

Q.1 Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the BrahMos?

1. It is jointly developed by the DRDO and NPOM, an aerospace enterprise of Russia
2. It is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant engine in the first stage and a liquid ramjet in the second.
3. It can be launched from land, water and air.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired the BrahMos missile.

Statement 1 is correct: BrahMos missile is a supersonic cruise missile which is jointly developed by the DRDO and NPOM, a leading aerospace enterprise of Russia. Brahmos is named after the rivers Brahmaputra of India and Moskva of Russia

Statement 2 is correct: BrahMos is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster engine as its first stage which brings it to supersonic speed and then gets separated. The liquid ramjet or the second stage then takes the missile closer to 3 Mach speed in cruise phase.

Statement 3 is correct: It can be launched from submarines, warships, fighter jets or land.

Q.2 With reference to the recently released annual “Crime in India” 2019 report, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of crimes against the SCs in 2019.
3. Most of the crimes against the women were recorded in the state of Bihar

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- The National Crime Record Bureau have recently released a report titled “Crime in India”, 2019

Statement 1 is not correct: Crime in India Report is published annually by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). It shows the crime statistics in the country

Statement 2 is correct: According to the finding of the report, the Crime against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) saw an increase of over 7% and 26% respectively in the year

2019 compared to 2018. o Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of crimes against the SCs in 2019, followed by Rajasthan and Bihar.

Statement 3 is not correct: From 2018, the rate of crime against women has risen by 7.3%. India recorded an average of 87 rape cases every day in 2019. Assam reported the highest rate of crimes against women. Uttar Pradesh also had the highest number of crimes against girl children under the POCSO Act, followed by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh

Q.3 With respect to the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO), consider the following statements:

1. El Nino events are sometimes referred to as the warm and wet half phase of ENSO and La Nina as the cold phase of the ENSO

2. Under the El Nino event, the surface temperature of the Pacific Ocean increases more than usual causing heavy rainfalls in Australia.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- The deviations from the normal surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean can have a large-scale impact on the global weather conditions, and the monsoon climate of the Indian subcontinent also gets affected with these temperature fluctuations.

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

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

Q.4 With reference to the Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), consider the following statements:

1. It is a viral hemorrhagic fever mainly caused by the Mosquito Aedes.

2. It is zoonotic in character and can be transmitted to humans through contact with an infected animal.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News- Recently, Maharashtra's Palghar district has been put on alert against Congo fever.

Statement 1 is not correct: Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is a viral infection, usually spread through the bite of a tick. It is caused by a virus named nairovirus, from the family

of Bunyaviridae. The disease was first characterized in the Crimea in 1944 and was given the former name. However, in 1969, the virus caused illness in Congo and was named Congo Fever thereafter.

Statement 2 is correct: The virus that causes Congo Fever is a tick-borne virus. Hard ticks, especially from the family of Hyalomma, are a vector for CCHF virus. The virus can be found in various wild and domestic animals. The virus is transmitted to humans through contact with an infected tick, or animal blood. The virus can be transmitted within humans when a healthy person comes in contact with blood, or body fluids from an infected person. Improper sterilization of medical equipment in hospitals, reuse of injection needles, and use of contaminated medical supplies can also lead to transmission

Q.5 Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) is often in the news, consider the following statements in this regard:

1. It is a UN initiated international think tank to resolve the global conscience about terrorism.
2. India is a founding member of GCTF.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- International Energy Security Conference 2020 was recently organised by Global Counter-Terrorism Council (GCTC)

Statement 1 is not correct: GCTF's is international **apolitical**, multilateral counter-terrorism (CT) platform of 29 countries and European Union (EU) with an overarching mission of reducing the vulnerability of people worldwide to **terrorism** by preventing, combating, and prosecuting terrorist acts and countering incitement and **recruitment** to terrorism. It was launched officially in New York on 22 September 2011.

Statement 2 is not correct: It was launched in 2011. India is a founding member of GCTF. It's mission is to reduce the **vulnerability** of people worldwide to terrorism by preventing, combating, and prosecuting terrorist acts and countering incitement and recruitment to terrorism.

Q.6 Recently, Tribes India E-Marketplace initiative is launched by which of following?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
- (c) TRIFED
- (d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs virtually launched India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace, Tribes India E-Marketplace (market.tribesindia.com) on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti

Option C is correct: TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs showcased the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from across the country and help them market their produce/products directly under the Tribes India E-Marketplace initiative. The E-Marketplace will help us in onboarding large number of Tribals and Artisans and give them the immediate benefits of online

trade. It will also facilitate B2B trade connecting tribals dependent on Minor Forest Produces and Medicinal plants to large buyers /manufacturers.

Q.7 Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)?

1. It is Supreme Court mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in all the major cities of India.
2. It was constituted in 1998 under Environment Protection Act, 1986.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- Recently, the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) said that it is not advisable to give Rs 100 per quintal incentive to farmers for not burning stubble.

Statement 1 is not correct: EPCA is Supreme Court mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR). Its mandate is to protect and improve the quality of the environment and prevent and control environmental pollution in the NCR

Statement 2 is correct: It was notified in 1998 by the Environment Ministry under Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Q.8 Eriocaulon parvicephalum and Eriocaulon karaavalense were in the news recently, they are:

- (a) Newly discovered bacterias
- (b) Ancient sites discovered in Iran
- (c) Newly discovered species of Arthropod
- (d) Species of wetland plant

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- Two new species of wetland plant discovered from the Western Ghats.

Option D is correct: Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) have discovered two new species of pipeworts, a type of wetland plant, from areas along the Western Ghats in Maharashtra and Karnataka

Q.9 Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)?

1. It is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the NATO allies and the Russian Federation.
2. The treaty calls for measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.
3. It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague.

Choose the correct option using the codes given below

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: It is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation. It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War) that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads

Statement 2 is correct: It is the formal name of Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. The number of strategic nuclear missile launchers will be reduced by half.

Statement 3 is correct: It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification entered into force on 5 February 2011. New START replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT), which was due to expire in December 2012

Q.10 With reference to the Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative for the empowering of potters' community in the remotest of locations in the country.
2. It is launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
3. The KVIC is an executive body formed under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Which of the statement given above are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Recently, the Union Home Minister distributed 100 electric potter wheels to 100 trained artisans under Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC) for the empowerment of the potters' community in the remotest of locations in the country.

Statement 2 is correct: It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC)

Statement 3 is not correct: The KVIC is a statutory body formed in April 1957 under the 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'. It is an apex organisation under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, with regard to khadi and village industries within India. It seeks to plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries in the rural areas

Q.11 Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the National Startup Awards 2020?

1. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has conceived the first-ever National Startup Awards.
2. The awards recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem across the social sectors only.

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News- The result of Results of National Startup Awards 2020 was announced recently by Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry.

Statement 1 is correct: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has conceived the first ever National Startup Awards. The awards recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact. The measure of success is not only the financial gains for the investors but also the contribution to the social good.

Statement 2 is not correct: The first edition of the Awards invited applications across 12 sectors which were further sub-classified into a total of 35 categories. These 12 sectors are Agriculture, Education, Enterprise Technology, Energy, Finance, Food, Health, Industry 4.0, Space, Security, Tourism and Urban Services. Apart from these, startups are to be selected from those which create an impact in rural areas, are women-led and founded in academic campuses

Q.12 'Ravi Chopra committee' was in the news recently, it is related to-

- (a) Reform in the defence procurement procedure
- (b) Usage of Non-personal data
- (c) Review Char Dham Project
- (d) Ramping up the healthcare sector

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- The chairman of a Supreme Court-appointed expert committee has alleged violations of the court orders in the execution of the Chardham road project — a 900 km, ₹12,000 crore enterprise to connect pilgrimage spots in Uttarakhand.

Option C is correct: The Supreme Court had ruled that the width of roads constructed under the Chardham project shall be 5.5 metres. This was ruled based on the recommendation of Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH) for mountain roads. The project aims to provide connectivity to the four Hindu pilgrimages such as Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri that are collectively known as Chardham.

Q.13 Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the "ketogenic diet"?

- 1. It contains a high percentage of fat, low protein and low amount of carbohydrates.
- 2. All ketogenic diets ban carb-rich foods.

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] Both the statements are correct: The ketogenic diet is one of the most popular weight-loss diets the world over. It is a high-fat, moderate-protein and low-carb diet that helps in weight loss by achieving ketosis — a metabolic state where the liver burns body fat and provides fuel for the body, as there is limited access to glucose. Many versions of ketogenic diets exist, but all ban carb-rich foods. In the beginning, it may seem easier to follow a keto diet as there's no need to count calories and the rules are very simple, but eventually adherence becomes very difficult. One can have eggs, chicken and turkey in poultry, fatty fish like salmon and mackerel, full-fat dairy, nuts and seeds like Macadamia nuts, almonds, walnuts, pumpkin seeds, peanuts and flaxseeds

Q.14 Kihoto Hollohan Judgement of the Supreme Court is related to which of the following subjects?

- (a) Protecting minorities rights
- (b) Disqualification of legislators under Tenth Schedule
- (c) Criminalisation of Politics
- (d) Code of Conducts of Civil Servants

[ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct: Recently, the 28 Year Old 'Kihoto Hollohan judgment' has found its relevance in the case of ousted Rajasthan Dy. CM and some MLAs who were issued a notice under the anti-defection law. The law covering the disqualification of legislators and the powers of the Speaker in deciding such matters became part of the statute book in 1985 when the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution was adopted. The SC under the Judgement said 'Judicial review cannot be available at a stage prior to the making of a decision by the Speaker/Chairman' and nor would interference be permissible at an interlocutory stage of the proceedings.

Q.15 Consider the following statements:

1. NATGRID is the integrated intelligence grid connecting databases of core security agencies of India.
2. It was proposed in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the Indian Parliament in 2001.
3. It is exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Which of the given statements are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: NATGRID is an ambitious counterterrorism programme. It 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. The combined data from NATGRID will be made available to 10 Central Intelligence Agencies

Statement 2 is not correct: It was first proposed in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Mumbai in 2008. NATGRID has developed application software for proof of technology (POT) which is yet to be fully rolled out. NATGRID's solution is planned to go live by 31.12.2020.

Statement 3 is correct: NATGRID is exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005 under sub-section (2) of Section 24.

Q.16 Consider the following statements:

1. India is the top largest cotton producer and consumer of cotton in the world.
2. India produces about two-thirds of the total organic cotton production of the world.
3. Kasturi is the premium brand of Indian Cotton.

Which of the given statements are correct?

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

In News- Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development launched the 1st ever brand and logo for Indian Cotton on 2nd World Cotton Day.

Statement 1 is not correct: India is the 2nd largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world. Cotton is one of the principal commercial crops of India and it provides livelihood to about 6.00 million cotton farmers.

Statement 2 is not correct: India produces about 6.00 million tons of cotton every year which is about 23% of the world cotton. India produces about 51% of the total organic cotton production of the world, which demonstrates India's effort towards sustainability.

Statement 3 is correct: Now India's premium Cotton would be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton trade. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.

Q.17 What is Cas9 protein that is often seen in the news related to biotechnology?

