working at the grass-roots level, targeting its activities to the poorest and most vulnerable groups in rural society, such as small-scale and marginal farmers, women, tribal communities and scheduled castes.

**Flagship publications:**

- Rural Development Report
- IFAD at a glance
- Investing in rural people in India
- Addressing Hunger and Poverty: 30 years of IFAD's Development Partnership in India
- Images of Tribal Development in India

26. (d)

**[SOL] In News:** A case of the **Nipah virus infection** was reported in the Kozhikode district of Kerala after a gap of over three years.

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** It is a **zoonotic virus** (it is transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through **contaminated food or directly between people**.

- Presumably, the first incidence of Nipah virus infection occurred **when pigs in Malaysian farms came** in contact with the **bats who had lost their habitats due to deforestation**.
  - o Nipah virus was first recognized in **1999 during an outbreak among pig farmers** in, Malaysia.
  - o The infection is also known to affect human beings.
- The organism which causes **Nipah Virus encephalitis** is an **RNA or Ribonucleic acid virus** of the family **Paramyxoviridae**, genus **Henipavirus**, and is closely related to **Hendra virus**.

**Statements 3 and 4 are correct:** The case fatality rate is **estimated at 40% to 75%**. This rate can vary by outbreak depending on local capabilities for epidemiological surveillance and clinical management.

- The virus can also **cause severe disease in animals** such as pigs, resulting in significant economic losses for farmers.
- There are **currently no drugs or vaccines specific for Nipah virus infection** although WHO has identified Nipah as a priority disease for the **WHO Research and Development Blueprint**.
- Intensive supportive care is recommended to treat severe respiratory and neurologic complications.

27. (b)

[SOL] **Golden Crescent** comprises Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

- It was a traditional drug transportation route in the Chinese Colonial Era during the Opium Wars.
- It is the principal global site for opium production and distribution.
- It affects Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat due to Proximity with the Pakistan Border making these states as Potential Markets & Supply chain catalysts of Hashish and heroin.

28. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct: Target group:** This design enables all children to be included – those who have never been to school or have dropped out, as well as those who are in government schools, private schools, religious schools or anywhere else.

**Statement 2 is correct:** ASER has been conducted every year since 2005 in all rural districts of India. It is the largest citizen-led survey in India. The survey itself is coordinated by ASER Centre and facilitated by the Pratham network. This is an annual survey that aims to provide reliable estimates of children's enrolment and basic learning levels for each district and state in India.

29. (a)

[SOL] **In News:** The MeitY has formed a 10-member panel under Secretary Ajay Prakash Sawhney.

- It will formulate a process to support existing and upcoming startup accelerators.
  - These accelerators would then select **information technology-based startups “to scale for solving India's problems creating positive social impact”**.

**Statement 1 is not correct.** Start up Accelerators often provide a very short term (less than half year) mentoring support to the growing business.

**Statement 2 is not correct.** Incubators provide the handholding from the inception of an idea to an entrepreneur.

**Statement 3 is correct.** Investors seek the profit from the potential idea of the future.

30. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** An Account Aggregator is a non-banking financial company engaged in the business of providing, under a contract, the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to its customer. It is also engaged in consolidating, organising and presenting such information to the customer or any other financial information user as may be specified by the bank.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The AA framework was created through an inter-regulatory decision by RBI and other regulators including Securities and Exchange Board of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) through an initiative of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).

31. (a)

[SOL] **In News:** El Salvador became the first country to **adopt bitcoin as legal tender**, although it suffered **teething problems** when the government had to **unplug a digital wallet to cope with demand**.

- El Salvador, the country of Central America. El Salvador is the smallest and most densely populated of the seven Central American countries. Despite having little level land, it traditionally was an agricultural country, heavily dependent upon coffee exports.

- El Salvador is bounded by **Honduras** to the north and east, by the Pacific **Ocean to the south**, and by **Guatemala** to the northwest. Its territory is situated wholly on the western side of the isthmus, and it is, therefore, the only Central American country that lacks a Caribbean coast.



32. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Dugong is also called the **Sea Cow**.

- In an interesting incident, Christopher Colombus mistook them as sea mermaids.
- It is a **herbivorous mammal**. They live **in groups, grazing on seagrass** and coming to the **surface to breathe**.
- **LifeSpan:** 70 Years or more

**Statements 2 and 3 are not correct:** Dugong is found in over 30 countries. (**Not endemic to India**)

- In India, they are seen in the **Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- **Australia** has the **highest Dugong** population due to coral reefs.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - o IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: **Vulnerable**
  - o CITES **Appendix I**
  - o Wildlife Protection Act: **Schedule 1**

33. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** CDS acts as the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee which will also have three service chiefs as members. The CDS is the single-point military adviser to the Defence Minister on matters involving all three services and the service chiefs are obliged to confine their counsel to issues pertaining to their respective services. CDS is first among equals, he enjoys the rank of Secretary within the Department of Defence (DoD).

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Department of Military Affairs is headed by the newly formed Chief of Defence Staff. The Department of Military Affairs deals with the Armed Forces of the Union namely, Army, Navy and Air Force; Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence; the Territorial Army; Works relating to the three services etc. The Department promotes jointness among the three Services.

34. (c)

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35. (a)

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**Statement 2 is not correct.** Incubators provide the handholding from the inception of an idea to an entrepreneur.

**Statement 3 is correct.** Investors seek the profit from the potential idea of the future.

36. (d)

**[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) formed on 19 December 1966 as a financial institution to foster economic growth as well as economic cooperation in one of the poorest regions of the world. ADB is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Japan holds the largest proportion of shares in ADB followed by the USA.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Members: 68 members, 49 from within Asia. ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

37. (d)

**[SOL] In News:** The rampant coal mining in Nagaland, coupled with waste discharge from tea estates and encroachment have been sounding death knells for **River Bhogdoi in Assam**.

- The river, one of the south bank tributaries of the mighty river the **Brahmaputra**, originates from **Mokokchung in Nagaland** where it is also known as Tsujenyong nullah.
- The Brahmaputra is a major river of **Central and South Asia**.
- It originates from the **Chemayungdung glacier** of the **Kailash range near the Mansarovar lake**.
- It passes through the **Tibet Autonomous Region of China**, the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, and Bangladesh and enters India west of Sadiya town in Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Some Tributaries:** Dibang, Lohit, Siang, Burhi Dihing, Tista, and Dhansari.

38. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** C-295 MW is a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology that will replace the ageing Avro aircraft of the IAF which are British-origin twin-engine turboprop, military transport and freighter with a 6-tonne freight capacity. It has a rear **ramp door for quick reaction** and **para-dropping of troops and cargo**.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It will buy the **transport aircraft** from Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain.

- The deal to buy the **C-295 MW is expected to cost upwards of Rs 20,000 crore.**
- The first **16 of these aircraft** will be delivered in **flyaway condition from Spain**, within **48 months of the contract** being signed, the remaining 40 will be manufactured in India by a consortium led by the Tata Group over 10 years.
- This is the first project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India by a private company.
  - o All fifty-six aircraft will be installed with the indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite.

39. (c)

[SOL] **In News:** Public Sector banks are experiencing a sharp surge in the proportion of Mudra loans turning into non-performing assets (NPAs).

- The prime reason behind such a trend is the impact of Covid on incomes and repayment capacity of borrowers.

**Statement 1 is not correct.** There are **three categories**:

- o **Shishu loan** up to Rs 50,000
  - ☐ for micro entrepreneurs like vendors and shopkeepers,
- o **Kishor loan** of Rs 50,000-Rs 5 lakh
  - ☐ for smaller enterprises like buying for light commercial vehicles, allied agriculture activities and equipments, and
- o **Tarun loan** accounts of Rs 5-10 lakh
  - ☐ for, say, food product units.

