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OCTOBER, 2022



1. Consider the following statements

1. At Repo Rate, the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) provides liquidity against the collateral of the government.
2. At the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) accepts non collateralized deposits on an overnight basis.
3. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is the average daily balance that a bank is required to maintain with the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) as a percent of its net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) .

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. The "Tigray region" was in the news recently, is located in which of the following countries?

- (a) Somalia
- (b) South Sudan
- (c) Ethiopia
- (d) Yemen

4. With reference to the history of India, "Ulgulan" or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following events?

- (a) The Revolt of 1857
- (b) The Mappila Rebellion of 1921
- (c) The Indigo Revolt of 1859 - 60
- (d) Birsa Munda's Revolt of 1899-1900

5. Recently RazorpayX, Jupiter, Niyo, Open, EpiFi were in the news. What are they related to?
- Artificial objects on extraterrestrial surfaces.
 - Asteroids Scattered in orbits around the sun.
 - A cryptocurrency based on blockchain technology.
 - India's top neobanks.

6. With reference to Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) , consider the following statements:

- It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO).
- It is armed with air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles.
- It can perform a range of roles, including combat search and rescue, destruction of enemy air defence.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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

7. Which of the following are the possible Consequences of Arctic warming?

- Reduction of saltiness of Arctic Ocean.
- Release of carbon and methane in atmosphere
- Change of monsoons in India
- Sea level rise along the Indian coast

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

8. Consider the following statements regarding UK India Business Council (UKIBC):

- It is a membership-based, non-profit organisation.
- It is a sister organisation to the UK-ASEAN Business Council.
- Toy Business League 2022 was recently organised by UKIBC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements:

- Decomposers secrete digestive enzymes to break down dead and waste materials.
- The detritus food chain begins with dead organic matter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only

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

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

1. The mission focuses on recharge and reuse through grey water management and water conservation.
2. The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 50:50 for all the states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) either 1 nor 2

11. Which of the following statements is *incorrect* regarding the Mediation Bill, 2021?

1. The Bill aims to promote institutional mediation, to resolve disputes including commercial disputes.
2. The Bill makes pre-litigation mediation mandatory for both parties before filing any suit or proceeding in a court.

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

12. Consider the following statements regarding Regional rural banks (RRBs):

1. RRBs were established as per the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee.
2. RRBs are not permitted to raise capital from sources other than the Centre, states and sponsor banks.
3. RRBs were created to serve rural areas with basic banking and financial services so they do not have urban branches.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the only legally binding framework set up to address desertification.
2. The Bonn Challenge is a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. Which of the following countries is /are part of the Golden Crescent?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

16. Consider the following statements regarding a temple:

1. It is a temple located in Thanjavur that is built by the Cholas.
2. It is dedicated to the lord Shiva located in South bank of Cauvery river
3. This temple carries on its walls the engraved evidence of the elaborate administrative and financial procedures.

The statements given above are related to which of the following?

- (a) Kailasanathar temple
- (b) Mallikarjuna temple
- (c) Shore temple
- (d) Brihadeeswara temple

17. With reference to Public Accounts Committee (PAC), consider the following statements:

1. The PAC was first set up under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935.
2. The PAC does not have power to disallow expenditures by the departments.
3. The Constitution does not provide that the chairperson should always be from the opposition party.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

18. With reference to Biomass, consider the following statements:

1. It is an integral part of Earth's carbon cycle.

2. It contains energy first derived from the Sun.

3. It is the only renewable energy source that can be converted into liquid biofuels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

19. Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless has been awarded the Nobel Prize in which of the following fields?

(a) Quantum Mechanics

(b) Click chemistry

(c) Discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins

(d) Approach to alleviating global poverty.

20. Consider the following statements regarding Cholas:

1. The Chola dynasty was founded by king Vijaylaya who was a feudatory of the Pallavas.

2. The Airavateswara temple near Thanjavur was built during the reign of Rajaraja II.

3. The capital of Cholas was at Malkhed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

21. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)?

1. Companies have to disclose their CSR spending annually to the Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) through filing of an annual report.
2. The company should give preference to local areas/areas where it operates for the activities.

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

22. Consider the following statements regarding Moonlighting:

1. Employees working for remuneration with entities other than their employers is termed as Moonlighting.
2. For a lot of professionals, moonlighting has become a way to upskill.
3. Moonlighting is defined in the Companies Act, 2013.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. Consider the following statements:

1. OPEC Countries produce about 40 percent of the world's crude oil.
2. India is the world's 3rd largest importer of crude oil, 85% from OPEC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

24. With reference to Sugar Industry in India, consider the following statements:

1. The views of State Governments are considered to fix Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane.
2. The FRP of sugarcane in India has tripled in a span of ten years.

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

25. Lala Lajpat Rai was related to which of the following organisations?

1. Home Rule League of America
2. All India Trade Union Congress
3. Servants of India Society

4. Dayanand Anglo Vedic School
5. Punjab National Bank

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

26. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020, 'Make' Category aims to achieve self-reliance by involving greater participation of Indian industry.
2. Domestic arms companies provide only around 16 percent of its total procurement.