- (a) A molecular scissors used in targeted gene editing
- (b) A biosensor used in the accurate detection of pathogens in patients
- (c) A gene that makes plants pest-resistant
- (d) A gene technology that is used to treat AIDS.

Answer: A

Explanation:

In News- Recently, Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer Doudna of the U.S. won the Nobel Chemistry Prize for the gene-editing technique known as the CRISPR-Cas9 DNA snipping "scissors".

Option A is correct: The CRISPR stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats and was developed in the year 2012. It has revolutionised and has made gene editing very easy and has imparted extreme efficiency in gene editing. An RNA molecule is programmed to locate the particular problematic sequence on the DNA strand. A special protein called Cas9, often described in popular literature as 'genetic scissor', is used to break and remove the problematic sequence. The CRISPR-Cas9 tool has already contributed to significant gains in crop resilience, altering their genetic code to better withstand drought and pests. The technology has also led to innovative cancer treatments and many experts hope that it may help in curing the inherited diseases. Genes of plants can be edited to make them withstand pests, or improve their tolerance to drought or temperature.

Q.18 'Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report: Reversals of Fortune' is released by which of the following organisations?

- (a) UNICEF
- (b) United Nations Economic and Social Council
- (c) World Bank
- (d) IMF

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- The World Bank's biennial Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report: Reversals of Fortune was released on October 7, 2020.

Option C is correct: According to the report, the first time in two decades, the global poverty rate would go up due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The pandemic may push another 88 million to 115 million into extreme poverty or having to live on less than \$1.50 per day, resulting in a total of 150 million such individuals. Some 9.1% to 9.4% of the world will be affected by extreme poverty in 2020. But, the World Bank couldn't gauge the real poverty situation in the world because India did not have the latest data. India, along with Nigeria, is considered to have the largest number of the poor in the world. India tops the global list in terms of the absolute number of poor, going by the last national survey of 2012-13. The country accounted for 139 million of the total 689 million people living in poverty in 2017.

Q.19 Which of the following international conventions deals with Persistent Organic Pollutants?

- (a) Minamata Convention
- (b) Rio-De-Janeiro Convention
- (c) Luxembourg Convention
- (d) Stockholm Convention

Answer: D

Explanation:

In News- The Union Cabinet approved the ratification of seven chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Option D is correct: The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 2001 in Stockholm, Sweden. The Convention entered into force in 2004. Over 152 countries ratified the Convention. It is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). POPs are listed in various annexes to the Stockholm Convention after thorough scientific research, deliberations and negotiations among member countries. Hexabromocyclododecane, and Hexachlorobutadiene, which was already listed as POPs under Stockholm Convention.

Q.20 Consider the following statements:

1. Flamingo festival held at Pulikat lake annually
2. Pulicat lake is the second-largest freshwater lake in India
3. Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary is situated in Kerala state

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 only

Answer: D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Flamingo Festival is held every year to promote tourism in Pulicat and Nellapattu. Migratory birds from Siberia have visited this place during the winter season for breeding.

Statement 2 is not correct: Pulicat Lake is the second largest brackish water lake or lagoon in India after Chilika Lake. It is located on the border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Statement 3 is not correct: Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary is one of the biggest habitats for some hundreds of pelicans and other birds. It is located about 20 km north of the Pulicat. It is located in Andhra Pradesh.

Q.21 Consider the following statements:

1. The TRP or Target Rating Point is the metric used by the marketing and advertising agencies to evaluate this viewership.
2. In India, the TRP is recorded by the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC).
3. Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) is a statutory body established for the regulation of television ratings.

Which of the given statements are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

In News- Recently, the Mumbai Police said that they are looking into a scam about the manipulation of TRPs by rigging the devices used by the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India.

Statement 1 is correct: TRP stands for Television Rating Points. It represents how many people, from which socio-economic categories, watched which channels for how much time during a particular period. This could be for an hour, a day, or even a week; India follows the international standard of one minute. The data is usually made public every week.

Statement 2 is correct: TRP is calculated by BARC, BARC has installed “BAR-O-meters” in over 45,000 empanelled households. These households are classified into 12 categories under the New Consumer Classification System (NCCS), the so-called “new SEC” adopted by BARC in 2015, based on the education level of the main wage earner and the ownership of consumer durables from a list of 11 items ranging from an electricity connection to a car.

Statement 3 is not correct: It is an industry body jointly owned by advertisers, ad agencies, and broadcasting companies, represented by The Indian Society of Advertisers, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation and the Advertising Agencies Association of India. It was created in 2010 but the I&B Ministry notified the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India on January 10, 2014, and registered BARC in July 2015 under these guidelines, to carry out television ratings in India.

Q.22 With reference to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, consider the following statements:

1. It is also known as the New Development Bank and with majorly focus on economic and social outcomes in Asia.
2. All the G-20 nations are its members.
3. The Board of Governor is the highest decision-making body, it is headquartered in Manila.

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

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

In News- Out of the \$20 billion in loans issued by the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), about \$6 billion has gone to India.

All the statements given are not correct: AIIB started operations in 2016 by the terms of the AIIB Articles of Agreement (which entered into force in December 2015). The Parties (57 founding members) to agreement comprise the Membership of the Bank. It is headquartered in Beijing and began its operations in January 2016. The members to Bank have now grown to 97 approved members worldwide. There are 27 prospective members including Armenia, Lebanon, Brazil, South Africa, Greece, etc. Fourteen of the G-20 nations are AIIB members including France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia and beyond, it will better connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future.

Q.23 Consider the following statements:

1. 'Pusa Decomposer' is a fungi-based liquid solution that can soften hard stubble to the extent that it can be easily mixed with soil in the field to act as compost.
2. It is developed by Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI).

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) reveals a five-fold increase in the number of farm fires in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh during the first six days of October compared to the corresponding dates in 2019 leading to air pollution due to stubble.

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Farmers in Punjab and Haryana burn paddy stubble around this time before they prepare the soil for the rabi crop. Smoke from burning crop stubble contributes to air pollution over the national capital and large parts of the Indo-Gangetic plain every winter. 'Pusa Decomposer' is essentially a fungi-based liquid solution that can soften hard stubble to the extent that it can be easily mixed with soil in the field to act as compost. This would then rule out the need to burn the stubble, and also help in retaining the essential microbes and nutrients in the soil that are otherwise damaged when the residue is burned. There are seven strains of fungi that IARI has identified after research which help in rapid breakdown of hard stubble. These seven strains of fungi are packed into four capsules.

Q.24 Recently scientists have discovered a new species named 'Aenigmachannidae' from the Western Ghats in India, it is

- (a) Species of Snake
- (b) Species of Fish
- (c) Newly discovered herbs
- (d) None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation:

In News- Recently scientists have discovered a new family of bony fish from the Western Ghats in India.

Option B is correct: Recently scientists have discovered a new family of bony fish from the Western Ghats in India. This fish species has been named as Aenigmachannidae. This discovery became possible by the collaborated effort of Scientists from India, Germany, United Kingdom and Switzerland. Results of this study were published in Scientific Reports, the open-access megajournal of the Nature Publishing Group. It is important to note that the discovery of Aenigmachannidae came just a year after the discovery of the enigmatic fish, Gollum Snakehead. Interestingly both these species were discovered from the same rice fields of northern Kerala. Scientists have now conducted detailed studies on its skeleton and genetic assembly of Aenigmachannidae.

Q.25 With reference to the Aditya- L1 mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first solar mission.
2. Under the mission, the study of the Sun's corona, solar emissions, solar winds and flares, and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) are to be conducted.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Option C is correct: Aditya - L1 First Indian mission to study the Sun. It was meant to observe only the solar corona. The outer layers of the Sun, extending to thousands of km above the disc (photosphere) is termed as the corona. A Satellite placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/ eclipses.

Q.26 With reference to the Rudram missile system, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile.
2. It is a surface-to-surface missile which is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News- India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile named Rudram was successfully flighttested from a Sukhoi-30 MKI jet off the east coast.

Statement 1 is correct: It is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile that is designed to detect, track and neutralise the adversary's radar, communication assets and other radio frequency sources, which are generally part of their air defence systems.

Statement 2 is not correct: Rudram is an air-to-surface missile, designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for neutralizing surveillance and guidance radars, communication towers, command and control centres, and other radiationemitting targets.

Q.27 Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the "SVAMITVA Scheme"?

1. It will enable the villagers to have seamless internet access in order to bring various services of government under one click
2. It is a Central Sector scheme and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is the Nodal Ministry for implementation.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- Prime Minister is going to launch the physical distribution of property cards under the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages And Mapping With Improvised Technology In Village Areas) scheme that enables rural masses to use the property as a financial asset.

Statement 1 is not correct: SVAMITVA stands for Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas. It will enable around one lakh property holders to download their Property Cards through the SMS link delivered on their mobile phones. This would be followed by the physical distribution of the Property Cards by the respective State governments. --- These beneficiaries are from 763 villages across six States including 346 from Uttar Pradesh, 221 from Haryana, 100 from Maharashtra, 44 from Madhya Pradesh, 50 from Uttarakhand and 2 from Karnataka. Beneficiaries from all these states except Maharashtra will receive the physical copies of the Property Cards within one day

Statement 2 is correct: It is a Central Sector scheme launched by the Prime Minister of India on National Panchayat Day (24th April 2020). The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is the Nodal Ministry for implementation of the scheme.

Q.28 Consider the following statements:

1. Central Pollution Control Board is the executive body for providing technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests
2. Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) is the Supreme Court mandated body for controlling pollution in all metropolitan cities of India.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- The Supreme Court-appointed pollution monitoring body has directed Delhi and neighbouring States to implement air pollution control measures under "very poor" and "severe" category air quality of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) from October 15.

Statement 1 is not correct: Central Pollution Control Board is a statutory organisation which was constituted in September 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Statement 2 is not correct: EPCA was constituted with the objective of ‘protecting and improving’ the quality of the environment and ‘controlling environmental pollution’ in the National Capital Region. The EPCA also assists the apex court in various environment-related matters in the region. EPCA is Supreme Court mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region. It was notified in 1998 by Environment Ministry under Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Q.29 With reference to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), consider the following statements:

1. It was formulated for tackling pollution in all the metropolitan cities of India
2. If air quality reaches the severe+ stage, GRAP talks about shutting down schools and other pollution countering measures.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- The Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) has directed Delhi and neighbouring States to implement air pollution control measures under very poor and severe category air quality of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) from 15th October 2020.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Graded Response Action Plan was formulated in 2016 and notified in 2017 for Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). The plan was formulated after several meetings were held by Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) with state government representatives and experts. These are institutionalized measures to be taken when air quality deteriorates, hence works only as an emergency measure.

Statement 2 is correct: If air quality reaches the severe+ stage, GRAP talks about shutting down schools and implementing the odd-even road-space rationing scheme. The plan requires action and coordination among 13 different agencies in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan (NCR areas).

Q.30 Which of the following institutions recently won the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020?

- (a) Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience
- (b) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- (c) World Food Programme
- (d) United Nations Environment Programme

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- The World Food Programme (WFP) has been praised by world leaders and humanitarian groups after it was awarded 2020's Nobel Peace Prize.