**Statement 2 is correct.** Out of total Mudra loans of Rs 11,357.14 crore, Rs 1,055.53 crore or 9.29 per cent have turned into NPAs as on June-end 2021.

**Statement 3 is correct.** The Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) set up by the Central Government provides lenders guarantee against loan losses in Mudra loans.

- But the extent of the spike in NPAs is higher than the cover being provided.
- In **April, 2020, the Government had increased the guarantee to 75 percent of NPAs** in Mudra loans, from 50 per cent earlier.
  - o But the cap on guarantee payout has been kept at 15 percent of total loans.

40. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct: Equal protection of Law** connotes equal treatment under equal circumstances both in privileges and liabilities.

**Statement 2 is not correct: Equality before Law** connotes absence of any special privileges in favor of any person.

41. (c)

[SOL] In News: A leopard at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary has been caught on a camera trap – the first piece of concrete evidence of the recent presence of the big cat in the area.

- It is located on Southern Ridge, the northern terminal of Aravalli Hills, one of the oldest mountain systems in the world.
- It is located in South Delhi Distt. All along with Delhi, Haryana, Faridabad & Gurgaon.

42. (a)

[SOL] In News: The first deliverable Firing Unit (FU) of **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) System** was handed over to the Indian Air Force (IAF) to boost India's defence capabilities.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The MRSAM (IAF) is an **advanced network-centric combat Air Defence System**. It is capable of engaging multiple targets at ranges up to 70 km in severe saturation scenarios.

- o The missile is powered by an indigenously developed rocket motor and control system for achieving high manoeuvrability during the terminal phase.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It is developed jointly by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)** in collaboration with the Indian industry comprising private and public sectors including MSMEs.

- It **provides point and area air defence** for ground assets against a wide range of threats including fighter aircraft, UAVs, helicopters, guided and unguided munitions, sub-sonic & supersonic cruise missiles etc.

43. (d)

[SOL] The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has been accepted by the Ministry for Education (MoE) and launched on 29th September 2015. This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country. Parameters used for ranking institutions in NIRF are:

- Teaching, Learning and Resources
- Research and Professional Practices
- **Graduation Outcomes**
- **Outreach and Inclusivity.**
- **Peer Perception.**

44. (d)

[SOL] In News: The Centre has increased the **minimum support price (MSP)** for wheat for the upcoming rabi season to ₹2,015 per quintal, a **2% hike from last year**.

- **Oilseeds and pulses** such as mustard, safflower and masoor dal saw higher MSP increases of up to **8% in a bid to encourage crop diversification**. (Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct. The disproportionate rise is in Oilseeds and Pulses not in Rice.**)

**Statement 1 is not correct.** The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) **recommends (not declares)** MSPs for all crops based on different factors.

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by CACP.



45. (a)

[SOL] In News: Lingayats, a dominant community (nearly 17% of Karnataka's six crore population), are demanding reservation under OBC quota.

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

46. (c)

[SOL] In News: Niranjanpur wetland in Dehradun (Uttarakhand) has lost most of its fishes

- Niranjanpur wetland lies in a coveted real estate area of Dehradun city.
- It is home to flocks of birds, insects, tadpoles, small fishes and mammals.
- It attracts tiny local birds to big migratory birds in winters.
- Common moorhen (jal murgi) swims in its water-pools, while the black kite preys across its waters.
- It also helps in groundwater recharge.

47. (d)

[SOL] The central government notifies the status of minorities to a religion in India.

- Constitution has not defined the term minority neither laid down procedures to notify a community or religion as a minority community.
- Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jain and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. As per the Census 2011, the percentage of minorities in the country is about 19.3% of the total population of the country. The population of Muslims are 14.2%; Christians 2.3%; Sikhs 1.7%, Buddhists 0.7%, Jain 0.4% and Parsis 0.006%

48. (c)

[SOL] In News: The index of industrial production (IIP) grew 11.5% in July, driven by a contracted base.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a composite indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to that in a chosen base period.

**Statement 2 and 3 are not correct:** In India, the first official attempt to compute the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was made much earlier than the first recommendation on the subject came at the international level.

- With the inception of the Central Statistical Organization (now known as the National Statistics Office (NSO)) in 1951, the responsibility for compilation and publication of IIP was vested with it.
- IIP index is currently calculated using 2011-2012 as the base year.

49. (c)

[SOL] Rice kernels can be fortified with several micronutrients, such as iron, folic acid and other B-complex vitamins, vitamin A and zinc. The addition of basic material like ferric pyrophosphate and enhancing compounds like citric acid and trisodium citrate mixtures to increase iron absorption in a staple food is the most common form of fortification. Iodine is used in salt fortification.

50. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Minority Stake Sale happens when the Government intends to sell a part of the PSU from its overall shareholding, given that post stake sale the GOI ownership is still above 51%.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Asset Monetization involves the creation of new sources of revenue by unlocking the value of hitherto unutilized or underutilized public assets.

51. (a)

[SOL] Vinoba Bhave, byname of Vinayak Narahari Bhave was **Born in 1895 in a high-caste Brahman family.**

- He abandoned his high school studies in 1916 to join Gandhi's ashram (ascetic community) at Sabarmati, near Ahmedabad.
  - o Gandhi's teachings led Bhave to a life of austerity dedicated to improving Indian village life.
- He was one of India's best-known social reformers and a widely venerated disciple of **Mohandas K. (Mahatma) Gandhi.**
- He was given the honorific title acharya ("teacher"). His writings and teachings revolutionised Sarvodaya social order, one that emphasised the importance of non-violence, goodwill and equality in society.
- He was the founder of the **Bhoodan Movement ("Land-Gift Movement").**
  - o He dedicated his life to propagating Gandhian values and is particularly known for "Bhoodan"
- His mass movements were aimed at ensuring a better quality of life for the poor and downtrodden.

52. (b)

[SOL] **In News:** A bilateral meeting was held between India and Germany in New Delhi to discuss a wide range of environmental issues.

- The discussion covered areas such as climate change, water scarcity, marine & air pollution, circular economy, etc.

**Statement 1 is correct.** Both India and Europe are facing heatwaves and floods due to climate change, although the nature and extent are highly different for both.

53. (b)

[SOL] Subramania Bharati was an outstanding Indian writer of the nationalist period and is regarded as the father of the modern Tamil style. He is also known as 'Mahakavi Bharathiyar'. In his early life, he worked in various capacities like sub-editor of Swadesamitran, a Tamil daily and Chakravartini, a Tamil monthly. His English works were collected in Agni. He got involved in the extremist wing of the Indian National Congress (INC) party. He attended the annual sessions of INC and discussed national issues with extremist leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal, B.G. Tilak and V.V.S. Iyer.

His vision of nationalism was secular, against casteism and sexism, and pan-Indian.

He wrote many patriotic poems which received praise for their nationalistic themes.

In 1908 he was forced to flee to Pondicherry, where he lived until 1918. After his return, he rejoined the Tamil daily Swadesamitran.

Role as a social reformer:

He was vocal against the caste system and consistently spoke about women's issues.



He was influenced by Sister Nivedita, a disciple of Vivekananda.

He spoke out against social issues such as child marriage, untouchability through his writings.

He was a prolific writer and poet and fluent in Tamil, Hindi, Sanskrit, English and French.

He brought a renaissance in Tamil literature. Some of his famous works are:

- Panchali sapatham (1912)
- Kuyil pāṭṭu (1912)
- Kaṇṇan pāṭṭu (1917)

He wrote poems concerning issues from all around the world.

His English works were collected in Agni.