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

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

27. Consider the following statements:

1. Online gaming companies are currently governed by the Companies Act 2013 in India.
2. Online gaming is a subject in the Union list.
3. State governments do not have enough power to issue blocking orders for offshore betting sites.

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

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

28. With reference to Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialisation.
2. Rs.945 has been allocated for the fund over the next five years for providing seed funding to eligible startups.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. With reference to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), consider the following statements:

1. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. The stakeholders hold the equity of the Regional Rural Banks in a fixed proportion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

30. With reference to Zoji La Pass, consider the following statements

1. Zoji La is a high mountain pass in the Himalayas in the Indian union territory of Ladakh.
2. It is the highest pass on NH 1.
3. Zoji La tunnel will be the longest bidirectional tunnel in Asia.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

31. Consider the following statements:

1. The World Bank (WB) defines extreme poverty by assessing consumption levels.
2. China is the country with the highest number of poor people mainly due to its demography.
3. The poverty line is currently pegged at US\$2.15 and that equivalent in India is Rs 46.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32. Which of the following statements is *not correct*?

- (a) Direct tax is paid by a person or an organisation responsible for paying tax directly to the entity that imposed it.
- (b) Direct taxes cannot be shifted to another party and remain your responsibility to pay.
- (c) India's net Direct tax collections in 2022-23 have been falling sharply due to geopolitical challenges and post- pandemic issues.
- (d) None of the above

33. Consider the following statements:

1. Cryptocurrencies enable secure online payments with the use of third-party intermediaries.
2. In India, no tax is levied on the transfer of virtual digital assets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. With reference to the Green Bond, consider the following statements:

1. It is specifically earmarked to raise money for climate and environmental projects.

2. The first green bond was issued in 2007 by the World Economic Forum(WEF).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

35. With reference to Election Symbol, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is allotted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to the party/candidate on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- 2. The ECI is the only authority to take decisions on assigning the election symbol in case of a dispute or a merger.

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

36. Consider the following statements:

- 1. SAATHI is a South-Asian Mental Health Outreach Program of ASHA International.
- 2. SMILE helpline is a step towards suicide prevention by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)

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

37. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Space Association (ISpA):

- 1. It is an industry association for private players in space.
- 2. It will act as a "single-window" agency for enabling the space sector for start-ups.
- 3. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Government of India are the sole members of ISpA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

38. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress was held in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China.
- 2. The SWAMITVA initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture uses drones in the mapping of land in rural areas.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

39. With reference to the Universal Postal Union (UPU), consider the following statements:

1. It is the second oldest international organization worldwide.
2. Only the members of the United Nations can become its members.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

40. Which of the following committees/ commissions are related to Hate Speech?

1. Viswanathan Committee
2. Bezbaruah Committee
3. 267th Report of the Law Commission of India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

41. Consider the following statements regarding a city in India:

1. This city is home to one of the 12 jyotirlinga sites in India.
2. It was one of the primary centres of learning for Hindu scriptures, called Avantika in the 6th and 7th centuries BC.
3. Astronomers and mathematicians such as Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya made this city their home.
4. An 18th Century observatory measuring astronomical phenomena is located here.

The statements given above are related to which of the following cities?

- (a) Bhimashankar
- (b) Mallikarjuna
- (c) Ujjain
- (d) Varanasi

42. With reference to Surrogacy in India, consider the following statements:

1. Surrogacy is legal in India while commercial surrogacy is not allowed in India.
2. A woman can act as a surrogate mother only once in her lifetime.
3. The Union and State governments are expected to constitute a National Surrogacy Board (NSB) and State Surrogacy Boards (SSB) respectively.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

43. Consider the following statements regarding the Drugs Controller General of India:
1. It sets standards for the manufacturing, sales, import, and distribution of drugs in India.
 2. It annually revises the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

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

44. The term 'Doom Loop' has been in the news, is related to:

- (a) Cyber Physical System
- (b) Demographic Dividend
- (c) Social Stratification
- (d) Economic Vulnerability on Banking System

45. Consider the following statements:

1. Paddy in Punjab and Sugarcane in Maharashtra are agro climatically suitable crops.
2. India initiated its first water policy in 1987

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

46. Consider the following statements regarding PM-DevINE scheme:

1. The projects under the schemes will include basic infrastructure in all primary healthcare centres and government schools.
2. It will be implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, through the North Eastern Council.