Option C is correct: The World Food Programme (WFP) was honoured for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict. The Rome-based organisation has been feeding people in some of the world's most dangerous places, with the coronavirus pandemic seen pushing millions more into hunger.

Q.31 “The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019” report was in the news recently, it is released by which of the following organisation?

- (a) United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- (b) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- (c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (d) None of the above

Answer: A

In News- International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed on 13th October every year.

Option A is correct: In a new report “The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019”, the United Nations pointed out that climate change is largely to blame for a near doubling of natural disasters in the past 20 years. The report is published by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The report did not touch on biological hazards and disease-related disasters like the coronavirus pandemic. The UNDRR was established in 1999 as a dedicated secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Q.32 With reference to the “Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme”, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in the year 2017 in order to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings into financial savings.
2. These are issued by the RBI on behalf of the Government of India.

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

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

Answer: B

In News- A seventh tranche of the gold bond scheme - in which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues bonds linked to the market price of gold on behalf of the government - will be available for investment on five days started from 12th October 2020.

Option B is correct: The sovereign gold bond was introduced by the Government in 2015. The move was also aimed at changing the habits of Indians from saving in the physical form of gold to a paper form with Sovereign backing. The bonds will be restricted for sale to resident Indian entities, including individuals, HUFs, trusts, universities and charitable institutions. The bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram. The tenor will be for a period of 8 years with exit option from the 5th year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.

Q.33 The “Cas9 protein” is often mentioned in news, it is a-

- (a) Molecular scissors used in targeted gene editing
- (b) A biosensor used in the accurate detection of pathogens in patients
- (c) A gene that makes plants pest-resistant

A herbicidal substance synthesized in genetically modified crops

In News- Recently, the Feluda test is in the news, as it employs the cutting-edge CRISPR-Cas9 technology.

Option A is correct: CAS-9 (CRISPR-associated protein 9) is an enzyme. It uses a synthetic guide RNA to introduce a double-strand break at a specific location within a strand of DNA. It is a system

used by bacterial cells to recognize and destroy viral DNA as a form of adaptive immunity. CRISPR scans the genome looking for the right location and then uses the Cas9 protein as molecular scissors to snip through the DNA. Cas9 endonuclease – guide RNAs to direct it to a particular sequence to be edited. The genetic sequence of the RNA matches the target sequence of the DNA that has to be edited.

Q.34 Consider the following statements with regard to “Forest Rights Act 2006”:

1. It deals with the rights of forest-dwelling communities over land and other resources.
2. Rights under the Act are confined to those who “primarily reside in forests” and who depend on forests and forest land for a livelihood.

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

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Option C is correct: Both the statements are correct as the Act deals with the rights of forest-dwelling communities over land and other resources. Rights under the Act are confined to those who “primarily reside in forests” and who depend on forests and forest land for a livelihood. Further, either the claimant must be a member of the Scheduled Tribes scheduled in that area or must have been residing in the forest for 75 years.

Q.35 With reference to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, consider the following statements:

1. It is the world’s largest financier of AIDS, TB and malaria prevention, treatment and care programmes.
2. It is one of the implementing arms of United Nation (UN).

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

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (or simply the Global Fund) is an international financing organization that aims to “attract, leverage and invest additional resources to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria to support attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations.”

Statement 2 is not correct: The Global Fund was formed as an independent, non-profit foundation under Swiss law and hosted by the World Health Organization in January 2002. In January 2009, the organization became an administratively autonomous organization, terminating its administrative services agreement with the World Health Organization. It is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases.

Q.36 Consider the following statements:

1. Formosa Strait separates Taiwan and mainland China.
2. It is a part of the South China Sea and connects to the Sea of Japan to the north.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

In News- Formosa Strait was often in the news related to China and Taiwan related issues.

Statement 1 is correct but 2 is incorrect: The Taiwan Strait, also known as the Formosa Strait, is a 180-kilometre (110 mi)-wide strait separating Taiwan and mainland China. The strait is currently part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north, not with the Sea of Japan.



Q.37 With reference to the Nandankanan Zoological Park, consider the following statements:

1. It is the first zoo in India to become a member of the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums (WAZA).
2. It is recognized as a leading zoo for the breeding of the Indian pangolin and white tiger.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- The Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) which suffered a huge loss following its closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has revived its innovative 'Adopt-An-Animal' programme. The 'Adopt-An-Animal' programme has been revived to mobilise resources for animals.

Both the statements are correct: Nandankanan Zoological Park is located in Odisha. It is the first zoo in India to become a member of the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums (WAZA). It is recognized as a leading zoo for the breeding of the Indian pangolin and white tiger.

Q.38 'Nirbadh initiative' was in the news recently, it has been recently launched by which of the following?

- (a) Niti Aayog
- (b) Ministry of HRD
- (c) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation
- (d) Indian Space Research Organisation

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has recently launched WhatsApp based helpline-cum-grievance redressal mechanism, under its series of Nirbadh initiatives aimed at ensuring seamless and uninterrupted service delivery to subscribers during COVID-19 pandemic.

Option C is correct: This new grievance redressal mechanism using Whatsapp has gained immense popularity amongst EPFO's stakeholders. So far, EPFO has redressed more than 1,64,040 grievances and queries through WhatsApp. This has led to declining in the registration of grievances/queries on social media like Facebook /Twitter by 30% and on EPFiGMS (EPFO's online grievance resolution portal) by 16% since the launch of WhatsApp helpline numbers.

Q.39 Which among the following is/are correct with respect to the Reserve Bank of India's Open Market Operations?

- 1. It is the rate at which the banks are able to borrow overnight funds from RBI against the approved government securities.
- 2. It is one of the qualitative tools of RBI under his monetary policy.

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is not correct: Open market operations is the sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by RBI or the central bank of the country. And Marginal Standing Facility is a new Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) window created by Reserve Bank of India in its credit policy of May 2011. MSF is the rate at which the banks are able to borrow overnight funds from RBI against the approved government securities.

Statement 2 is not correct: The quantitative instruments are Open Market Operations, Liquidity Adjustment Facility (Repo and Reverse Repo), Marginal Standing Facility, SLR, CRR, Bank Rate, Credit Ceiling etc. On the other hand, qualitative instruments are credit rationing, moral suasion and direct action (by RBI on banks).

Q.40 With reference to the opposition (MARS), consider the following statements:

1. In astronomy, it is the circumstance in which two celestial bodies appear in opposite directions in the sky.
2. Due to this, Mars will outshine Jupiter, becoming the third brightest object.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

In News- Due to an event referred to as “opposition”, which takes place every two years and two months, Mars will shine the brightest.

Both the statements are correct: ‘Opposition’ is the event when the sun, Earth and an outer planet (Mars in this case) are lined up, with the Earth in the middle. The time of opposition is the point when the outer planet is typically also at its closest distance to the Earth for a given year, and because it is close, the planet appears brighter in the sky. An opposition can occur anywhere along Mars’ orbit, but when it happens when the planet is also closest to the sun, it is also particularly close to the Earth. It will outshine Jupiter, becoming the third brightest object (moon and Venus are first and second, respectively) in the night sky during the month of October.

Q.41 What are the advantages of Aquaponics technique used in farming?

1. Less operational cost than a conventional farm
2. There is no need for fertilizers
3. Suits greatly to the demand for tuberous plants and root vegetables
4. Yield is higher than that of conventional farming

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

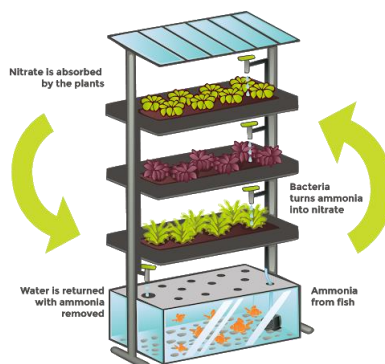
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: B

In News- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Mohali, developed the ‘Aquaponics facility’ for aquaponic cultivation of plants.

Option B is correct: Aquaponics, a technique that marries horticulture and aquaculture, helps the farmer raise fishes while he also grows plants. It is a form of agriculture that combines raising fish in tanks (recirculating aquaculture) with soilless plant culture (hydroponics). It is an emerging technique in which both fishes, as well as the plants, are grown in an integrated manner. It is a sustainable method of raising both fish and vegetables. Advantages- The setup cost of the aquaponic farm might be higher than conventional farms, but the operational cost is much less, there is no need for fertilizers and the water requirement is 90% less than that required in conventional farming, Suits greatly to the demand of organic fruits and vegetables, the yield from aquaponics is two times higher than that of conventional farming. Disadvantages- This method can become an issue when considering that specific plant species such as tuberous plants and root vegetables perform most of their needed growth within soil like Potato, Carrot etc., high Electricity Usage etc.

AQUAPONIC SYSTEM



Q.42 Consider the following statements:

1. Thalassemia is an inherited disorder of red blood cells.
2. It is a type of orphan disease.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- Recently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the second phase of “Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna” for the underprivileged Thalassemic patients.

Both the statements are correct: Thalassemia is a genetic blood disorder that causes the body to have less haemoglobin than normal. Haemoglobin enables red blood cells to carry oxygen. Thalassemia can cause anaemia, leading to fatigue. It is one of the types of rare diseases, the WHO defines a rare disease as often debilitating lifelong disease or disorder condition with a prevalence of 1 or less, per 1000 population. 80% of rare diseases are genetic in origin and hence disproportionately impact children. Rare diseases also called ‘Orphan disease’ because drug companies are not interested in adopting them to develop treatments due to low profitability. The most common rare diseases include Haemophilia, Thalassemia, Sickle-cell Anaemia and other autoimmune diseases etc.

Q.43 With reference to International Solar Alliance (ISA), consider the following statements:

1. It is the alliance of those nations which falls between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
2. The First Assembly of the ISA was held in October 2018 in 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

Answer: D

Explanation:

In News- Recently, India and France have been re-elected as the President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a term of two years at the virtual third Assembly of ISA.

Statement 1 is correct: The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of more than 122 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn but now extended to all members of UN. The Paris Declaration establishes ISA as an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries. The ISA's major objectives include global deployment of over 1,000GW of solar generation capacity and mobilisation of investment of over US\$ 1000 billion into solar energy by 2030.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Alliance is a joint initiative of France and India, its first assembly was held on 3 October 2018 in India and the second assembly also held in 2019 in India.

Q.44 The "World Energy Outlook report" recently seen in the news, it is released by which of the following organisations?

- (a) International Atomic Energy Agency
- (b) World Economic Forum
- (c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- (d) International Energy Agency

Answer: D

Explanation:

Option D is correct: The World Energy Outlook is the International Energy Agency's (IEA) flagship publication. It provides a comprehensive view of how the global energy system could develop in the coming decades. The assessment of the effects of a pandemic on the energy system shows expected falls in 2020 of 5% in global energy demand. Oil consumption is anticipated to decline by 8% in 2020 and coal use by 7%. Renewables, especially those in the power sector, are less affected than other fuels by the pandemic and its aftermath.