54. (c)

[SOL] Bass Strait is a strait separating the island of Tasmania from the Australian mainland. It provides the most direct waterway between the Great Australian Bight and the Tasman Sea.

55. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Their **scientific name is *Lepidochelys olivacea*** and they are also known as the **Pacific ridley sea turtle**. They are the **smallest** and **most abundant** of all sea turtles found in the world. They are found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. They are vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** They are not herbivores, these are carnivores and feed mainly on jellyfish, shrimp, snails, crabs etc.

**Statement 3 is correct:** These are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs. One unique feature about females is that they return to the very same beach from where they first hatched, to lay their eggs. The eggs **hatch in 45 to 60 days**, depending on the temperature of the sand and atmosphere during the incubation period.

**Statement 2 is not correct.** The EU Green Deal has set the target of **Net (not Gross) Zero Emissions by 2050 (Not 2070)**.

**Statement 3 is correct.** Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe.

56. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Each State has a Council of Ministers to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions. The Chief Minister is the head of the government in the State. The Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as its head exercises real authority at the State level. **Under Article 164, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor. The other Ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.** The ministers included in the Council of Minister's must belong to **either House of the State legislature**.

- A person **who is not a member** of the State legislature may be appointed a minister, but **he/she ceases to hold office** if he/she is not elected to the State legislature **within six months of his appointment**.

**Statement 2 is correct:** CM and other Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor. CM cannot be dismissed by the governor as long as he enjoys the majority support in the legislative assembly. The State Legislative Assembly can also remove him by passing a vote of no-confidence against him. The Chief Minister is the head of the Council of Ministers of his State. The constitutional position of the Chief Minister is more or less similar to that of the Prime Minister. The Chief Minister plays an important role in the administration of the State. The major functions include:

The Governor allocates portfolios to the ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister presides over the Cabinet meetings. He/she coordinates the functioning of different ministries. He/she guides the functioning of the Cabinet.

The Chief Minister plays a key role in framing the laws and policies of the State Government. **Under Article 167, the Chief Minister is the sole link of communication between the Cabinet and the Governor.**

The Governor has the right to be informed by the Chief Minister about the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as **Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council** for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.

57. (b)

**[SOL] Statements 1 is not correct::** It was enacted by the Parliament and approved by the President in 1958.

- It confers certain **special powers on members of the Armed Forces** (military forces, air forces operating on the ground as land forces and any other armed forces of the Union (CRPF, BSF, ITBP etc) for carrying out **proactive operations against the insurgents in a highly hostile environment.**
  - They have the authority to prohibit a **gathering of five or more persons** in an area.
- The AFSPA is also in force in the **entire Nagaland, certain districts of Arunachal Pradesh, and most parts of Manipur barring the Imphal municipal areas.**
- **Under Section 3** -The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a **disturbed area.**
  - An area can be disturbed due to **differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.**

**Statement 2 is correct:** Section 4 gives the Army powers to search premises and make arrests without warrants, to use force even to the extent of causing death, destroy arms/ammunition dumps, fortifications/shelters/hideouts and to stop, search and seize any vehicle.

- **Section 6** stipulates that **arrested persons and the seized property** are to be made over to the police with the least possible delay.
- **Section 7** offers **protection of persons** acting in **good faith in their official capacity.**
  - The prosecution is permitted only after the sanction of the Central Government.

58. (d)

**[SOL] Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct:** It is located in Pilibhit district, Lakhimpur Kheri District and Bahraich District of Uttar Pradesh.

- It is situated in the **Terai region of northern India.**
- While the northern area of the reserve touches the Indo-Nepal border, the southern edge is connected to **Khakhra and Sharda rivers.**
- It is a **mosaic of high sal and teak forests**, plantation, grasslands and swamps maintained by periodic flooding from rivers.
- The major forest types found here include dry deciduous forests, open woodlands, grasslands and riverine covered with thorny woodlands and tall grass.

- It was declared a **tiger reserve** in 2008.
  - It won the **TX2 award** for doubling the tiger population in just four years from 2014 when it had 25 tigers which went up to 65 in 2018.
- It represents the **only tiger population** with the ecological and behavioural adaptations of the tiger unique to the Terai region.
  - It is home to habitat for over 127 animals, 326 bird species and 2,100 flowering plants.
  - **Several endangered species** like the pangolin, Bengal Florican, vulture, sloth deer etc are found here.

59. (d)

**[SOL] In News:** The Government has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 10,683 crore.

- The scheme has been designed with a view to providing a big fillip to the man made fibres and technical textiles segments of the industry.
- With this, India is poised to regain its dominance in Global Textiles Trade

**Statement 1 is correct.** Indian exports in the textile sector have almost stagnated over the past seven years.

- India is **ranked sixth in the global trade in this sector.**

**Statement 2 is not correct.** The scheme will not impact traditional textile segments such as jute or cotton. It aims only at Technical fibres and Man Made Fibres.

**Statement 3 is correct.** One of the criticisms of the scheme is limited target beneficiary manufacturers due to minimum investment thresholds and select product lines.

60. (b)

**[SOL] In News:** According to an internal RBI notice, **10 foreign NGOs had been placed in the Prior Reference Category (PRC) of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010.**

- Recently, the government has made both banks and chartered accountants accountable for any unauthorised funds that come through.

**Statement 1 is not Correct.** The NGOs under Prior Reference Category have to take clearance from the **MHA's Foreigners Division of the FCRA wing.**

**Statement 2 is Correct.** It has been criticised for being over regulatory and has led to closure of multiple NGOs in India.

- Among those who have been put on the PRC list or had to downsize or even shut down their Indian operations due to FCRA action by the government in the last few years are
  - Greenpeace International,
  - Amnesty International,
  - Human Rights Watch,
  - Compassion International,
  - National Endowment for Democracy,
  - U.S. Centre for Disease Control (CDC),
  - Open Society Foundation.

61. (c)

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

- In **1893**, he took the name '**Vivekananda**' after **Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State** requested him to do so, changing from '**Sachidananda**' that he used before. He was **one of India's greatest spiritual leaders** and inspired the youth of India to become better, leading a life of purity and setting an example for the world.
  - o **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** had called him the "**Maker of Modern India**".
- He played an important role in **introducing the philosophies of Yoga and Vedanta to the West**. He preached '**neo-Vedanta**', an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens and believed in combining spirituality with material progress. In his honour, the Government of India in **1984** declared his birthday **National Youth Day**.
- He is best known for his speech at the **Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893**.
  - o He started the speech with the opening remarks, "*My brothers and sisters of America*" and covered topics including **universal acceptance, tolerance and religion**.
  - o He began delivering lectures at various places in the US and UK and became popular as the '**Messenger of Indian Wisdom to the Western World**'.

62. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The project was initially proposed in **2009 after the Mumbai terrorist** attack with a **budget of ₹2,800 crores**.

- o The **26/11 terrorist siege in Mumbai back in 2008** exposed the **deficiency that security agencies** had no mechanism to look for vital information on a real-time basis.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is conceptualised as a **seamless and secure database** for information on terrorists, economic crimes and similar incidents to help bolster India's capabilities. It has been envisaged as a robust mechanism to track suspects and prevent terrorist attacks with real-time data and access to classified information like immigration, banking, individual taxpayers, air and train travel.

**Statement 3 is correct:** It is an online database for **collating scattered pieces of information and putting them together on one platform**.

- o It links **intelligence and investigation** agencies and is exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005 under sub-section (2) of Section 24.
- o It will utilise technologies like **Big Data and data analytics** to study and **analyse the huge amounts of data from various intelligence** and enforcement agencies to help track suspects in various cases as required.
- o It is intending to set up an Entity Extraction, Visualization, and Analytics (EVA) system.
- It is mandated with a **counter-terrorism measure** that collects and collates a host of information from government databases including tax and bank account details, credit card transactions, visa and immigration records, itineraries of Rail and air travel etc.