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

47. Consider the following statements regarding Flexi-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FFV-SHEV):

1. These vehicles will run on blended ethanol and electric power.
2. These vehicles are highly eco-friendly as they will not run-on traditional petrol component.
3. India is the first country to introduce these vehicles in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. Consider the following statements:

1. Red Notices are published by INTERPOL at the request of a member country.
2. The National Investigation Agency is designated as the National Central Bureau of India of INTERPOL.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

49. Which following organisations releases the "Living Planet Report"?

- (a) The Global Environment Facility
- (b) Conservation International
- (c) Climate Action Network
- (d) WWF

50. With reference to Official Language, consider the following statements:

1. Hindi is the language used by the Central Government as per Article 343 when communicating with the states of Hindi Belt.
2. English is the Associate official language and the language to be used while communicating with the states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

51. Consider the following statements:

1. Lead is a highly toxic non metal.
2. Minamata Convention is an international agreement that addresses widespread lead pollution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

52. With reference to the Torrefaction, consider the following statements:

1. Torrefaction is a process to improve physical properties and chemical composition of biomass.
2. Torrefaction is costlier but it can deliver a product whose energy content is much higher.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

53. Consider the following statements regarding 'International Migration Outlook 2022':

1. Report focuses on the countries of origin and destination for students obtaining academic degrees in OECD countries.
2. According to the report, Indian students tend to have a higher stay rate than the overall international student population.

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

54. Consider the following statements:

1. Bihar was the first state in India to enact a law of curbing witchcraft activities.
2. According to the NCRB report of 2021, there were no cases of witchcraft reported 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

55. With reference the Rythu Bharosa Kendras, consider the following statements:

1. They are a one-stop solution to all farmers' needs and grievances.
2. They are set up for the first time by the Andhra Pradesh state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

56. With reference to "Sloth Bear", consider the following statements:

1. They are nocturnal animals.
2. They are listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.
3. They are listed under Schedule I of the (Wildlife Protection) Act of India, 1972 which gives the species the same level of protection as tigers, rhinos and elephants.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

57. With reference to Ocean Currents, consider the following pairs:

1. Agulhas Current – Cold
2. Kuroshio Current – Warm
3. North Atlantic Current – Warm
4. Leeuwin Current – Cold

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair

- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

58. With reference to the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ), consider the following statements:

1. These are notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
2. Eco-sensitive Zone uniformly considered up to 15 Kms around Protected Areas.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

59. With reference to the Galápagos Islands, consider the following statements:

1. They are distributed on each side of the equator in the Pacific Ocean.
2. They are designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. They contributed to the inception of Lambark's theory of evolution.

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

60. Consider the following statements:

1. A black hole is a location in space where gravity pull is so high that it does not let out light from it.
2. This phenomenon occurs at the end stage of the death of a star.
3. Abell 2261 is a black hole found in the Milky Way Galaxy.

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

61. Consider the following statements:

1. The contents of the deep web are indexed by standard web search-engines.
2. The websites in the dark web use encryption software that makes their users and their locations anonymous.

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

62. With reference to the economy, consider the following statements:

1. Bullwhip Effect is a supply chain phenomenon that refers to the amplification of variability in demand as one moves up the supply chain from retailers to manufacturers.
2. Bullwhip Effect leads to Increase in the costs associated with storage and transportation.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

63. With reference to the Neelakurinji Flowers, consider the following statements:

1. They are endemic to Khasi and Jaintia Hills of North East.
2. They bloom once every 12 years.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

64. With reference to Earthquake waves, consider the following statements:

1. S-waves are like sound waves, they can travel through solids, liquids and gasses.
2. P-waves have a peculiar quality of traveling through solids only.
3. S-waves have a larger shadow zone than P-waves.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

65. Consider the following statements regarding "Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme"

1. It was launched as part of the Covid-19 relief package called the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
2. The scheme aims to provide collateral-free and government-guaranteed loans.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

66. The term 'Commodity Fetishism' often heard in economics, is appropriately related to which of the following?
- (a) Social relationships of production and exchange among people take the form of relationships between things (money and commodities) under capitalism.
 - (b) The conflict between social classes, notably the bourgeoisie, or capitalists, or workers, determines economic relations in a capitalist economy.
 - (c) The individuals try to save more during an economic recession, which essentially leads to a fall in aggregate demand and hence in economic growth.
 - (d) The government decision-making as a result of the actions of individual, self-interested public policy actors, who make decisions as civil servants or elected officials.

67. Consider the following statements regarding 'One Nation, One Fertilizer' (ONOF): scheme:
- 1. All fertilizer companies will be required to use a single "Bharat" brand for fertilisers under ONOF.
 - 2. The manufacturing brands cannot display their name or logo on the fertiliser packets.
 - 3. The scheme may help in stopping the diversion of urea for industrial purposes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

68. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Chief Justice of India is appointed by the President.
- 2. According to the Constitution of India, a person appointed as the CJI or any other judge of the Supreme Court can only be removed on the ground of "proved misbehavior or incapacity".
- 3. The term collegium is clearly mentioned in the constitution under Article 124 of the Constitution.

Which of the following statements are correct?

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

69. Consider the following statements regarding Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

1. The MPI is calculated by multiplying the incidence of poverty and the average intensity of poverty.
2. The World Bank gives this index by using the data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

70. Consider the following statements:

1. Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) is a statutory market committee constituted by the central government.
2. NABARD is a statutory body established in the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

71. India's first all-aluminium freight rail rakes were recently launched. Which of the following are the benefits of this move?