Q.45 Consider the following statements with respect to the Asur tribes of India:

1. These tribes are mostly prevalent in Himalayan regions and states associated with Himalaya.
2. They are among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and use radio for transmitting news and songs.
3. The Asur language figures in the list of UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is not correct: As per the 2011 census, the tribe has a population of around 23,000 in Latehar and Gumla districts. "In the community, 50% of the population could barely speak in Asur language. Using mobile radio, the Asur community has been spreading the popularity of the language within their geographical limits.

Statement 2 is correct: Asur is among the nine PVTGs found in Jharkhand. The Asur tribe has been using mobile radio to transmit local news and songs. PVTGs are more vulnerable among the

tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.

Statement 3 is correct: The Asur language figures in the list of UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger.

Q.46 The term "MACS 6487" was in the news recently, it is a-

- (a) Newly discovered Exoplanet
- (b) Fertilizer
- (c) New wheat variety
- (d) None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- This was in the news recently, New wheat variety helps farmers in a village in Maharashtra double their yield

Option C is correct: The wheat variety called MACS 6478 and developed by Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI). The newly developed common wheat or bread wheat, also called high yielding Aestivum, matures in 110 days and is resistant to most races of leaf and stem rust.

Q.47 Consider the following statements:

- 1. Minimum Support Price(MSP) is the rate at which the government buys grains from farmers.
- 2. It is fixed on the recommendations of the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Option A is correct: MSP is the minimum price set by the Government at which farmers can expect to sell their produce for the season. When market prices fall below the announced MSPs, procurement agencies step in to procure the crop and 'support' the prices. The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs announces MSP for various crops at the beginning of each sowing season based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The CACP takes into account demand and supply, the cost of production and price trends in the market among other things when fixing MSPs.

Q.48 With reference to the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a centrally sponsored programme.
- 2. The mission is supported partially by the World Bank.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved a special package worth Rs. 520 crore in the Union Territories (UTs) of J&K and Ladakh for a period of five years under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).

Both the statements are correct: The DAY-NRLM is essentially a poverty relief programme of the Central government. It was launched as 'Aajeevika – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)' by the GOI's Ministry of Rural Development in the year 2011. It was renamed as DAY-NRLM in 2015. It is a centrally sponsored programme. The programme is supported partially by the World Bank. The scheme aims at creating effective and efficient institutional platforms to enable the rural poor to increase their household income by means of sustainable livelihood enhancements and better access to financial services.

Q.49 With respect to Artemis Accords, sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It outlines the principles of future exploration of the Moon and beyond.
2. India is a founding member in the space coalition under Artemis Accords.

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

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

Answer: A

Option A is correct: Eight countries named in NASA's 'Artemis Accords' that aims to send humans back to Moon in 2024. It outlines the principles of future exploration of the Moon and beyond. It has emphasized the need for international partnerships in building up a sustainable presence on the Moon. The treaty paves the way for its founding members, Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, Britain and the United States, to participate in NASA's Artemis program. It also aims to return humans to Earth's nearest neighbour, Moon. India is not a founding member.

Q.50 Where is Head Quater of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) located?

- (a) Washington
- (b) Brussels
- (c) Geneva
- (d) New York

Answer: C

Explanation:

Option C is correct: The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) was established in 2006. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It aimed at promoting and protecting human rights around the globe, as well as investigating alleged human rights violations. The UNHRC has 47 members elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis from 5 groups. To become a member, a country must receive the votes of at least 96 of the 191 states of the UN General Assembly (an absolute majority). The Resolution 60/251, created the council, members are elected directly by secret ballot by the majority of the UN General Assembly. Membership has

to be equally distributed geographically. Five regional groups for membership: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and Eastern Europe.

Q.51 Consider the following statements with reference to Polio:

1. It is a viral infection which is spread through contaminated water only.
 2. India has been declared as a Polio Free country.
 3. In India, the Injectable Polio Vaccine (IPV) has been widely used to address the spread of Polio.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

In News- October 24 will be observed as World Polio Day every year in order to call on countries to stay vigilant in their fight against the disease.

Option B is correct: The Polio virus lives in the faeces (poop) of an infected person, people infected with the disease can spread it to others when they do not wash their hands well after defecating (pooping). People can also be infected if they drink water or eat food contaminated with infected feces. India was declared polio-free in January 2014, after three years of zero cases. In India the Oral Polio Vaccine has been widely used to address the spread of disease.

Q.52 Which among the following is/are correct with respect to the Reserve Bank of India's Open Market Operations?

1. It is the rate at which the banks are able to borrow overnight funds from RBI against the approved government securities.
2. It is one of the qualitative tools of RBI under his monetary policy.

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is not correct: Open market operations is the sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by RBI or the central bank of the country. And Marginal Standing Facility is a new Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) window created by Reserve Bank of India in its credit policy of May 2011. MSF is the rate at which the banks are able to borrow overnight funds from RBI against the approved government securities.

Statement 2 is not correct: The quantitative instruments are Open Market Operations, Liquidity Adjustment Facility (Repo and Reverse Repo), Marginal Standing Facility, SLR, CRR, Bank Rate, Credit Ceiling etc. On the other hand, qualitative instruments are credit rationing, moral suasion and direct action (by RBI on banks).

Q.53 Which of the following statement(s) is/are not correct with respect to the Election Commission of India?

1. The Commission has the power to disqualify a candidate who has failed to lodge an account of his election expenses.
 2. The members hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
 3. The retired election commissioners are barred from further appointment under the Constitution.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- Bihar Assembly Elections 2020 are going on and its obvious to know about the Election Commission of India (ECI) through this question.

Statement 1 is correct: Under the Constitution, the Commission also has advisory jurisdiction in the matter of post-election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures. Further, the cases of persons found guilty of corrupt practices at elections which come before the Supreme Court and High Courts are also referred to the Commission for its opinion on the question as to whether such person shall be disqualified. The Commission has the power to disqualify a candidate who has failed to lodge an account of his election expenses within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. The Commission has also the power for removing or reducing the period of such disqualification as also other disqualification under the law.

Statement 2 is not correct: The office is held by them for a term of 6 years or until they attain 65 years, whichever happens first. They can also be removed or can resign at any time before the expiry of their term.

Statement 3 is not correct: The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

Q.54 Consider the following statements:

1. Indus Suture Zone (ISZ) is located in the Ladakh region where Indian and Asian Plates collides each other.
2. Recent observations in the area highlights that it is a locked zone, as against the current understanding that it is a tectonically active zone.

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

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- A recent survey has found that a tectonic fault line that runs through Ladakh, all along the Indus river, is not inactive as was previously thought and is, in fact, moving northward.

Both the statements are correct: The suture zone of the Himalayas or the Indus Suture Zone (ISZ) is located in the Ladakh region where Indian and Asian Plates are joined. It has been found

to be tectonically active, as against current understanding that it is a locked zone. This could have major implications in terms of earthquake study, prediction, understanding the seismic structure of the mountain chains well as its evolution. Himalaya were known to be made up of north dipping thrusts like the Main Central Thrust (MCT), the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT), and the Main Frontal Thrust (MFT). As per the established models, all of these thrusts except MFT are locked, and overall deformation in Himalaya is being accommodated only along with the MFT.

Q.55 With reference to the RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction), consider the following statements:

1. These tests only indicate the presence of the virus and it is not helping in knowing if the person is infected and subsequently recovered.
2. These tests give the test only is an hour and require only a single finger prick.

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

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

In News- The Centre stressed on the need to increase the number of RT-PCR (reverse transcription- polymerase chain reaction) tests to identify Covid patients in a bid to reduce TPR and fatality rates.

Statement 1 is correct: The COVID-19 RT-PCR test is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 in upper and lower respiratory specimens. Negative results do not preclude SARS-CoV-2 infection and should not be used as the sole basis for patient management decisions. Negative results must be combined with clinical observations, patient history, and epidemiological information.

Statement 2 is not correct: The test takes much more time to complete, it includes the number of steps like conversion of RNA to DNA, thereafter replication.

Q.56 Which of the following statements are correct regarding the recently launched AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme?

1. It is a scheme to assist cooperatives in the creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.
2. The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will see the implementation of the scheme.
3. It will specifically cover the establishment, modernization, expansion, repairs, renovation of hospital and healthcare and education infrastructure.

Choose the correct option using the codes given below:

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

Answer: D

In News- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched Ayushman Sahakar scheme recently.

All the statements are correct: It is a scheme to assist cooperatives which plays an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country. It is formulated by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), an autonomous development finance institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. NCDC will extend term loans to prospective cooperatives, a fund will be created for the purpose. Any Cooperative Society with suitable provision in its byelaws to undertake healthcare related activities would be able to access the NCDC fund. NCDC assistance will flow either through the State Governments/ UT Administrations or directly to the eligible cooperatives.

Q.57 Consider the following pairs of space missions:

Mission — Planet/Asteroid

1. Juno — Jupiter
2. OSIRIS-Rex — Ryugu
3. Lucy — For Trojan asteroids
4. Hayabusa- 2 — Bennu

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statements 1 and 3 are correct: Juno is aimed to study Jupiter and its gravitational and magnetic fields, vast magnetosphere, intense aurora and the swirling clouds that form Jupiter's colorful, trademark atmosphere. OSIRIS-REx is the first mission of the US to retrieve a sample from asteroid Bennu and carry it to Earth for further study. Lucy is scheduled to be launched next year. It will fly past a series of objects known as the Trojan asteroids. Hayabusa 2 is a Japanese mission launched to study the asteroid Ryugu and to collect samples to bring to Earth for analysis.

Q.58 With reference to the RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction), consider the following statements:

1. These tests only indicate the presence of the virus and it is not helping in knowing if the person is infected and subsequently recovered.
2. These tests give the test only is an hour and require only a single finger prick.

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

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

In News- The Centre stressed on the need to increase the number of RT-PCR (reverse transcription- polymerase chain reaction) tests to identify Covid patients in a bid to reduce TPR and fatality rates.

Statement 1 is correct: The COVID-19 RT-PCR test is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-

CoV-2 in upper and lower respiratory specimens. Negative results do not preclude SARS-CoV-2 infection and should not be used as the sole basis for patient management decisions. Negative results must be combined with clinical observations, patient history, and epidemiological information.

Statement 2 is not correct: The test takes much more time to complete, it includes the number of steps like conversion of RNA to DNA, thereafter replication.

Q.59 Consider the following statements:

1. Indus Suture Zone (ISZ) is located in the Ladakh region where Indian and Asian Plates collides each other.

2. Recent observations in the area highlight that it is a locked zone, as against the current understanding that it is a tectonically active zone.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- A recent survey has found that a tectonic fault line that runs through Ladakh, all along the Indus river, is not inactive as was previously thought and is, in fact, moving northward.

Both the statements are correct: The suture zone of the Himalayas or the Indus Suture Zone (ISZ) is located in the Ladakh region where Indian and Asian Plates are joined. It has been found to be tectonically active, as against current understanding that it is a locked zone. This could have major implications in terms of earthquake study, prediction, understanding the seismic structure of the mountain chains well as its evolution. Himalaya were known to be made up of north dipping thrusts like the Main Central Thrust (MCT), the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT), and the Main Frontal Thrust (MFT). As per the established models, all of these thrusts except MFT are locked, and overall deformation in Himalaya is being accommodated only along with the MFT.