63. (a)

[SOL] **Option A is correct:** The BRIC group was renamed as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) after South Africa was accepted as a full member at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in 2010.

- BRICS consists of the major emerging economies from the world, comprising **41% of the world** population.
- It contributes 24% of the world GDP.
- It has 16% share in world trade.
- Total combined area of 29.3% of the total land surface of the world.

64. (b)

[SOL] In News:

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare has signed 5 MOUs with private companies for **taking forward Digital Agriculture**.
  - o MOUs were signed for pilot projects with CISCO, Ninjacart, Jio Platforms Limited, ITC Limited and NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NeML).
  - o MOUs aimed at **increasing farmers' income and protecting their produce**.

**Statement 1 is correct.** A **Digital agriculture mission** has been initiated for **2021 -2025** by the government for projects based on new technologies.

- o The new technologies which will be harnessed are **AI, block chain, remote sensing and GIS technology, use of drones and robots** etc.

**Statement 2 is correct.** Recognizing the importance of Digitization in Agriculture the Department is creating a **federated Farmers Database**.

- Different Services will be built around this Database so as to develop an organic **Digital Ecosystems of Agriculture**.
- **Federated farmers' databases** will be linked by the **land records of farmers from across the country**.
  - o It will create a **unique Farmer ID**.

**Statement 3 is not correct.** It involves **public and private players** in agricultural inputs and services and also logistics.

65. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct.** QUAD is an **informal** strategic forum of four nations named India, Japan, US and Australia.

**Statement 2 is not correct.** The idea of Quad was first mooted by the **Japanese Prime Minister in 2007**.

**Statement 3 is not correct.** Malabar Exercise, initiated by **India and US in 1992**, now includes all QUAD members as participants. Japan joined in 2015.

66. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Connect Karo 2021 event is being organized by the **World Resources Institute (WRI)** through video conferencing.

**Statements 2 and 3 are correct:** It brings together Indian, global leaders, policymakers and other stakeholders committed to **designing inclusive, sustainable and climate forward** Indian cities.

- It is held every year and it sees presenters from various fields — air pollution, electric mobility, urban planning, urban water resilience, climate mitigation, and public transit among others sharing their insights and research findings.
- **Theme:** 'Clean, Green & Just'.
- **It will be on addressing critical challenges** faced by Indian cities with an emphasis on deep dive cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Kochi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

67. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Groundswell report is released by the World Bank.

- The Groundswell report is a stark reminder of the human toll of climate change, particularly on the world's poorest who are contributing the least to its causes.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It clearly lays out a **path for countries to address** some of the key factors that are causing climate-driven migration.

- The updated report includes projections and analysis for three regions: **East Asia and the Pacific, North Africa, and Eastern Europe** and Central Asia.
- It builds on the novel and pioneering modelling approach of the previous World Bank Groundswell report from 2018, which covered **Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America**.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** **Sub-Saharan Africa** will have the largest number of **internal climate refugees** by 2050.

- o By 2050, sub-Saharan Africa could see as many as 86 million internal climate migrants
  - East Asia and the Pacific, 49 million
  - South Asia, 40 million
  - North Africa, 19 million
  - Latin America, 17 million
  - Eastern Europe and Central Asia, five million.

68. (a)

[SOL] **In News:** **World Ozone Day** is observed on the **16th of September** every year.

**Option A is correct:** The Montreal Protocol was **framed at the Vienna Convention** with an aim to reduce usage of substances that deplete the ozone layer.

- The Montreal Protocol is the only UN treaty which has been **ratified by 197 members of the United nations (UN)**.
- The **Kigali Agreement** was also signed to support the Montreal protocol.
- Kigali Agreement: signed in 2019, the Kigali Agreement works with an objective to reduce the usage of hydro-fluorocarbons by 80% to 85% by 2040, in order to reduce the greenhouse gases.

69. (d)

[SOL] **In News**

- As per a study by Bihar Pollution Control Board, the arsenic contamination has found its way into the food chain- mainly rice, wheat and potato.
- Arsenic contamination in groundwater has been a growing concern in several parts of the country.

**Statement 1 is not correct.** Arsenic pollution causes Skin Cancer and Black Foot Disease. **(Fluoride causes mottling of teeth and spinal cord deformation.)**

**Statement 2 is not correct.** The permissible limit set by the Indian government for Arsenic in absence of alternate water source is **50 microgram per liter**.

**Statement 3 is not correct.** MuktoShri rice is an Arsenic resistant rice variety.



70. (c)

[SOL] **In News:** The NITI Aayog in collaboration with RMI and RMI India launched the 'Shoonya' programme.

**Option C is correct:** It is an initiative to **promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles** by working with consumers and the industry.

- As part of the campaign, a corporate branding and certification programme is being launched to recognise and promote the industry's efforts towards transitioning to EVs for final-mile deliveries.
- It aims to accelerate the **adoption of electric vehicles (EVs)** in the urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about the benefits of zero-pollution delivery.

71. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** It was set up in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals.

- It was established on the recommendations of the **Tandon Committee** to the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Taskforce (1985).
- NCRB was entrusted with the responsibility for monitoring, coordinating and implementing the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project in the year 2009.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** In August 2017, NCRB launched the National Digital Police Portal, which allows search for a criminal/suspect on the CCTNS database.

- The Bureau has also been entrusted to **maintain the National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO) and share it with the States/UTs on a regular basis.**
- NCRB has also been designated as the Central Nodal Agency to manage technical and operational functions of the 'Online Cyber-Crime Reporting Portal.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Crime in India – 2020 is the **oldest and the most prestigious** publication brought out by NCRB.

- The data for the report is collected by State Crime Records Bureaux (SCRbX) from the District Crime Records Bureaux (DCRBx) and sent to NCRB at the end of every calendar year under the reference.
- Data from mega-cities (cities having a population of 10 lakh or more as per the latest census) is also collected separately.
- District-wise data on some IPC heads are collected and published separately.
- The first edition of 'Crime in India' pertains to the year **1953 and the latest edition of the report pertains to the year 2020.**

72. (b)

[SOL] Recently, the **U.S., U.K. and Australia** announced a new **trilateral security partnership** for the **Indo-Pacific region** named 'AUKUS'.

- o The three countries are already sharing extensive intelligence through the Five Eyes alliance.
  - ❑ Five Eyes alliance is an intelligence-sharing arrangement b/w US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- Under it, the U.S., U.K will help **Australia deploy nuclear-powered submarines in the Pacific region.**
- The focus of AUKUS will be on integrating all defence and security related science, supply chains, industrial bases and technology.
  - o It will also focus on protecting shared values and promoting security and prosperity in the **Indo-Pacific region.**

73. (a)

[SOL] **Option A is correct.** **In News:** On 16 September 2021, India observed the 27th International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

- o The theme of World Ozone Day 2021 is “**Montreal Protocol - Keeping us, our food and vaccines cool**”.

**Statement 1 is correct.** Montreal protocol tries to phase out Ozone Depleting Substances.

**Statement 2 is correct.** Stratospheric Clouds and Polar Vortex aggravate the formation of Ozone Hole. They concentrate CFCs and Halons and provide a catalytic surface.

**Statement 3 is not correct.** HydrofluoroCarbons, covered under Kigali amendment, are **GreenHouse Gases**, and not Ozone Depleting Substances.

74. (a)

[SOL] **In News**

- UNESCO has recently designated Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) as the world’s first ‘five-country biosphere reserve’.