1. They are lighter than existing steel rakes.
2. They consume less energy and are corrosion-resistant.
3. They are 100% recyclable
4. Aluminium has superior crash absorption capability.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

72. With reference to Polio, consider the following statements:

1. India is declared polio-free.
2. The virus cannot be transmitted by person-to-person.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

73. Consider the following statements regarding the second India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD):
1. Gandhinagar Declaration was adopted during the second IADD.
 2. Theme of this dialogue was "Adopting strategies for synergising and strengthening defence and security cooperation".
 3. The first edition of the Africa India Field Training Exercise was held on the sidelines of the second IADD.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

74. With reference to Minimum Support Price (MSP), consider the following statements:

1. MSPs are announced at the beginning of the sowing season.
2. The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and excluding commercial crops.
3. MSPs are fixed on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

75. Consider the following statements:

1. The most abundant isotope of carbon in the atmosphere is C-14.
2. Carbon dating can be used to determine the age of most of the non-living things like rocks.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

76. An e-magazine named "Indian Edge" was recently launched. It is related to which of the following?

- (a) Fertilizers
- (b) Drugs and Medicines
- (c) Space technology
- (d) Higher Education

77. With reference to National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The policy has emphasized the mother tongue as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 8.
2. NEP aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education including vocational education to 50% by 2035.
3. The public investment in the Education sector will be increased to 5% of GDP at the earliest.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

78. With reference to the Inter-State Council, consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. It is an inter-governmental organisation for financial crimes such as money laundering and terror financing.
2. India is an observer country of FATF.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

80. Which of the following statements is *not correct* regarding "Line of Actual Control (LAC)"?

- (a) It is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.
- (b) LAC in the eastern sector consisting of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim is called the McMahon Line.
- (c) LAC is only a concept, it is neither delineated on a map or demarcated on the ground.
- (d) All are correct

81. Consider the following statements regarding the "Positive indigenisation list":

1. It lists items that the Indian armed forces will procure only from domestic manufacturers.
2. The Manufacturers should only be Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and not the private sector.

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

82. With reference to the Doctrine of Res Judicata, consider the following statements:

1. The principle of res judicata applies when a litigant attempts to file a subsequent lawsuit on the same matter, after having received a judgment in a previous case involving the same parties.
2. This is applicable both in the case of Civil as well as Criminal legal system.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 and 2

83. Which of the following Indian cities has recently bagged the 'World Green City Award 2022'?

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) Nagpur
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Indore

84. Recently seen in the news, DMH-11 is the other name of which Genetically Modified Crop?

- (a) Brinjal
- (b) Cotton
- (c) Maize
- (d) Mustard

85. Consider the following statements regarding "Deesa" that was recently in news:

1. It is the Indian defence tri-service base.
2. It contains a greenfield air base that is yet to be operational.
3. It is 130 km from the Indo-Pak border and is located in Gujrat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

86. With reference to Central Bureau of Investigation, consider the following statements:

1. CBI must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government concerned before

beginning to investigate a crime in a state.

2. The CBI was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home 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

87. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Lothal is the southernmost site of the Indus Valley civilization (IVC).
- 2. Lothal was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the year 2014.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

88. With reference to the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), consider the following statements:

- 1. They were established as per the recommendations of the Shivaram Committee.
- 2. The equity of the Regional Rural Banks is held equally by Sponsor Bank and State government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

89. With reference to the Great Indian Bustards, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is one of the rarest birds in the world and is the State bird of Rajasthan.
- 2. It is listed as Critically Endangered as per the IUCN Red List.

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

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

- 1. It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris
- 2. As of 2022, only North Korea and Iran are on the blacklist.
- 3. India became a full member of FATF in 2006.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

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

91. Consider the following statements regarding the International Court of Justice:

1. The Court decides disputes between countries, based on the voluntary participation of the States concerned.
2. It can also put individuals under trial who have been accused of committing international crimes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

92. With reference to the Hawk Air Defence was seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is an American medium-range surface-to-air missile.
2. It was used during the Vietnam war.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

93. With reference to the One Web India-1 mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is the dedicated commercial satellite mission of New Space India Limited (NSIL).
2. The mission will put satellites in the Low Earth Orbit unlike Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

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

94. The species 'Allmania Multiflora' was seen in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct in this regard?

1. The herb grows to a height of about 60 cm and is only the second species of this genus Allmania.
2. It is Critically Endangered as per the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

95. Which of the following best describes the philosophy "Aparigraha"?
- (a) It is a Vedic philosophical theory believing in the reality of the individual soul and the external world
 - (b) It is a Jaina philosophy that holds that no one or anything possesses anything.
 - (c) It is a Vedic philosophy that believes mind, body and spirit are all one and cannot be separated.
 - (d) It is a Jaina philosophy pronouncing that none of the living beings ought to be killed, ought to be enslaved and ought to be distressed.

96. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Establishment of the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies was announced during the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit.
- 2. All major universities in India will soon launch courses on the 'Bay of Bengal region', as mandated in the Summit.

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

97. Consider the following statements

- 1. Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 gives RBI the sole right to issue banknotes and coins in India.
- 2. Any change in design of a currency note has to be approved by the RBI's Central Board and the central government.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

98. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Bhootada Kola is an animistic ritual dance performance prevalent among Hindus of Tulu Nadu and parts of Malenadu of Karnataka.
- 2. Bhootada Kola is influenced by Yakshagana folk dance.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

99. With reference to the Blue Flag Certification, consider the following statements:

1. The Blue Flag Certification Programme started in France in 1985.
2. It is awarded to the cleanest coastal cities in the world.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

100. Recently, the term 'Glyphosate' has been seen in the news, it is a well known:

- (a) Flavor enhancer often added to foods
- (b) Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug
- (c) Broad spectrum antibiotic
- (d) Broad-spectrum systemic herbicide

101. Which of the following statements is *not correct* regarding Kushana king Kanishka?

- (a) He was a great patron of Buddhism.
- (b) He is widely credited for initiating the Shaka Era.
- (c) He initiated the Double Dinar which is considered as the first gold coin of the Indian subcontinent.
- (d) None of the above

102. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022:

1. The bill aims to strengthen the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
2. It brings over-the-top (OTT) platforms within the ambit of telecom services.
3. It provides for message interception in case of a public emergency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

103. Consider the following statements:

1. The President's Bodyguard (PBG) is the oldest regiment in the Indian Army, having been raised as the Governor-General's Bodyguard in 1773.
2. Post-independence, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan has started presenting the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the President's Bodyguard.

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

104. With reference to the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements:

1. It has a range of 15000 km around the Indian mainland.

2. IRNSS has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits. 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

105. SAMADHAN doctrine that was recently in news is related to which of the following?

- (a) It is a doctrine to assure India's spiritual connectedness with South-East Asian Nations.
- (b) It is a development Initiative for the differently abled population in India
- (c) It is the one-stop solution for the Left-wing Extremism(LWE) problem in India.
- (d) It is a provision of food security for those who remained uncovered under other related schemes.

106. The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) may apply to which of the following?

- 1. Citizens of India outside India.
- 2. Persons in the service of the Government.
- 3. Persons on ships and aircrafts registered in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

107. With reference to Kodava Takke, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a language in the Indo-Aryan group.
- 2. UNESCO has classified it as an Endangered Language.

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

108. Consider the following statements:

1. Office of profit' is defined in the Constitution under Article 102.
2. The Constitution specifies that the number of ministers including the Chief Minister has to be within 15% of the total number of members of the assembly.

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

109. Consider the following statements regarding Polavaram Dam Project:

1. Its reservoir spreads in parts of Chhattisgarh and Orissa.
2. It is situated on Krishna River.
3. It has been accorded National Status.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

110. Consider the following statements regarding an "Autosomal DNA technique":

1. In this, an autosome is any of the numbered chromosomes, as opposed to the sex chromosomes.
2. Autosomal DNA tests can be used to confirm relationships with a high level of accuracy for all relationships up to the second cousin level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

111. Consider the following statements regarding the Presidential form of government:

1. In this, the President is directly elected by the people or the electoral college.
2. It is characterized by a single executive concept.
3. The President can dissolve the lower house in this form of government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

112. Consider the following statements:

1. Curcumin Compound is a polyphenol with anti-inflammatory properties.
2. Kalanamak Rice is grown in the Southern coastal regions of India.
3. Kalanamak rice is protected under the Geographical Indication (GI) tag system.

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

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

113. Consider the following statements:

1. Ministers of the State government hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.
2. Every member of the civil service in the States holds office during the pleasure of the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

114. With reference to Global Gender Gap Index, consider the following statements:

1. It was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
2. In 2022, India's overall score has improved.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

EXPLANATION

1. (d)

In News: Recently, The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the policy repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 5.9% making loans expensive.

Statement 1 is correct: Repo Rate: The interest rate at which the Reserve Bank provides liquidity under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) to all LAF participants against the collateral of government and other approved securities.

Statement 2 is correct: Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate: The rate at which the Reserve Bank accepts non collateralized deposits, on an overnight basis, from all LAF participants. The SDF is also a financial stability tool in addition to its role in liquidity management. The SDF rate is placed at 25 basis points below the policy repo rate. With introduction of SDF in April 2022, the SDF rate replaced the fixed reverse repo rate as the floor of the LAF corridor.

Statement 3 is correct: Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): The average daily balance that a bank is required to maintain with the Reserve Bank as a percent of its net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) as on the last Friday of the second preceding fortnight that the Reserve Bank may notify from time to time in the Official Gazette.

2. (b)

[SOL] The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland for another six months.