Q.60 Which of the following statement(s) is/are not correct with respect to the Election Commission of India?

1. The Commission has the power to disqualify a candidate who has failed to lodge an account of his election expenses.

2. The members hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

3. The retired election commissioners are barred from further appointment under the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- Bihar Assembly Elections 2020 are going on and its obvious to know about the Election Commission of India (ECI) through this question.

Statement 1 is correct: Under the Constitution, the Commission also has advisory jurisdiction in the matter of post-election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures. Further, the cases of persons found guilty of corrupt practices at elections which come before the Supreme Court and High Courts are also referred to the Commission for its opinion on the question as to whether such person shall be disqualified. The Commission has the power to disqualify a candidate who has failed to lodge an account of his election expenses within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. The Commission has also the power for removing or reducing the period of such disqualification as also other disqualification under the law.

Statement 2 is not correct: The office is held by them for a term of 6 years or until they attain 65 years, whichever happens first. They can also be removed or can resign at any time before the expiry of their term.

Statement 3 is not correct: The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

Q.61 The program titled “Tech for Tribals” was in the news, consider the following statements in this regards:

1. It leads to the holistic development of tribals with a focus on entrepreneurship development, soft skills, IT, and business development.
2. It is launched by TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- Tech for Tribals initiative launched on 13th October 2020.

Statement 1 is correct: TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with Chhattisgarh MFP Federation and IIT, Kanpur launched Tech for Tribals initiative. The program titled “Tech for Tribals” aims at the holistic development of tribals with a focus on entrepreneurship development, soft skills, IT, and business development through SHGs operating through Van Dhan Kendras (VDVKs).

Statement 2 is correct: It came into existence in 1987. It is a national-level apex organization. The basic objective of the TRIFED is to provide a good price of the ‘Minor Forest Produce (MFP) collected by the tribes of the country. It functions under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India.

Q.62 Consider the following statements:

1. The Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane for each sugar season is decided by the respective state governments.
2. Sugar and sugarcane are essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News-

Statement 1 is not correct: The pricing of sugarcane is governed by the statutory provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 issued under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955. Prior to 2009-10 sugar season, the Central Government was fixing the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane and farmers were entitled to share profits of a sugar mill on 50:50 basis. As this sharing of profits remained virtually unimplemented, the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 was amended in October 2009 and the concept of SMP was replaced by the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane. The Sugarcane (Control) Order of 1966 confers power upon the State government to fix the remunerative/advised price at which sugarcane can be bought or sold, which shall always be higher than the minimum price fixed by the Central government.

Statement 2 is correct: The Essential Commodities Act (ECA) was enacted by the Central Government in 1955 to control and regulate trade and prices of commodities declared essential under the Act. The Act empowers the Central and state governments concurrently to control production, supply and distribution of certain commodities in view of rising prices. Foodstuff, including edible oil and seeds, vanaspati, pulses, sugarcane and its products like, khandsari and sugar, rice paddy are included in the Act.

Q.63 Consider the following statements:

1. Electoral Bonds are the financial instruments for making donations to political parties.
2. Under the Electoral Bond scheme, Political parties are legally bound to submit their income tax returns
3. The sale of electoral bonds is carried out from the selected branches of Public Sector Banks across the country.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- The government of India approved the 14th tranche of electoral bonds which will be open for sale between 19 to 28th of October.

Statement 1 is correct: The electoral bonds were introduced with the Finance Bill (2017) and government notified the Electoral Bond Scheme 2018 to boost transparency in political funding. It is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties. It is like a promissory note that can be bought by any Indian citizen or company incorporated in India and the citizen or corporate can then donate the same to any eligible political party of his/her choice.

Statement 2 is not correct: Political parties are legally bound to submit their income tax returns annually under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961. But the finance bill sought to exempt electoral bonds from the IT Act.

Statement 3 is not correct: As of now, these bonds are issued by the authorised branches of the State Bank of India (SBI) and are valid for 15 days from the date of the purchase.

Q.64 With reference to Project STARS, consider the following statements:

1. It will strengthen the education sector as a whole including the both secondary and university level.
2. The project will be financially supported by the World Bank.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the STARS programme.

Statement 1 is not correct: STARS stands for The Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States project. Around 250 million students (between the age of 6 and 17) in 1.5 million schools and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the program. It will strengthen public school education and support the country's goal of providing 'Education for All' and it will help improve learning assessment systems, strengthen classroom instruction and remediation, facilitate school-to-work transition and strengthen governance and decentralized management.

Statement 2 is correct: The programme is partially funded by the World Bank. It will support states in terms of education under the New Education Policy. It will be implemented as a new centrally sponsored scheme under the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.

Q.65 Which of the following organisation/ministry has recently notified as 'National Authority for Ships Recycling'?

- (a) Director-General of Shipping
- (b) Ministry of Shipping
- (c) Indian National Shipowner's Association
- (d) None of the above

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News- Recently, the government notified the Director-General of Shipping as National Authority for Recycling of Ships.

Option A is correct: In 2019, the Government had passed The Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019 which talked about setting up of a national authority that will monitor all activities related to ship recycling. Under the Ship Recycling Act, 2019, India has acceded to the Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling under International Maritime Organization (IMO). DG Shipping is a representative of India in the IMO and enforces the conventions. So, the government notified the Director-General of Shipping as National Authority for Recycling of Ships.

Q.66 With reference to Ayushman Sahakar Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to assist the cooperatives and helps in the creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.
2. The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is the apex autonomous finance institution under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for this scheme.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched Ayushman Sahakar, a scheme to assist cooperatives in the creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.

Statement 1 is correct: It is a unique scheme to assist cooperatives and plays a crucial role in the creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country. The scheme aligns itself with the focus of the National Health Policy, 2017, covering the health systems in all their dimensions- investments in health, organization of healthcare services, access to technologies, development of human resources, encouragement of medical pluralism, affordable health care to farmers etc.

Statement 2 is not correct: NCDC was set up under an Act of Parliament in 1963 for promotion and development of cooperatives. It functions under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The NCDC fund would give a boost to the provision of healthcare services by cooperatives. The NCDC would extend term loans of Rs 10,000 crore to prospective in the coming years under the scheme, which would revolutionize the way healthcare delivery takes place in rural areas.

Q.67 Consider the following statements:

1. Asafoetida (Hing) is cultivated in India in the state of Rajasthan as it thrives in dry conditions having temperature 35-40 C.
 2. During extreme weather condition, its plant remains under a prolonged dormant phase.
- Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- Recently, scientists from the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have planted hing saplings in Himachal Pradesh.

Statement 1 is not correct: It is a herbaceous plant of the umbelliferae family. It is a perennial plant whose oleo gum resin is extracted from its thick roots and rhizome. The plant stores most of its nutrients inside its deep fleshy roots. **Heeng** is not cultivated in India. India imports about 1,200 tonnes of raw heeng worth Rs. 600 crore from Iran, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. It is endemic to Iran and Afghanistan, which are also the main global suppliers of it. It is very popular in India and is used in cooking. It thrives in dry and cold desert conditions.

Statement 2 is correct: During extreme weather, the plant can get dormant. It thrives in dry and cold desert conditions and can withstand a maximum temperature between 35 and 40 degrees, whereas, during winters, it can survive in temperatures up to minus 4 degrees.

Q.68 With reference to Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH), consider the following statements:

1. These are transmitted via eggs in faeces deposited in the local environment, typically through open defecation.
2. Roundworm and Hookworms are the types of Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH).

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- 14 States have shown a reduction in the Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH) and 9 states have shown a substantial reduction in STH follow-up prevalence survey.

Both statements are correct: Soil-Transmitted Helminthiases (STH), also known as parasitic intestinal worm infection, is known to have detrimental effects on children's physical growth and well-being and can cause anaemia and under-nutrition. STHs are transmitted via eggs in faeces deposited in the local environment, typically through open defecation or lack of proper hygiene. There are three main types of STH that infect people, roundworm (*Ascaris lumbricoides*), whipworm (*Trichuris trichiura*) and hookworms (*Necator americanus* and *Ancylostoma duodenale*). Regular deworming as advised by the World Health Organization eliminates worm infestation among children and adolescents living in areas with high STH burden.

Q.69 The 'Nazca lines' is in the news recently, it is located in

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Bolivia
- (c) Peru
- (d) Chile

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- Recently, a giant cat geoglyph was discovered on a hill at the famous Nazca Lines site in Peru.

Option C is correct: Peru's famous Nazca Lines grabbed the spotlight on social media recently after the discovery of a hitherto unknown massive carving — that of a resting cat on the slope of a steep hill. The Nazca Lines are a group of very large geoglyphs made in the soil of the Nazca Desert in southern Peru. They were created between 500 BCE and 500 CE by people making depressions or shallow incisions in the desert floor, removing pebbles and leaving differently coloured dirt exposed. The Lines were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994.

Q.70 The gain of an almost free resource should have aided firm productivity and business fundamentals but instead of that, the market share has fallen over the years, suggesting a case of which phenomenon of the economy?

- (a) Korean disease
- (b) Dutch disease
- (c) Cronyism disease
- (d) English disease

[ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct: Dutch disease refers to the phenomenon wherein countries that are rich in natural resources witness uneven growth across sectors. According to the thesis, when resource-rich countries export their resources to the rest of the world, it causes the exchange rate of their currency to appreciate significantly; this, in turn, affects other sectors in the country by discouraging their exports while encouraging the import of cheaper alternatives. The term was coined by The Economist in 1977 to describe the decline of the manufacturing industry in the Netherlands. The idea, however, was first proposed by economists Peter Neary and Max Corden in a paper published in 1982.

Q.71 Consider the following statements:

1. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments systems in India.
2. It is an initiative of a consortium of Domestic systemically important banks.
3. It is a "Not for Profit" entity.

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News-** According to NPCI data, Digital payments have found strong ground, especially in India, increasingly relegating all other modes of payments to the background.

Statement 1 is correct: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India. It is not the initiative of D-SIBs. D-SIB means that the bank is too big to fail. According to the RBI, some banks become systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection.

Statement 3 is correct: It has been incorporated as a "Not for Profit" Company under the provisions of Section 25 of Companies Act 1956 (now Section 8 of Companies Act 2013), with an intention to provide infrastructure to the entire Banking system in India for physical as well as electronic payment and settlement systems.

Q.72 Which of the following statements is correct with respect to the "New START Treaty", was in the news recently?

- (a) It is a strategic offensive arms reduction agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation.
- (b) It is a multilateral treaty among five permanent nations of UNSC to regulate the control of nuclear-related technology.
- (c) It is a bilateral treaty between the Russian Federation and the European Union for energy security cooperation.
- (d) It is a multilateral cooperation treaty among the G20 nations for the promotion of trade.

[ANS] a

[SOL] **In News-** Recently, Russian President has proposed a one-year extension without conditions of the last major nuclear arms reduction accord, the New START Treaty.