**Option A is correct.**

- It is a biosphere reserve which **covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers and stretches across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.**
- It is also called the “**Amazon of Europe**”.

**Note:** You can eliminate using the proximity of nations.

75. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Telecom operators are required to pay licence fee and spectrum charges in the form of 'revenue share' to the government. The revenue amount used to calculate this revenue share is termed as the adjusted gross revenue or AGR.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The mobile telephone operators were required to share a percentage of their AGR with the government (the Department of Telecommunications) as annual license fee (LF) and spectrum usage charges (SUC). It is divided into spectrum usage charges and licensing fees, pegged between 3-5 percent and 8 percent respectively.

76. (d)

[SOL] **In News:** Prime Minister participated virtually in the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). He also gave a video message in the Joint SCO-CSTO Outreach Session on Afghanistan.

**Statement 1 is correct.** It is a security pact between the **Commonwealth of Independent Nations**.

- The **Commonwealth of Independent Nations** is a group of nations formed after the split of the USSR.

**Statement 2 is not correct.** Its members are

- Armenia
- Belarus
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Russia
- Tajikistan

**Statement 3 is correct.** It is headquartered in Moscow, Russia.



77. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** An Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) is a specialized financial institution that buys stressed assets from banks and financial institutions. **Banks can sell their stressed or bad assets to the ARC at a mutually agreeable price**, thereby helping banks to clean up their balance sheets and concentrate on delivering normal banking services.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Asset reconstruction is the purchase of title or rights of the banks or financial institutions in loans, bonds, debentures, etc., for the sole purpose of its recovery or realization. Thereafter, **it is the responsibility of the ARC to recover the bad debts or associated securities in a market-led process.**

78. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct: the Faroe Islands** is an archipelago, in the North Atlantic Ocean, located 320 kilometres northwest of Scotland, and about halfway between Norway and Iceland. An archipelago is a **group of islands** closely scattered in a body of water. Usually, this body of water is the ocean, but it can also be a lake or river.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** it is an **autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark.**

o It is a part of the Nordic countries

**Statement 3 is correct:** The **terrain is rugged**; the **climate is the subpolar oceanic climate (Cfc)**—windy, wet, cloudy, and cool.

79. (d)

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are not correct :** Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme was initiated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) in 2014 with the approval of the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** with an objective to **enhance the number of PhDs** in ESDM and IT/IT Enabled Services sectors in the country.

- **PhD seats** were allocated to 97 institutions (IITs, NITs, Central & State Universities etc.) in 25 states and 4 Union Territories.
- The scheme is a manifestation of the Prime Minister's vision of providing **world-class education and opportunities** for research and development to the students at the bottom of the pyramid in society.
- It provides **25% more fellowship amount** than most of the other PhD Schemes.
  - o Part-time PhD candidates get a one-time incentive on completion of the PhD.
  - o The scheme also supports **200 Young Faculty Research Fellowships** in the areas of ESDM and IT/ITES with the objective to retain and attract bright young faculty members in these sectors.

80. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** SCO is a **permanent intergovernmental international organisation** of Eurasian Nations with a **secretariat in Beijing.**

- o They represent 40% of the world population and approximately 20% of World GDP along with about 22% of the world landmass.
- It is a political, economic and military organisation that aims at maintaining peace, security and stability in the region.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The SCO's **official languages are Russian and Chinese.**

- It currently has 8 members with the latest being India and Pakistan who were made members in 2017.
  - o **Note: Turkmenistan is not** a party to SCO.
- There are 4 Observer States and multiple Dialogue Partners.

**Statement 3 is not correct:**

Member States	Observer States	Dialogue Partners
1. Kazakhstan	1. Afghanistan	1. Azerbaijan
2. China	2. Belarus	2. Armenia
3. Kyrgyzstan	3. Iran	3. Cambodia
4. Russia	4. Mongolia	4. Nepal
5. Tajikistan		5. Turkey
6. Uzbekistan		6. Sri Lanka
7. India		
8. Pakistan		

81. (a)

[SOL] **In News:** The report, titled '**Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India**', was released by NITI Aayog (**Hence, Option A is correct.**)

- It has urged all central universities and technical institutions states to offer postgraduate degree programmes (M.Tech. Planning) to cater to the requirement of planners.
  - o The report noted that only a little more than 1000 students every year pursue this degree in India.

82. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** It is a constitutional body under Article **279A**, introduced by the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. The Chairperson of the Council is the Union Finance Minister.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Every decision of the GST Council shall be taken at a meeting by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting, in accordance with the following principles, namely:

- The vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of **one-third** of the total votes cast.
- Votes of all the State Governments taken together shall have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting.

83. (b)

[SOL] An **inverted duty structure** comes up in a situation where import duties on input goods are higher than on finished goods. In other words, the GST rate paid on purchases is more than the GST rate payable on sales.

**Anti Dumping Duty:** It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

**Countervailing Duty:** It is a specific form of duty structure that the government imposes in order to protect domestic producers by countering the negative impact of import subsidies.

84. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Central Government issued directions to Suo-Moto to take over the investigation of a case. It has been provided under section 6(5) of the NIA Act, 2008

**Statement 2 is correct:** A State Government may request the Central Government to hand over the investigation of a case to the NIA, provided there is reasonable ground to suggest the commission of a scheduled offence under the NIA Act in the said crime.

85. (d)

**[SOL] In News**

- UNESCO's framework for moral AI would have a far-reaching influence on the complete gamut of AI actions.
  - o The facets of AI which will be affected are
    - ☐ improvement,
    - ☐ software,
    - ☐ ethicality,
    - ☐ information privateness, and
    - ☐ Regulation.

**Option D is correct.** All of the above mentioned challenges are valid criticism of Artificial Intelligence.

- UNESCO is trying to develop but the code of conduct is still under development.
- Israel has shown the precision of AI based lethal weapons.
- Similarly Cambridge analytica case is also an example of biased voting and breach to privacy.

86. (c)

**[SOL]** Penguins are a family of 17 to 19 species of birds that live primarily in the Southern Hemisphere.

- They include the tiny blue penguins of Australia and New Zealand, the majestic emperor penguins of Antarctica and king penguins found on many sub- Antarctic islands, the endangered African penguin and the Galápagos penguin—the only penguin to be found north of the equator.
- Penguins may not be able to fly across the sky, but they can fly underwater as well as any fish. Instead of wings, these birds have flippers that can propel their streamlined bodies up to 15 miles per hour through the sea in pursuit of a meal.
- Penguins are divided into six genera.

PENGUIN SPECIES	
Genus	Species
Crested group ( <i>Eudyptes</i> )	Macaroni, Royal Fiordland, Rockhopper, Snares Crested, Erect-Crested
Banded group ( <i>Spheniscus</i> )	Humboldt, Magellanic, African, Galapagos
Brush-tailed group ( <i>Pygoscelis</i> )	Chinstrap, Gentoo, Adélie
Large group ( <i>Aptenodytes</i> )	Emperor, King
Yellow-Eyed ( <i>Megadyptes</i> )	Yellow-Eyed
Little ( <i>Eudyptula</i> )	Little (or Fairy)

*Source: Smithsonian Institute*

87. (d)

[SOL] The Western Ghats of India is one of the **global biodiversity hotspots** owing to its **endemism of flora and fauna**.

- The northern part of this biodiversity hotspot, along with the Konkan region, is considerably **different from its southern** and central parts on account of lesser precipitation and extended dry season.
- They are spread through states of **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat**.
- The Ghats are often called the Great Escarpment of India and are also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The Western Ghats are internationally recognized as a region of immense global importance for the conservation of biological diversity, besides containing areas of high geological, cultural and aesthetic values.