- **About Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA):**
 - Originally promulgated by the British in response to the **Quit India movement in 1942**.
 - Enacted by the Parliament and approved by the **President in 1958**.
 - Grants **extraordinary powers & immunity** to the armed forces to bring back order in the “disturbed areas”.
 - An area can be disturbed due to **differences or disputes b/w members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities**.
- **Provisions:**
 - **Section 3:** Empowers the Governor of the State/Union territory to declare whole or part of the State or UT as a **disturbed area**.
 - **Section 4:** Gives the **powers to the Army** to search premises and make arrests **without warrants**.
 - **Section 6:** Arrested persons and seized property are handed over to the police.

- **Section 7:** Prosecution is permitted only after the sanction of the Central Government.

3. (c)

[SOL] Option C is correct: Tigray region is located in Ethiopia. A conflict between the government of Ethiopia and forces in its northern Tigray region has thrown the country into turmoil. Tigray is Ethiopia's northernmost region. Bordering Eritrea, it is home to most of the country's estimated 7 million ethnic Tigrayans. The ethnic group, which accounts for about 6% of Ethiopia's population, have had an outsized influence in national affairs.

4. (d)

[SOL] Option d is correct: It was the tribal movement led by Munda against the oppressions of the British Raj. The movement was referred to as 'Ulgulan' or the 'Great Tumult' and aimed to establish Munda raj. Munda used **traditional symbols and language** to rouse people and urged them to destroy the **dikus**. **Dikus** was the name given to the **outsiders** like the **British, moneylenders and traders** and it was believed that the dikus were responsible for all the miseries.

5. (d)

[SOL] Option D is correct: A neobank is a kind of digital bank without any branches. Rather than being physically present at a specific location, neobanking is entirely online. Neobanks are financial institutions that give customers a cheaper alternative to traditional banks.

India's top neobanks

- RazorpayX
- Jupiter
- Niyo
- Open
- EpiFi

6. (b)

[SOL] The Indian Air Force (IAF) inducted its first batch of indigenously-developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) in a major boost to its combat prowess.

- The helicopter will be called 'Prachand', which means fierce.

Statement 1 is not correct: LCH has been developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)**.

- The first prototype of the helicopter took first flight on March 29, 2010 and has since undergone extensive testing and evaluation.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct: It is a state-of-the-art modern combat helicopter, primarily designed for deployment in high-altitude regions.

- It is the only attack helicopter in the world which can land and take-off at an altitude of 5,000 m with a considerable load of weapons and fuel.

- It has a range of 550 km and an operational ceiling of 6500 m.
- It is armed with **air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles, 70 mm rockets and a 20 mm gun.**
 - It can perform a range of roles, including combat search and rescue, destruction of enemy air defence and counter-insurgency operations in the jungle and urban environments.

7. (b)

[SOL] Arctic warming

- The Arctic is heating up twice as fast as the rest of the world.
- Global warming, caused by greenhouse gas, is responsible for the decline in Arctic sea ice.

Consequences of Arctic warming (on India)

- **Ocean acidification:**
 - The research discovered that the acidity levels in Arctic seas are increasing three to four times faster than ocean waters elsewhere.
 - Seawater is normally alkaline, with a pH value of around 8.1.
 - The team also identified a strong correlation between the accelerated rate of melting ice and the rate of ocean acidification. **Hence option 1 is incorrect.**
- **Rising Sea Level:**
 - According to the **World Meteorological Organization's report, 'State of Global Climate in 2021'**, sea level along the Indian coast is rising faster than the global average rate.
 - One of the primary reasons for this rise is the melting of sea ice in the polar regions, especially the Arctic. **Hence option 4 is correct.**
- **Monsoons:**
 - The link between the impact of the changing Arctic and monsoons in India is growing in importance due to the **extreme weather events** the country faces, and

the heavy reliance on rainfall for water and food security. **Hence option 3 is correct.**

- **Global warming:**
 - The **permafrost in the Arctic is thawing** and in turn releasing **carbon and methane** which are among the **major greenhouse gases** responsible for **global warming**. **Hence option 2 is correct.**

8. (a)

[SOL] UK India Business Council (UKIBC)

- The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) is a **membership-based, non-profit organisation** founded in **2007** to **foster trade and business relations** between the **United Kingdom and India**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The organisation works with **businesses in both countries**, as well as the UK and Indian governments, to promote and increase bilateral trade.
- The UK India Business Council supports UK businesses with the **insights, networks, policy advocacy, services, and facilities** needed to succeed in India.
- Through a wide variety of events and member-only Sector Policy Groups, they **enable businesspeople -**
 - to meet each other,
 - to identify potential partners, suppliers and customers, and
 - to learn from top business leaders and commentators, including those on the Advisory Council.
- UKIBC is a **sister organisation** to the **UK-ASEAN Business Council**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Statement 3 is incorrect.