Option A is correct: The new Strategic Arms Reduction treaty or (START II) inked in 2010 which caps the possession of nuclear warheads held by both Russia and the US. It is due to expire in 2021 unless renewed. The agreement puts a limit on the number of strategic nuclear warheads such as submarine-launched ballistic missiles and intercontinental ballistic missiles. If it falls, it will be the second nuclear weapons treaty to collapse under the leadership of US President Donald Trump. In February, the US withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), accusing Moscow of violating the agreement.

Q.73 With reference to the Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY), consider the following statements:

1. It is an umbrella scheme consisting of a number of schemes for providing financial support for the development of art & culture.
2. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Culture.

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] **In News-** Recently, the Ministry of Culture has issued guidelines for holding cultural events/activities in virtual/online mode under various scheme components of Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY).

Statement 1 is correct: Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY) is an umbrella scheme under the Ministry of Culture for the promotion of art and culture in the country. The objective is to promote and disseminate the art & culture of the country by providing financial support to drama/theatre groups/dance groups/ music ensembles/ folk theatre & music and other genres of performing art activities.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is a central sector scheme which is purely funded by the Government of India. The Cultural ministry implements many schemes under KSVY, where the grants are sanctioned/approved for holding programs/activities like Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture, Scheme of Financial Assistance for Creation of Cultural Infrastructure.

Q.74 Consider the following statements:

- 1. India has currently 17 commands whereas each one is headed by a 4-star rank military officer.
- 2. Currently, India has two joint commands.
- 3. Integrated Theatre Command is a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander.
- 4. The Shekatkar committee has recommended the creation of 5 integrated theatre commands region wise.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **In News-** The Army Chief General has said that the next step in defence reforms after the appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) would be the formation of integrated theatre commands.

Statements 1 and 3 are correct: The Indian armed forces currently have 17 commands. There are 7 commands each of the Army and the Air Force and the Navy has 3 commands.

Each command is headed by a 4-star rank military officer. There is one joint command in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is the first Tri-Service theatre command of the Indian Armed Forces, based at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India. The integrated theatre command envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander, for geographical theatres (areas) that are of strategic and security concern. The integrated theatre commander will not be answerable to individual Services. In this context, the Shekatkar committee has recommended the creation of 3 integrated theatre commands — northern for the China border, western for the Pakistan border, and southern for the maritime role.

Q.75 In reference to the 'Beirut Declaration' sometimes seen in the news recently, which of the following is correct?

- (a) It seeks to prepare a Global action plan for the mitigation of terrorism.
- (b) It addresses the challenges posed by global climate change and prepares a roadmap.
- (c) It chalks out a plan for the refugee crisis and preventing the violation of their human rights.
- (d) It enhances the role of religions in promoting human rights.

[ANS] d

[SOL] Option D is correct: Beirut Declaration enhances the role of religions in promoting human rights. A "Faith for Rights" initiative launched by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2017. Building on the 2012 Rabat Plan of Action that laid out religious leaders' core responsibilities in countering incitement to hatred, the Beirut Declaration expands those responsibilities to the full spectrum of human rights. It calls on believers of all faiths to join hands and hearts in articulating ways in which they can stand together in defending fundamental rights against discrimination and violence.

Q.76 With reference to the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, consider the following statements

1. It is a multi-purpose project constructed on the Kaveri River.
2. It was originally called the Pranahita-Chevella project.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct: The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally District, Telangana, India. The 3 main purposes of this project are irrigation, transport, and power. The project starts at the confluence point of Pranahita River and Godavari River. It was originally called Dr. B R Ambedkar Pranahita Chevella Sujala Sravanthi Project in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, it was redesigned, extended and renamed as Kaleshwaram project in Telangana in 2014.

Q.77 'Operation Gulmarg' was conducted in Indian history, it is related to which of the following?

- (a) Accession of Jammu & Kashmir with India
- (b) Insurgency elimination operation of Indian Army
- (c) Pakistan's incursion of Kashmir
- (d) Boosting tourism sector in Kashmir

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- Recently, PM has launched what is being seen as the first serious move by India to counter the Kashmir narrative set afloat by Pakistan since 1947.

Option C is correct: Pakistan Army regulars and tribal raiders invaded Kashmir Valley on October 22 in 1947, two months after the Partition of India. The Pakistan Army had codenamed its capture Kashmir mission as Operation Gulmarg.

Q.78 Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Space missions — Objectives

1. Lucy Mission — NASA's deep exploration mission on Mars.
2. XpoSat — ISRO's mission to study polarisation.
3. Dragon Fly Mission — China's space mission to study asteroids.
4. OSIRIS-REx Mission — NASA's mission to study asteroid BENNU.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- Recently, NASA's spacecraft OSIRIS-REx spacecraft briefly touched asteroid Bennu.

The spacecraft's robotic arm called the Touch-And-Go Sample Acquisition Mechanism (TAGSAM) made an attempt to "TAG" the asteroid at a sample site which was no bigger than a few parking spaces and collected a sample

Option C is correct: The following are the space missions launched by the different nation's:

- **Lucy Mission-** It is NASA's space mission that will be launched in 2021, it will be the first space mission to study Jupiter's Trojan Asteroids and will fly by six Trojans and one Main Belt asteroid.
- **Xposat-** The X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (or Xposat), is ISRO's dedicated mission to study polarization. It will be launched in 2020. It will be a five-year mission and will study cosmic radiation.
- **Dragon Fly Mission-** Dragonfly is a planned spacecraft and mission of NASA, that will send a mobile robotic rotorcraft lander to Titan, the largest moon of Saturn, in order to study prebiotic chemistry and extraterrestrial habitability at various locations where it will perform vertical-takeoffs and landings (VTOL).
- **OSIRIS-REx Mission** - It is NASA's first sample return mission which aims to bring back samples from the primitive asteroid BENNU and according to NASA, the mission promises to bring the largest amount of extraterrestrial material back to our planet since the Apollo era.

Q.79 Consider the following statements:

1. INS Kavaratti is an anti-submarine warfare corvette built under Project 28.
2. It belongs to the same class as INS Kamorta, INS Kadmat and INS Kiltan.

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- Recently, INS Kavaratti has been formally inducted into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Visakhapatnam.

Option D is correct: The submarine is named after the capital of the Lakshadweep group of islands. It is the last of the four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes built under Project 28 (Kamorta class), by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. The first three built under the Kamorta class – INS Kamorta, INS Kadmat and

INS Kiltan have been commissioned. The ship has up to 90% indigenous content and the use of carbon composites for the superstructure is a commendable feat achieved in Indian shipbuilding.

Q.80 With reference to the ‘Bradykinin storm’ phenomenon, consider the following statements:

1. This phenomenon helps to understand how the virus affects the human body like in case of COVID-19.
2. Bradykinin is a compound that is related to pain sensation and lowering blood pressure in the human body.

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct: A supercomputer’s recent analysis of data on the contents collected earlier from the lungs of patients with the COVID-19 infection has shown that a phenomenon called a ‘bradykinin storm’ might explain how the virus works in the body, including some of the more puzzling extreme events. Bradykinin is a compound that is related to pain sensation and lowering blood pressure in the human body. According to the researchers, “SARS-CoV-2 uses a human enzyme called ACE2 like a ‘Trojan Horse’ to sneak into the cells of its host. ACE2 lowers blood pressure in the human body and works against another enzyme known as ACE (which has the opposite effect).” The analyses further found that the virus caused the levels of ACE to fall in the lungs, and consequently pushed up the levels of ACE2.

Q.81 With reference to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation established under the aegis of the United Nations.
2. It has more than 80 members.
3. Putting a country in “grey list” involves a direct penal action against the country.

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided to keep Pakistan on the “greylist” till the next review of its compliance to the recommendations in February 2021.

Option D is correct: All the statements are not correct. It is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris. It has 37 members currently and India is also a member. Its objectives are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. Putting a country in “grey list” does not involve a direct legal or penal action but involve increased scrutiny from watchdogs, regulators and financial institutions. There are only two countries on the FATF's black list - North Korea and Iran.

Q.82 With reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under the Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act.
2. It is the nodal agency in India which coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries.
3. CBI can suo motto take investigation only of offences in the Union Territories.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- Recently, the Maharashtra government withdrew its general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe cases in the State.

Statement 1 is not correct: CBI is the main investigation agency of the central government for cases relating to corruption and major criminal probes. It has its origin in Special Police Establishment set up in 1941 to probe bribery and corruption during World War II. CBI was set up by a resolution of Ministry of Home Affairs in 1963 after Santhanam committee recommendation. Presently it acts as an attached office under DOPT. Although the DSPE Act gives legal power to CBI, CBI is not a statutory body as:

- Word 'CBI' is not mentioned in the DSPE act.
- The executive order of MHA did not mention CBI to be constituted under the DSPE Act.

Statement 2 is correct: CBI can suo-moto take up investigation of offences only in the Union Territories. The Central Government can authorize CBI to investigate a crime in a State but only with the consent of the concerned State Government. The Supreme Court and High Courts, however, can order CBI to investigate a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the State.

Q.83 Bishkek Declaration' was often mentioned in the news, it is related to which of the following areas?

- (a) Tackling Cyber Terrorism
- (b) Conservation of marine species
- (c) Land desertification
- (d) Conservation of Snow Leopard

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- October 23 is celebrated as World's Snow Leopard Day every year to protect and conserve snow leopards and other wildlife of the Himalayas.

Option D is correct: On 23rd October 2013, at the first Global Snow Leopard Forum at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan the 23rd of October was proclaimed as the International Snow Leopard Day and the year 2015 was declared as the International year of the snow leopard. These countries also signed the Bishkek Declaration to conserve the snow leopards. The commitments of the Bishkek Declaration are:

Engage the local communities in conservation, promoting sustainable livelihood and addressing human-animal conflicts.

Managing habitats and prey in the range areas.

Control poaching and illegal trade.

Transboundary management and enforcement.

Building capacity and enhancing conservation policies and creating awareness.

Q.84 With reference to the Blue Dot Network, sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. This concept was the brainchild of the US, Australia and Japan launched in 2019.
2. The Initiative will evaluate the Blue economy projects on various parameters in order to get private funding.

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Blue Dot Network concept was officially launched in November 2019 at Indo-Pacific Business Forum in Thailand. It will be led by the US along with Japan & Australia.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is an initiative under the quadrilateral mechanism that seeks to evaluate projects on various parameters, in line with 'G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment' including the level of public consultation, transparency in funding, debt traps and basic environment norms. The projects that are approved will get a "Blue Dot" certification, that helps in setting universal standards of excellence, which will attract private capital to projects in developing and emerging economies.

Q.85 Consider the following pairs of military exercises between India and other countries:

Exercises : Countries with

1. Sahyog- Kaijin : South Korea
2. Pitch Black : Australia
3. Harimau Shakti : Indonesia

Which of the pairs given is/are correctly matched?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Sahyog- Kaijin is the joint exercise being conducted between the Coast Guards of India and Japan. The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability in communications, search and rescue procedures and sharing of best practices.

Statement 2 is correct: Exercise Pitch Black is a biennial three-week multilateral air combat training exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

Statement 3 is not correct: It is a military exercise between India and Malaysia and it is meant to create greater synergy and interoperability between the two armed forces.