88. (c)

[SOL] **In News:** In the recent Doubtful Voter case, the Foreigners' Tribunal reiterated that NRC Assam published in 2019 is the Final NRC. It was in response to an affidavit in Gauhati High Court, referring to the 2019 list as 'supplementary' and not 'final NRC'. The affidavit sought re-verification.

**Statement 1 is correct.** NRC was published only once in 1951.

- Now it is being updated in Assam but there too it has not been notified yet.

**Statement 2 is not correct.** The Assam Accord was signed by Mr. **Rajiv** Gandhi to reduce the **insurgency in Assam**.

**Statement 3 is correct.** Only Foreigners Tribunals are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner.

- They are quasi-judicial bodies set up and empowered under the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964.

89. (d)

[SOL] **Option D is correct:** The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union. The 19 countries are **Argentina**, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, **India**, **Indonesia**, Italy, **Japan**, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, **South Korea**, **Turkey**, the UK, and the US. G20 Leaders Summit 2021 will be hosted by **Italy** in October 2021. The Summit will focus on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: **People, Planet, Prosperity**.

90. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Arctic Council was established by the eight Arctic States — the countries whose territories fall in the Arctic region — through the Ottawa Declaration of 1996. The eight Arctic States — Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States — are the only members of the Arctic Council.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The Arctic Council is not a treaty-based international legal entity like the UN bodies or trade, military or regional groupings like WTO, NATO or ASEAN. It is only an intergovernmental 'forum' to promote cooperation in regulating the activities in the Arctic region. It is a much more informal grouping.

**Statement 3 is correct:** India was given the Observer status in 2013, along with five other countries — China, Italy, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore. Prior to this, only France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom were granted Observer status.

91. (b)

[SOL] **Statements 1 is not correct but 2 is correct: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has developed the State Food Safety Index to measure the performance of states on various parameters of Food Safety. This index is based on the performance of State/ UT on five significant parameters, namely, Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment. The Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating **food safety across all States/UTs**.

92. (d)

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services (BEAMS) flagship program is one of the key initiatives under the ICZM approach undertaken by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for the sustainable development of coastal regions of India. The prime objective of BEAMS is to protect & conserve the pristine coastal and marine ecosystems through holistic management of resources.

Further, the objective of the BEAMS program is to abate pollution in coastal waters and promote sustainable development of beach facilities, protect & conserve coastal ecosystems & natural resources, and challenge local authorities & stakeholders to strive and maintain high standards of cleanliness, hygiene & safety for beachgoers in accordance with coastal environment & regulations.

93. (d)

[SOL] **In News**

- In the recent Dushanbe Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, Iran was given full membership.
- Now the total number of full members in SCO has gone up to 9.

**Option D is Correct.**

**Member States:**

1. Kazakhstan
2. China
3. Kyrgyzstan
4. Russia
5. Tajikistan
6. Uzbekistan
7. India
8. Pakistan
9. Iran

94. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Jal Jeevan Mission is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual **household tap connections by 2024** to all households in rural India. It is under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as:

- recharge and reuse through grey water management,
- water conservation,
- **rain water harvesting.**

95. (a)

[SOL]

**Statement 1 is correct:** They are extratropical storms originating in the Mediterranean region that bring sudden winter rain to the north-western parts of the Indian subcontinent, they originate from the Mediterranean Sea.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The increase in the prevailing night temperature generally indicates an advance in the arrival of these cyclones disturbances.

**Statement 3 is correct:** It is a non-monsoonal precipitation pattern driven by the Subtropical westerlies Jet stream.

**Statement 4 is not correct:** The Western disturbances are of great **help to rabi crops** (precipitation needed by them is favourable). Though too much of it is harmful to the crops the winter shower is necessary especially wheat (Wheat is a staple food in India).

96. (d)

[SOL] World Rhino Day is celebrated on September 22 every year. It was first announced by WWF-South Africa in 2010. The following year, World Rhino Day grew into an international success, encompassing both African and Asian rhino species. It celebrates all five species of rhino: **Black, white, greater one-horned, Sumatran and Javan rhinos**. The scientific name and conservation status of the five species are

- **Javan Rhinos (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*):** Critically Endangered
- **Sumatran rhinos (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*):** Critically Endangered
- **Black rhinos (*Diceros bicornis*):** Critically Endangered
- **White rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum*):** Near Threatened
- **Greater One-Horned Rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*):** Vulnerable

97. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region. Despite the region's many successes, it remains home to a large share of the world's poor: 263 million living on less than \$1.90 a day and 1.1 billion on less than \$3.20 a day.

**Statement 2 and 3 are correct:** From 31 members at its establishment in 1966, ADB has grown to encompass 68 members—of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.

- Japan holds the largest proportion of shares in ADB followed by the USA, because Japan is one of the largest shareholders of the bank, the president has always been Japanese.
- ADB is an official **United Nations Observer**.

ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.

ADB maximizes the development impact of its assistance by facilitating policy dialogues, providing advisory services, and mobilizing financial resources through co-financing operations that tap official, commercial, and export credit sources.

98. (b)

[SOL] In News

- Chinese real estate major Evergrande, \$305 billion in the red, is on the brink of explosion.
- **Evergrande is China's biggest and most indebted real estate developer.**
- The Global Equity Market is fearing the contagious effect just like the 2008 subprime lending crisis.



**Option A is not correct.** A slump in the equity or commodity market may be a simple correction after overheating of the market.

**Option B is correct.** In finance, **systemic risk** is the risk of collapse of an entire financial system or entire market.

Option C and D may be a cause but do not define the systemic risk.

99. (d)

**[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:** Pure ammonium nitrate is not an explosive on its own. For Ammonium nitrate to be explosive, a primary explosive or detonator like RDX or TNT is required.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The United Nations has classified it as 'dangerous goods'.

100. (a)

**[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:** African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious hemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, which is responsible for serious economic and production losses.

**Statement 2 is correct:** According to the World Organisation for Animal Health, ASF is caused by a large DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family. African swine fever virus is the only virus with a double-stranded DNA genome known to be transmitted by arthropods.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** As of now, there is no approved vaccine against ASF unlike classical swine fever ('Hog Cholera') which is caused by a different virus. Classical Swine Fever (CSF) is one of the most important viral diseases of domestic pigs and wild boar. It is also called Hog Cholera.

101. (d)

**[SOL] In News**

- The meeting of foreign ministers from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries has been cancelled.
  - o The meeting was set to be held in New York on 25 September 2021.
  - o It was to be hosted by Nepal.
- The suspected reason may be disagreement among the member states over the participation of Afghanistan.
  - o In particular, the loggerhead was between Pakistan and India over the issue.

**Option D is correct.** The correct Declaration and Organisation match is

1. Dhaka Declaration: SAARC.
2. Bangkok Declaration: BIMSTEC.
3. Bangkok Declaration: ASEAN.

102. (b)

**[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct:** **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** was launched in 2016.

- It is a 100% Government owned Section 8 Company set up under the aegis of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Central and State Government Departments / Organizations / Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

**Statement 2 is correct:** GeM offers a cashless, contactless, and paperless experience for sellers and buyers, and serves as an end-to-end solution for procurement of common use goods and services by Government buyers.

103. (d)

[SOL] In News: Prime Minister of India will announce the nationwide roll-out of the Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission on September 27.

- The mission is being rolled out on a pilot basis in six union territories including **Puducherry, Chandigarh, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.**
- The Prime Minister during his Independence Day speech 2020 announced that “a new campaign” would be called the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).**
  - o Every Indian will get a Health ID card and this card will contain all the health records of the person.
- It aims to **develop the backbone necessary** to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.
- The primary aim of this mission is to enhance the **efficiency of the healthcare system in India.**
- It will be a one-stop solution for the healthcare needs of the common man.
- The difficulty of maintaining long trails of paper-based health records, or standing in long queues at health facilities, etc. will no longer be a burden in this digitally-driven ecosystem.