- The central government's various promotional initiatives and programmes such as India Toy Fair 2021, Toykathon 2021 and Toy Business League 2022 were held to promote domestic toys and encourage innovation and new-age design to meet global demand.

9. (c)

[SOL] Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has pointed out that since the industrial revolution, **human activities** have released large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Statement 1 is correct: Decomposers meet their energy and nutrient requirements by degrading dead organic matter or detritus. These are also known as saprotrophs (sapro: to decompose). Decomposers secrete digestive enzymes that break down dead and waste materials into simple, inorganic materials, which are subsequently absorbed by them.

Statement 2 is correct: The detritus food chain (DFC) begins with dead organic matter. It is made up of decomposers which are heterotrophic organisms, mainly fungi and bacteria. In the food chain, heterotrophs are primary, secondary and tertiary consumers, but not producers.

10. (a)

[SOL]

Statement 1 is correct: Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on August 15, 2019. The aim is to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. It comes under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The focus Areas are:

- recharge and reuse through grey water management
- water conservation

- rain water harvesting

Statement 2 is not correct: The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is:

- 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States
- 50:50 for other states
- 100% for Union Territories.

11. (d)

[SOL] The Mediation Bill, 2021:

- **Aim:**
 - The Bill aims to **promote, encourage, and facilitate mediation**, especially **institutional mediation**, to **resolve disputes**, commercial and otherwise. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Proposal of mandatory mediation:**
 - According to the Bill, pre-litigation mediation is mandatory for both parties before filing any suit or proceeding in a court, whether or not there is a mediation agreement between them. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - At the same time, it safeguards the **rights of litigants** to approach competent adjudicatory forums/courts for urgent relief.
- **Confidentiality & immunity:**
 - The **mediation process will be confidential** and immunity is provided against its disclosure in certain cases.
- **Mediation outcomes:**
 - The outcome of the mediation process in the form of a **Mediation Settlement Agreement (MSA)** will be **legally enforceable**
 - It can be registered with the State/district/taluk legal authorities **within 90 days to ensure authenticated records of the settlement.**
 - **Challenging the outcome:**
 - Since the MSA is out of the consensual agreement between the parties, the challenge to the same has been permitted on limited grounds.

12. (a)

[SOL] **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**

- **Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:**
 - Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were set up as government-sponsored, regional-based rural lending institutions under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.
 - The RRBs were established as per the recommendations of the **Narasimham Committee** to cater to the rural credit needs of the farming and other rural communities. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - **2015 amendment to the Act:**
 - The Act was amended in 2015, whereby such banks were permitted to **raise capital from sources other than the Centre, states and sponsor banks.** **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- **Aim:**
 - They were created to serve rural areas with **basic banking and financial services.**
 - However, RRBs **also have urban branches.** **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- **Functions:**
 - RRBs perform various functions such as providing banking facilities to rural and semi-urban areas, carrying out government operations like disbursement of wages of MGNREGA workers and distribution of pensions, providing para-banking facilities like locker facilities, debit and credit cards, mobile banking, internet banking, and UPI services.

13. (a)

[SOL] The government is planning to **bring convergence** between the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) to **restore degraded land and reverse desertification** in India.

Statement 1 is correct: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established in 1994 to protect and restore our land and ensure a safer, just, and more sustainable future. The UNCCD is the only legally binding framework set up to address desertification and the effects of drought. There are 197 Parties to the Convention, including 196 country Parties and the European Union. The Convention is based on the principles of participation, partnership and decentralization.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Bonn Challenge is a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration **by 2020** and 350 million hectares by 2030. Launched by the Government of Germany and IUCN in 2011, the Challenge surpassed the 150-million-hectare milestone for pledges in 2017.

14. (b)

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

- It was a traditional drug transportation route in the Chinese Colonial Era during the Opium Wars.
- It is the principal global site for opium production and distribution.

- It affects Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat due to Proximity with the Pakistan Border making these states as Potential Markets & Supply chain catalysts of Hashish and heroin.

15. (c)

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

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

16. (d)

[SOL] Brihadeeswara temple:

- The grand **Brihadeeswara temple of Thanjavur**, built by the Cholas, was the largest building in India in that period.
- It is a **Saivite temple** dedicated to lord Shiva located on the South bank of Cauvery river in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India.
- This temple carries on its walls the engraved evidence of the elaborate administrative and financial procedures concerning the day-to-day administration of the temple.
- Built using granite, the vimana tower above the shrine is one of the tallest in South India.

17. (b)

[SOL] Context

A recent revamp of the Standing Committees of Parliament **could potentially worsen the relations** between the government and opposition parties.

Explanation

Statement 1 is not correct: The Public Accounts Committee was set up first in 1921 under the provisions of the **Government of India Act of 1919**. The Committee consists of 22 Members, 15 Members are elected by the Lok Sabha and 7 Members of the Rajya Sabha are associated with it.