Q.86 With reference to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), consider the following statements:

1. These are set of statutory norms laid under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. The MCC is operational from the date the election schedule is announced until the last day of polling.
3. Certain provisions of MCC can be enforced by invoking certain corresponding provisions in other statutes.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- In view of Bihar Assembly Election, the Election Commission of India has laid down a set of regulations to be followed by the political parties to follow during election campaigns, called 'Model Code of Conduct' (MCC).

Statement 1 is not correct: The model code refers to a set of norms laid down by the Election Commission of India, with the consensus of political parties. It is not statutory. The purpose of these guidelines is to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair elections.

Statement 2 is not correct: The MCC is operational from the date that the election schedule is announced till the date that results are announced.

Statement 3 is correct: The MCC is not enforceable by law. However, certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced through invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Q.87 With reference to the 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana', consider the following statements:

1. It is aimed at providing subsidy to the farmers for purchasing and utilising solar pumps for the irrigation purpose.
2. It is a centrally sponsored 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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News- Recently, Prime Minister launched Kisan Suryodaya Yojana and other projects worth Rs 4,100 crore in Gujarat via video conference.

Statement 1 is not correct: It aimed at providing day-time electricity to farmers in Gujarat for irrigation and farming purposes. Rs. 3,500 crore will be spent over the next three years for providing solar power to farmers for irrigation during daytime (5 AM to 9 PM). Through this, India would show the world the path for One Sun, One World, One Grid.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented to expand cultivated areas with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency and ensure "Har Khet Ko Paani". The scheme is implemented by the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Jal Shakti and Rural Development.

Q.88 With reference to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), consider the following statements:

1. These schemes are 100% funded by the Union government and implemented by the respective state government machinery.
2. They are mainly formulated on the subjects in the Union List.
3. MGNREGA comes under the category of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

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

[ANS] c

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

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

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

Q.89 Which of the following sites are designated as Ramsar sites in India?

1. Asan Conservation Reserve
2. Dal Lake
3. Kabartal Wetland

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- Recently, Kabartal Wetland (Bihar) and Asan Conservation Reserve (Uttarakhand) have been designated as Ramsar sites, making them 'Wetlands of International Importance'.

Option C is correct: Asan Conservation Reserve has become the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be included in the prestigious Ramsar sites list. Besides Asan, Kabartal Wetland from Bihar was the second new site to get included in this list. Till February 2020, only 37 sites from India were in the Ramsar site list, which has now been extended to 39.

Q.90 With reference to the Central Vigilance Commission(CVC), consider the following statements:

1. It consists of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and not more than two vigilance commissioners.
2. They are appointed by the President at the recommendation of the PM, Union Minister of Home Affair and Leader of Opposition of the Lok Sabha.
3. The office terms of the members are five years or sixty-four years of age, whichever is earlier.
4. The Central Vigilance Commission is a constitutional body.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News-

Statement 1 is correct: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government. It is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (chairperson) and not more than two vigilance commissioners.

Statement 2 is correct: They are appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the prime minister as its head, the Union minister of home affairs and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Statement 3 is incorrect: They hold office for a term of four years or until they attain the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier. After their tenure, they are not eligible for further employment under the Central or a state government.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The CVC was set up by the Government in February 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam. In 2003, the Parliament enacted CVC Act conferring statutory status on the CVC. The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.

Q.91 Consider the following statements:

1. “Yellow Dust” is sand that blows in from Chinese and Mongolian deserts into North and South Korea every year.
2. The sand particles tend to mix with other toxic substances such as industrial pollutants, that cause a number of respiratory ailments.

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- North Korean authorities have urged citizens to remain indoors to avoid contact with a mysterious cloud of ‘yellow dust’ blowing in from China, which they have warned could bring Covid-19 with it.

Statement 1 is correct: Asian Dust (also known as yellow dust, yellow sand, yellow wind or China dust storms) is actually sand from deserts in China and Mongolia that high-speed surface winds carry into both North and South Korea during specific periods every year.

Statement 2 is correct: The sand particles tend to mix with other toxic substances such as industrial pollutants, as a result of which the 'yellow dust' is known to cause a number of respiratory ailments. Usually, when the dust reaches unhealthy levels in the atmosphere,

Q.92 Consider the following statement with reference to the Aligarh Movement by Sir Syed Ahmed.

1. It was a revivalist movement aimed to revive the orthodox Muslim Culture.
2. It propagated the teachings of Quran and Hadith.
3. It focused on Hindu- Muslim Unity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- Sir Syed's Day is observed on 17th October to mark the birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

Option D is correct: The Aligarh Movement a systemic movement aimed at reforming the social, political and educational aspects of the Muslim community. It undertook to modernise Muslim's education by adapting English as a medium of learning and western education rather than just focusing on traditional teachings.

Q.93 Y. S. Malik Committee, often seen in the news recently, it is associated with?

- (a) Eradication malnutrition among children
- (b) Tribal sector reforms
- (c) Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE)
- (d) Privatisation of Railways

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- 5th General Council meeting of Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) was held under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways.

Option C is correct: The Ministry constituted a committee under the chairmanship Shri Y. S. Malik, former Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) to give recommendations to transform IAHE into a world-class premier institute in the highway sector. The Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) was created in 1983 to provide training at entry level/refresher courses/ training on specialised areas of highway, bridge & tunnel engineering/ orientation programmes/management development programmes/strategic training programmes etc. to highway engineers and professionals working in Central Government, State Governments, PSUs, Local Bodies, Contractors, Consultants etc. authorities urge people to remain indoors and limit physical activity, particularly heavy exercise and sport.

Q.94 Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC)?

1. Harappan cities were generally divided into larger citadel area in the western part and smaller residential area in the eastern part.
2. There is no evidence of dairy production in the Indus Valley civilization in 2500 BCE.

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- The year 2020 marks 100 years of discovery of Indus Valley Civilisation.

Both the statements are not correct: Researchers show the earliest direct evidence of dairy product processing by analysing residues on ancient pots. This is the first time it's been proved scientifically that dairy products were produced by the Harappans in 2500 BCE. The results were based on molecular chemical analysis of residue in shards of pottery found at the archaeological site of Kotada Bhadli, a rural settlement located in Gujarat. Traces were seen in cooking vessels indicating that milk may have been boiled and consumed. The city of Harappa was divided into two parts, i.e. western and eastern parts. The western part of the city was smaller but higher. The higher part was called the citadel. The citadel contained some special structures. The eastern part of the city was larger but lower. The lower part was called the lower city.

Q.95 With reference to the International Labour Organisation, consider the following statements:

1. It is the outcome of the Treaty of Versailles.
2. It is the only tripartite U.N. agency that brings together governments, employers and workers of Member States.
3. India is not a founder member of ILO but later joined.

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News- Recently, India assumed the role of chair of the International Labour Organisation's governing body for October 2020 till June 2021.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: It was created in 1919, as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I, to reflect the belief that universal and lasting peace can be accomplished only if it's based on social justice. The International Labour Organization (ILO), based in Geneva, became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946. The ILO has 187 member states: 186 of the 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands are members of the ILO. The only tripartite U.N. agency, the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of Member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

Statement 3 is not correct: India is a founder member of ILO.

● India has ratified six out of the eight-core/fundamental International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions. These are

- Forced Labour Convention,
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention,
- Equal Remuneration Convention,
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958,
- Minimum Age Convention, and
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999

Q.96 With reference to “IndiGen initiative”, was seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is the Whole Genome Sequencing project of Indians for biomedical applications.
2. The initiative is conducted by the Department of Biotechnology.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News- Recently, the results from the extensive computation analysis of the 1029 sequenced genomes from India carried out by CSIR constituent labs, CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad were published.

Statement 1 is correct: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has announced the conclusion of exercise of conducting a “whole-genome sequence” of a 1,008 Indians. Under the ‘Indigen initiative’ generate data on genetic diseases and to know the risk of genetic diseases in future generations. A genome is the DNA, or sequence of genes, in a cell.

Statement 2 is not correct: The IndiGen initiative was undertaken by CSIR in April 2019, which was implemented by the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad.

Q.97 The term ‘Reserve tranche’ often seen in the news, it is related to-

- (a) An international type of monetary reserve currency created by the World Bank.
- (b) The interest charged on the long term loan by the World Bank to nations.
- (c) The required quota of currency each member country must provide to the IMF.
- (d) Line of credit given by the central banks to other nations’ national bank.

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- Recently, The country’s foreign exchange reserves touched a lifetime high of \$555.12 billion after it surged by \$3.615 billion in the week ended October 16. The term ‘Reserve Tranche’ often seen in relation to this.

Option C is correct: Reserve tranche is a portion of the required quota of currency each member country must provide to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that can be utilized for its purposes.

Q.98 NASA’s Viper mission, recently seen in the news, is related to with which of the following?

- (a) It is part of NASA’s Commercial Crew Programme
- (b) Mission to study the surface of Asteroid Benu
- (c) Mission to create the first water resource maps of the Moon

(d) None of the above

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- The Moon has water at places where none had been detected before and has potentially more water than previously believed in regions where it was already understood to exist.

Option C is correct: NASA's Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) will carry out a mission to create the first water resource maps of the Moon.

Q.99 Consider the following statements:

1. Anti smog guns are devices which release infrared to neutralize smog during the smoggy days and enhance the visibility.
2. Oxy furnace uses polluted atmospheric air and helps in reducing the production of NO_x from the industries.
3. LiDAR can be used for monitoring pollution.

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) 3 only

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- The High-level committee has submitted the report to the apex court for controlling the pollution in Delhi NCR and suggested the various pilot projects.

Statement 1 is not correct: Anti-smog gun is a device that sprays nebulized water droplets into the air through high-pressure propellers, which help particles to settle down. According to findings of a study by the CPCB and DPCC, anti-smog guns are effective in controlling localized dust during the period of application and more suitable to high dust emission zones such as large construction sites that releases PM 2.5 & 10.

Statement 2 is not correct: Oxy furnace uses only oxygen as fuel instead of atmospheric air (which contains nitrogen), thus reducing the production of NO_x by about 90% in industries.

Statement 3 is correct: LiDAR or Light Detection and Ranging is a high-end application of LASER-based technology for monitoring pollution. This technology may be adopted for vertical monitoring at a few places to track the transport of pollutants at higher altitudes.

Q.100 'Vivad se Vishwas Scheme' was recently in the news. Which of the following Ministry/Body is the nodal agency for its implementation?

- (a) Department of Economic Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (c) Ministry Of Finance
- (d) Ministry of Law and Justice

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- Recently, the Central Government further extended the date for making payment under the Vivad se Vishwas scheme, without additional amount from 31st December 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Option C is correct: Vivad se Vishwas Scheme is a direct tax scheme announced in the Budget 2020, for settling tax disputes between individuals and the income tax department. Ministry Of Finance is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the scheme.

Q.101 GREEN initiative (Global Action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation) is launched by which of the following organisation?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- (d) Japan Bank for International Co-operation

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- NTPC Ltd entered into a loan agreement with Japanese Government for JPY 50 billion (approx. USD 482 million) under Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)'s GREEN initiative.