104. (c)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:

- The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is one of the flagship programmes of the Government of India and represents one of the world’s largest and unique programmes for early childhood care and development.
- It was launched on 2nd October, 1975.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** is implementing it.
- The beneficiaries under the Scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, **pregnant women and lactating mothers.**

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The objectives of scheme are:

- to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the **age-group 0-6 years;**
- to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- to achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

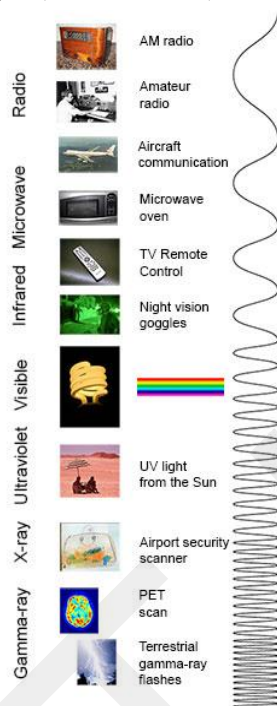
**Statement 3 is correct:** The ICDS Scheme offers a package of six services, viz.

- o Supplementary Nutrition
- o Pre-school non-formal education
- o Nutrition & health education
- o Immunization
- o Health check-up and
- o Referral services
- The last three services are related to health and are provided by the Ministry/Department of **Health and Family Welfare** through NRHM & Health system.
- For better governance in the delivery of the Scheme, **convergence** is, therefore, one of the key features of the ICDS Scheme.
- This convergence is in-built in the Scheme which provides a platform in the form of **Anganwadi Centres** for providing all services under the Scheme.



105. (d)

[SOL] The electromagnetic spectrum from lowest energy/longest wavelength (at the top) to highest energy/shortest wavelength (at the bottom).



(Image Courtesy: [NASA](#))

106. (b)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Recently, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has notified the Scheme for “Promotion of Medical Device Parks” at a **financial outlay of ₹ 400 crores** till the financial year 2024-2025. The Medical Devices Parks to be developed under the scheme will provide **common infrastructure facilities** in one place.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The financial assistance to a selected **Medical Device Park** would be **70%** of the project cost of common infrastructure facilities.

o In the case of the **North-Eastern States and the Hilly States**, financial assistance would be **90% of the project cost**.

☐ Maximum assistance under the scheme for one Medical Device Park would be limited to Rs. 100 crores.

107. (d)

[SOL] **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** It is a **tariff imposed on imports** manufactured in foreign countries that are priced below the **fair market value of similar goods** in the domestic market.

- It is imposed to **protect local businesses and markets** from **unfair competition by foreign imports**.
- The duty is priced in an **amount that equals the difference between the normal costs of the products** in the importing country and the market value of similar goods in the exporting country or other countries that produce similar products.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** The anti-dumping duty can be anywhere **from 0% up to 550%** of the invoice value of the goods.

108. (b)

[SOL] The Five-eyes grouping facilitates intelligence-sharing among the **US, Canada, UK, Australia, and New Zealand**. In 2020, **India and Japan** had joined the Five Eyes nations in a joint appeal to tech companies to permit “backdoor access” to encrypted applications on smartphones. In 2020, India made its first-ever participation in the Five-eyes grouping.

109. (a)

[SOL] **In News**

- Recently, the Centre has notified the amendments to the Patents Rules.
- Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2021 which will reduce the fee for patent filing and prosecution for educational institutions by 80 percent.
  - o This will promote Innovation and Creativity in a Knowledge Economy

**Option A is correct.**

1. Patents: Issued to inventors to protect their inventions
2. Trademarks: Legal protections on creative works of the mind
3. Copyright: Legal protections on words, phrases, designs, or marks.

110. (b)

[SOL]

- The Persian Gulf, a mediterranean sea, is part of the Indian Ocean. It is located in Western Asia.
- The water body is bounded by several countries, including Iran to the north, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates on the peninsula, and Bahrain, Iraq, and Kuwait in the northwest.
- It has a coastline length of about 5,117 km, with Iran having the longest coastline (1,536 km).
- It is an extension of the **Gulf of Oman** and connects to the Indian Ocean via the **Strait of Hormuz** in the east.
- The Persian Gulf lies between the Arabian Peninsula and Iran to the southwest and northeast respectively.

111. (d)

[SOL] **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya** was Born on September 25, 1916, in the sacred region of Brij in the village of Nagla Chandrabhan in Mathura District.

- o He lost his parents at an early age and was brought up by his maternal uncle.
- o He attended high school in Sikar. Being regarded as a brilliant student, the **Maharaja of Sikar** gave him a gold medal, ₹250 for books and a monthly scholarship of ₹10.
  - He joined RSS in 1937 and came under the influence of Shri Nana ji Deshmukh and Shri Bhau Jugade. He launched the weekly 'Panchjanya' and the daily 'Swadesh'.
- o He was a creative writer and a renowned editor. He was a journalist in 'Rashtra Dharma' daily, worked as an editor for 'Panchjanya' and wrote a column named 'Political Diary' for the weekly 'the Organiser'.
- o His mantra for journalism was 'Don't distort the news'. He wrote a number of books including Samrat Chandragupt, Jagatguru Shankaracharya, Political Diary, Integral humanism, Ekatmamanav - vad and an analysis of the Five Year plans in India.
- o He convened on September 21, 1951, a political convention of UP and founded the state unit of the new party, Bharatiya Jana Sangh.
- o He was the leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh from 1953 to 1968.

112. (d)

[SOL] **Statements 1, 2 and 3 are not correct:** The study ‘Clinicopathological Profile of Cancers in India’ was released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Out of the 6,10,084 cancers, 3,19,098 (52.4%) cancers were reported in males, and 2,90,986 (47.6%) in females.

- The proportion of all cancer cases was higher in males than females with gynaecological cancers, including breast cancer, comprising over half of all cancers in females.
  - o Cancers of the head and neck region accounted for nearly one third (31.2%) of the cancers among males.
  - o Cancers in sites associated with tobacco use comprised 48.7% of cancers among males and 16.5% among females.
  - o Childhood cancers constitute 7.9% of all cancers.

113. (b)

[SOL] **Option B is Correct:** They are food derived from aquatic or marine animals, plants or algae that are caught or cultivated in freshwater and marine environments.

- Examples
  - o Seaweeds, Sea Cucumber
  - o Bivalves (mussels, oysters, etc.)
  - o Fishes like tilapia, salmon, catfish and carp, etc.

114. (d)

[SOL] **In News**

- A State-wide campaign has been launched in Rajasthan for demanding passage of the social accountability law.
- Rajasthan Congress had promised the legislation in its 2018 Assembly election manifesto.
- The Chief Minister had also reiterated his resolve to enact the law in his budget speech in 2019.

**Statement 1 is correct.** Social accountability has been defined as an approach towards ensuring accountability that relies on civic engagement,

- o i.e., in which ordinary citizens and citizen groups participate directly or indirectly in exacting accountability.

**Statement 2 is correct.** The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances has also started a study on “Social Accountability”.

- o It emphasised on
  - ☐ Strong Voice: an informed and mobilised citizenry that can draw upon platforms for engagement to make accountability demands on the system
  - ☐ Strong Compact: A system of institutions designed in a manner that makes accountability possible.