Option D is correct: GREEN initiative stands for Global Action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation initiative. The facility is extended under JBIC's outreach for projects, which ensure the conservation of the global environment. JBIC will provide 60 per cent of the facility amount and the balance will be given by commercial banks (viz., Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, the Bank of Yokohama Ltd, the San-In Godo Bank Ltd, the Joyo Bank Ltd, and The Nanto Bank Ltd), under the JBIC's guarantee.

Q.102 The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series titled "Bundi: Architectural Heritage of a Forgotten Rajput Capital" was released recently, the place Bundi mentioned here is located in:

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Gujarat

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series titled "Bundi: Architectural Heritage of a Forgotten Rajput Capital" on 24th October 2020 focused on Bundi, Rajasthan.

Option B is correct: Bundi is a district in the Hadoti region of Rajasthan. Bundi was the erstwhile capital of Hada Rajput province known as Hadoti located in south-eastern Rajasthan.

Bundi is also known as City of stepwalls, blue city and also as Chotti Kashi. Bundi was known as Chotti Kashi owing to the presence of over a hundred temples within and around the hada capital. Temples constructed in the early phase of Bundi's growth were in classical Nagara style, while in later phases new temple typologies emerged from an amalgamation of the architectural form of traditional haveli with the classical Nagara style. Jain temples formed the third type of temple type constructed in an introvert form.

Q.103 With reference to the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), consider the following statements:

1. It will provide logistical support, refuelling and berthing support for each other's warship and aircraft.
2. It is signed between India and the U.S.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- India and the United States signed the BECA Agreement (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation) during the third round of 2+2 Ministerial dialogue on October 27, 2020.

Option B is correct: Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) is an agreement that would facilitate the exchange of geospatial information between India and the United States for both military and civilian use.

Q.104 Consider the following statements:

1. Kochi-Muziris Biennale is an art exhibition and festival for displaying the artworks.
2. The Muziris Heritage Project is one of the biggest culture conservation projects in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- The Kochi Biennale Foundation (KBF) has announced the postponement of the fifth edition of Kochi-Muziris Biennale. It was to be inaugurated on 12th December 2020. This decision comes after a fresh increase of the COVID-19 cases in Kerala due to the second wave of the novel coronavirus infection.

Both the statements are correct: The Kochi Biennale Foundation (KBF) is India's first-ever biennial of international contemporary art and its story is unique to India's current reality, its political, social and artistic landscape. It is one of the newest art biennales started in 2012, the event has made a mark in the global art scene, drawing visitors from around the world to Kochi. In mythology, Muziris was a port city, among the earliest of its kind in the world and when Kerala established itself as a major centre for spice, the ancient port of Muziris emerged as its hub. Currently, the Muziris Heritage Project is one of the biggest conservation projects in India, where the state and the central governments have come together to conserve a rich culture that is as old as 3000 years or more.

Q.105 Consider the following statements:

1. Fiscal deficit is the difference between the Revenue Receipts and the total expenditure excluding Non-debt Capital Receipts (NDCR).
2. High Fiscal deficit boosts the demand and hence more private production.

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- The Reserve Bank of India's study on state governments' finances, released recently, it indicates that gross fiscal deficits (GFDs) of state governments are set to double in 2020-21.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Union Budget defines Fiscal Deficit as the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-debt Capital Receipts (NDCR) and the total expenditure. In other words, it is reflective of the total borrowing requirements of the Government.

Statement 2 is not correct: In the economy, there is a limited pool of investible savings. These savings are used by financial institutions like banks to lend to private businesses (both big and small) and the governments. If the FD ratio is too high, it implies that there is a lesser amount of money left in the market for private entrepreneurs and businesses to borrow.

Q.106 Consider the following statements:

1. Central Information Commission was enacted under the provision of CIC Act 2005.
2. The commission can order an inquiry into any matter only on filing an appeal under RTI.
3. It is a constitutional body.
4. The Chief Information Commissioner was appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

Select the *incorrect* answer using the code given below.

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- A former diplomat and Central Information Commissioner are expected to be appointed as the country's next Chief Information Commissioner (CIC).

Statement 1 is not correct: The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005. It was constituted under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). Hence, it is not a constitutional body.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Commission can order an inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (suo- moto power). While inquiring, the commission has the power of the civil court in certain matters.

Statement 3 is not correct: It was constituted under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). Hence, it is not a constitutional body.

Statement 4 is not correct: The Commission consists of Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten information commissioners. They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Q.107 With reference to the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country.
2. It would have financial assistance from the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III with the financial assistance of the World Bank (WB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Both the statements are correct: The Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) aims to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country, along with institutional strengthening with a system-wide management approach. It project will have financial assistance from the World Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The project cost is Rs 10,211 crore and the will be implemented over a period of 10 years duration in two Phases, each of six years duration with two years overlapping from April 2021 to March 2031.

Q.108 Consider the following defence pacts:

1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)
2. Industrial Security Annex (ISA)
3. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA)
4. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)

Which among the above are signed between India and the US?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News-

Option A is correct: The four agreements — General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA) are referred to as the foundational agreements which the U.S. signs with countries with which it has close military ties.

General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was signed in 2002 between India and USA. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) is a logistic support agreement signed in 2016. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) most recent agreement signed in 2018. BECA is last of the four foundational agreements and just a couple of days back, India and the United States have signed the basic exchange and cooperation agreement. BECA involves the sharing of navigation maps for both the air and the sea, including confidential military data, between the two countries.

Q.109 With reference to the “SERB-POWER’ scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aimed for reforms in the DISCOMs sector.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Power.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- Recently the Union Minister for Science & Technology, launched a Scheme named “**SERB-POWER** (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)”.

Both the statements are not correct: The Scheme is an initiative of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**. The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) is a statutory body of the DST. **Aim & Objectives-** Empowering women scientists, cultivate a women-friendly culture in academic and research institutions & providing them leadership roles.

- It will have two components namely (i) SERB-POWER Fellowship (ii) SERB- POWER Research Grants.

- SERB-POWER Fellowship

- Targets- Women researchers in 35-55 years of age with a limit of up-to 25 Fellowships per year and not more than 75 at any point in time.

- Fellowship- Rs. 15,000/- per month in addition to regular income; Research grant of Rs. 10 lakh per annum; and Overhead of Rs. 90,000/- per annum.

- Duration- Three years, without the possibility of extension once in a career.

- POWER Research Grants

- This will empower women researchers by funding them under following two categories:

- Level I (Applicants from IITs, IISERs, IISc, NITs, Central Universities, and National Labs of Central Government Institutions): The scale of funding is up to 60 lakhs for three years.

- Level II (Applicants from State Universities / Colleges and Private Academic Institutions): The scale of funding is up to 30 lakhs for three years.

Q.110 Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to ‘Quality Council of India (QCI)’, often seen in the news?

1. QCI was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry.
2. The Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendations of the industry to the Government.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- National Productivity Council (NPC) has been granted accreditation conforming to ISO 17020:2012 by National Accreditation Board for Certification Body (NABCB), Quality Council of India (QCI). NPC is a national level organization to promote productivity culture in India.

Both the statements are correct: Quality Council of India (QCI) was set up in 1997 as an autonomous body jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), to establish and operate national accreditation structure and promote quality through National Quality Campaign. The Department of Industrial Policy &

Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal ministry for QCI. The Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the industry to the government.

Q.111 Consider the following statements:

1. Sardar Sarovar Dam (SSD) is built on the Indian Sabarmati river.
2. The dam is the top highest concrete dam in India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- The Prime Minister of India inaugurated **dynamic lighting** for the **Sardar Sarovar Dams**.

Option D is correct: Sardar Sarovar Dam (SSD) is on the Indian Narmada river which is located in the village of Kevadia in the state of Gujarat. The dam is the third highest concrete dam (163 meters) in India. The first two being Bhakra (226 metres) in Himachal Pradesh and Lakhwar (192 meters) in Uttar Pradesh. In terms of the volume of concrete involved for gravity dams, this dam is ranking as the second largest in the world with an aggregate volume of 6.82 million cu.m. The first is Grand Coulee Dam in the USA with a total volume of 8.0 million cu.m. This dam with its spillway discharging capacity of 85,000 cumecs (30 lakh cusec) is the third in the world. First two are Gazenba (1.13 lac cumecs) in China and Tucurri (1.0 lac cumecs) in Brazil.

Q.112 “Cactus Glow Garden” was in the news in recently, it is located in which of the states?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Maharastra

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News- Recently, Prime Minister inaugurated the Cactus Garden in Gujarat's Kevadia district.

Option C is correct: It is located in Gujarat's Kevadia. It is a grand architectural greenhouse with 450 national and international species from 17 countries. It has around 6 lakh plants including 1.9 lakh cactus plants in an area spread over 25 acres.

Q.113 Which of the following is/are the functions of the National Agricultural Cooperative Mark

1. Import and export trade in agricultural products
2. Assist for technical advice in agricultural production
3. Storage of agricultural, horticultural and forest produce

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News- The central cooperative NAFED will begin the import of onions to control the soaring prices.

All the statements are correct: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED) was established on 2nd October 1958.

- It is registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act.
- Agricultural farmers are the main members of this body.
- Objectives- Organize, promote and develop marketing, processing and storage of agricultural, horticultural and forest produce.
 - Undertake inter-state, import and export trade, wholesale or retail
 - Assist for technical advice in agricultural production.

Q.114 The term “Star Campaigner” related to Elections often seen in the news, consider the following statements in this regards:

1. They are nominated by parties to campaign in a given set of constituencies.
 2. According to EC, only recognised political party has the option to appoint “Star Campaigner”.
- 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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News- The Election Commission (EC) revoked the status of a Congress leader as a star campaigner for the party in the ongoing State Assembly by-polls citing repeated violation of Model Code of Conduct while campaigning.

Statement 1 is correct: According to ECI, no specific definition of a “star campaigner”. They are nominated by parties to campaign in a given set of constituencies. These persons are, in almost all cases, prominent and popular faces within the party. All major parties have their loyal star campaigners.

Statement 2 is not correct: A recognised political party can have 40-star campaigners and an unrecognised (but registered) political party can have 20. List of star campaigners has to be communicated to the Chief Electoral Officer and EC within a week from the date of notification of an election.

Q.115 Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Central Schemes?

1. Central Sector Schemes are schemes with 100% funding by the Central government but implemented by the State Government machinery.
2. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented by the state government but sponsored by the central government.
3. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are created on areas that are covered under the State List.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News-

Statement 1 is not correct: The central welfare schemes at the state level fall into two broad categories. The first category is centrally sponsored schemes, and the second is the central sector schemes. While the Union government fully funds the central sector schemes, centrally sponsored schemes are jointly funded by the Centre and states. Central sector schemes are implemented by the central government and the budget or financing needed for the scheme is entirely sourced by the central government.

Statement 2 is correct: Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are those schemes which are implemented by the state government but sponsored by the central government with a defined shareholding. At present, there are 30 centrally-sponsored schemes but these are umbrella programmes and they have many sub-schemes under them. The funding is borne by the states in the ratio of 50:50 or 90:10 or 75:25 or 70:30.

Statement 3 is correct: Centrally Sponsored Schemes are created on areas that are covered under the State List.

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