**Statement 3 is correct.** Few Examples of Social Accountability

- Participatory Planning and Policy Formulation (Kerala)
- Participatory Budget Analysis (Gujarat)
- Participatory Expenditure Tracking System (Delhi, Rajasthan)
- Citizens’ Surveys/Citizen Report Cards (Bangalore, Maharashtra)
- Citizen Charters (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka)
- Community Scorecards (Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh)

115. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** The judges of the High Court are appointed by the **President**. **Statement 2 is correct:** The salaries, allowances, leave, privileges are determined time to time by the Parliament.

116. (a)

[SOL] Ishwar Chandra Bandyopadhyay was born on 26 September 1820 in Birsingha village of Midnapore district, West Bengal.

- His father **Thakurdas Bandyopadhyay** and mother **Bhagavati Devi** were very religious persons.
- He spent his childhood days in **abject poverty** as the economic condition was not that stable
- He was a part of the larger social movement called the **Bengal Renaissance**, which started with the **enlightened leadership of Raja Rammohan Roy**.
- He brought a revolution in the education system of Bengal.
  - o In his book, "**Barno-Porichoy**" (**Introduction to the letter**), Vidyasagar refined the **Bengali language** and made it accessible to the **common strata of the society**.
- He used to **spend a part of his scholarships** and salary for the welfare of those poor people. He would also buy medicine for the sick.
- **He proposed and pushed for the Widow Remarriage Act of 1856 in India and raised concern** for the **abolition of child marriage and polygamy**.
- He also opened the doors of the colleges and other educational institutions to lower caste students, which was earlier reserved only for the Brahmins.
  - o For his immense generosity and kind-heartedness, people started addressing him as "**Dayar Sagar**" (**ocean of kindness**).

117. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced SAUBHAGYA on September 25, 2017. It is **one** of the **world's largest electrification drives**.

- The scheme **envisages electricity connection for each household** by drawing a service cable from the nearest electricity pole to the home, installing an energy meter, and wiring for a single light point with an LED bulb and a mobile charging point.
- **It aims to achieve Universal Household Electrification** in the country by establishing **last-mile connectivity and delivering power** to all un-electrified rural families and poor urban households.
- **Statement 2 and 3 are correct:** It covers **both urban and rural households**. The beneficiaries for free electricity connections would be identified using **Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data**.
  - o However, un-electrified households not covered under the SECC data would also be provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs. 500 which shall be recovered by DISCOMs in 10 instalments through electricity bill.
- The Government of India largely provided funds for the Scheme to all States/UTs.

118. (c)

[SOL] **In News**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) recently fined 3 beer companies and then gave them a varying degree of relief

**Statement 1 is correct.** Cartelisation includes agreement between competitors to restrict competition. (See the Current Affair article for an elaborate definition.)

**Statement 2 is correct.** Cartelisation may have severe socio-economic implications as compared to monopolistic markets.

- They curb both investment in productivity and product innovation.

119. (c)

[SOL] The Northern Triangle of Central America is a term used in the United States to refer collectively to the three Central American countries of **Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador**. The term is used with respect to the countries' economic integration, and their shared challenges, including widespread poverty, violence, and corruption, which have prompted many to become refugees fleeing the three nations.



Image Courtesy: [dame1minutode](https://www.dame1minutode.com)

120. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Bomb cyclones is a term used to indicate a mid-latitude cyclone that intensifies rapidly.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The names of the cyclones are maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization.

121. (a)

[SOL] The Cauvery (also spelt as 'Kaveri'), known as 'Ponni' in Tamil. It rises in the Brahmagiri range of the Western Ghats and it reaches the Bay of Bengal in the south of Cuddalore, in Tamil Nadu. Its main tributaries are Amravati, Bhavani, Hemavati and Kabini. The Cauvery basin is spread in the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

122. (d)

[SOL] **Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct:** It is an **inflammation of the membranes** that surround the brain and spinal cord. It is predominantly caused by **bacterial and viral infections**.

- It is a devastating disease and remains a major public health challenge.
- The disease can be caused by many different pathogens including bacteria, fungi or viruses, but the highest global burden is seen with bacterial meningitis.
- **It kills a tenth of those infected** — mostly children and young people — and leaves a fifth with long-lasting disabilities, such as seizures, hearing and vision loss, neurological damage, and cognitive impairment.
- Meningitis epidemics have occurred in the last decade in all regions of the world.
  - o But it is most common in the 'Meningitis Belt,' which spans 26 countries across sub-Saharan Africa.

- The bacteria that cause meningitis are transmitted from person to person through droplets of respiratory or throat secretions from carriers.
- Several vaccines protect against meningitis, including meningococcal, Haemophilus influenzae type b and pneumococcal vaccines.
  - o However, not all communities have access to them. Many countries are yet to introduce them into their national programmes.
- Research is underway to develop vaccines for other causes of meningitis, such as Group B Strep bacteria.

123. (d)

[SOL] **In News**

- The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare along with the Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has launched NAPRE on World Rabies Day.
- **Statement 1 is not correct.** It is a **Viral** disease spreading through dogs, monkey bats and many other mammals' bite.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Rabies is also known as "Hadakwa", "mad dog disease" or "Hydrophobia".
- **Statement 3 is not correct.** The government has recently launched an action plan for Rabies elimination by 2030.

124. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme was launched in **2019** to help farmers access reliable daytime solar power for irrigation, reduce power subsidies, and decarbonise agriculture.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** It was launched by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**. The Scheme consists of three components:

- **Component A:** 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants of individual plant size up to 2 MW.
- **Component B:** Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.
- **Component C:** Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.

125. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Independent legislators are prevented from joining a political party.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Nominated legislators are given six months' time to decide if they want to join a party.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The power to decide the disqualification of an MP or MLA rests with the presiding officer of the legislature.

**Statement 4 is correct:** The law does not specify a time frame in which such a decision has to be made.

126. (a)

[SOL] **In News**

- The existing Mid-Day Meal scheme will be renamed as National Scheme for PM Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN). (**Statement 1 is correct.**)
  - o The Mid Day Meal scheme provides hot meals to school students.

**Statement 2 is correct.** It will also include the preschool students through the creation of Balvatika.

**Statement 3 is not correct.** The breakfast curriculum has **not yet** been included in the program.



127. (d)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The prior consent of the Attorney General (AG) of India is not required to suo motu initiate the inherent contempt powers of the Supreme Court.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Contempt of Court Act of 1971 cannot limit this power of the court. The statute only provides the procedure in which such contempt is to be initiated.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The suo motu contempt powers of the top court are drawn from Article 129 of the Constitution, which says the Supreme Court, as a court of record, has the power to punish for contempt of itself.

128. (b)

[SOL] According to the recently proposed definition, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) will be classified as:

Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing Enterprises and Enterprises rendering Services	Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.1 crore and Annual Turnover; not more than <b>Rs. 5 crore</b>	Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.10 crore and Annual Turnover; not more than <b>Rs. 50 crore</b>	Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.50 crore and Annual Turnover; not more than <b>Rs. 250 crore</b>

129. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** PRAGATI is an **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** based multimodal platform.

- **Launched in 2015;** designed by- Prime Minister's Office (PMO) team with the help of the National Informatics Center (NIC). It uniquely bundles three latest technologies: Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** It is aimed at addressing the **common man's grievances and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing** important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

130. (c)

[SOL] **In News**

- Recently, the New England Journal of Medicine published an article '**Evidence of Artemisinin-Resistant Malaria in Africa**'.
- o It confirmed the increasing evidence for the failure of artemisinin-based combination therapy for falciparum malaria either alone or with partner drugs.

**Statement 1 is correct.** It is caused by Plasmodium which is a Protozoa.

**Statement 2 is not correct.** There are two vaccines till now for malaria named RTS,S and M21.

**Statement 3 is correct.** Chloroquine and artemisinin-based combination therapy are two major treatments for Malaria worldwide.

□□□□