Statement 2 is correct: The PAC examines the appropriation accounts and the finance accounts of the Union government and any other accounts laid before the Lok Sabha. The function of the committee is to examine the annual audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), which are laid before the Parliament by the President. The PAC is not vested with the power of disallowance of expenditures by the

departments. It is not concerned with the questions of policy in a broader sense. It conducts a post-mortem examination of accounts (showing the expenditure already incurred). Its recommendations are advisory and not binding on the ministries.

Statement 3 is correct: The Constitution does not provide that the chairperson should always be from the opposition party. It is only by convention that, since 1967, the chairperson of the committee is selected invariably from the Opposition.

18. (d)

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Ministry of Power has decided to set up the National Mission on use of biomass in coal based thermal power plants.

Statement 1 is correct: Biomass is an integral part of Earth's carbon cycle, which is the process by which carbon is exchanged between all layers of the Earth: atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere. In contrast to fossil fuels, biomass comes from recently living organisms. The carbon in biomass can continue to be exchanged in the carbon cycle.

Statement 2 is correct: Biomass contains energy first derived from the sun. Plants absorb the sun's energy through photosynthesis, and convert carbon dioxide and water into nutrients (carbohydrates). This energy can be transformed into usable energy through direct and indirect means.

Statement 3 is correct: Biomass is the only renewable energy source that can be converted into liquid biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel. These can be blended with gasoline to efficiently power vehicles and machinery and do not release the emissions associated with fossil fuels.

19. (b)

[SOL] Recently, the Nobel Prize in chemistry for 2022 was awarded to **Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless.**

- The three have been awarded for their **work in 'click chemistry'.**

Click Chemistry

- Click chemistry is utilized in the development of pharmaceuticals, for mapping DNA and creating materials that are more fit for purpose.
 - The term "click chemistry" is used to describe **reactions that are fast, high-yielding and clean**, meaning that they do not produce a lot of unwanted side-products.

20. (b)

[SOL] Cholas:

- **Statement 1 is correct. Foundation of the dynasty:**
 - The dynasty was founded by king **Vijayalaya**, described as a "feudatory" of the Pallavas.

- Despite being a relatively minor player in the region among giants, Vijayalaya laid the foundation for a dynasty that would rule a major part of southern India.
- Under **Rajaraja I** and his successors **Rajendra I, Rajadhiraja I, Rajendra II, Virarajendra, and Kulothunga Chola I**, the dynasty became a military, economic and cultural powerhouse.
- **Statement 2 is correct. Airavateswara temple:**
 - The **Airavateswara temple** at **Darasuram** near **Thanjavur** built during the reign of **Rajaraja II** is a magnificent structure typical of the stage of architectural development reached in the **12th century CE**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect. Capital and important centres:**
 - Their early capital was at **Thanjavur** and later on at **Gangaikonda Cholapuram**.
 - **Kanchipuram and Madurai** were considered to be regional capitals in which occasional courts were held.

21. (c)

[SOL] Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- **About:**
 - The Companies Act encourages companies to **spend 2% of their average net profit in the previous three years on CSR activities**.
 - It is a management concept whereby companies integrate **social and environmental concerns** in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders.
- **Statute:**
 - The CSR concept in India is **governed by Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, Schedule VII of the Act and Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014**.
- **Monitoring and report filing:**
 - Under the existing regulation, monitoring is by a board-led, **disclosure-based regime**, with companies reporting their CSR spends **annually to the Corporate**

Affairs Ministry (MCA) through filing of an annual report. Hence statement 1 is correct.

- **Area of operations:**
 - One of the provisions of the Act is that the company should give preference to local areas/areas around it where it operates. Hence statement 2 is correct.
 - This is logical. However, a private report says that
 - 54% of CSR companies are concentrated in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Gujarat (receiving the largest CSR spends)
 - While populous Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh receive little.

22. (b)

[SOL] Moonlighting

- **What is Moonlighting?**
 - Moonlighting — or employees working for remuneration with entities other than their employers. Hence statement 1 is correct.
 - Moonlighting is neither new nor unusual.
 - The practice has been around for a while with scores of professionals such as doctors, teachers, and consultants, routinely doing so for years.
 - **Skill enhancement:**
 - For a lot of professionals, moonlighting has also become a way to upskill, learn new things, and ensure they don't become redundant in their careers. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- **Statute:**
 - Moonlighting is not defined in any of the statutes in India. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.
 - However, there are enactments that deal with double employment.
 - **Factories Act on double employment:**
 - Factories Act deals with restriction on double employment stating that “No adult worker shall be required or allowed to work in any factory on any day on which he has already been working in any other factory, save in such circumstances as may be prescribed”.
 - However, this enactment is applicable only to employees working in factories

23. (c)

[SOL] Recently, the No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels (NOPEC) bill was passed by a Senate committee which intends to protect U.S. consumers and businesses from engineered oil spikes.

Statement 1 is correct: OPEC, is an intergovernmental organization of 14 major oil producing countries which together produces about 40 percent of the world's crude oil. OPEC oil exports represent about 60 percent of the total petroleum traded internationally.

Statement 2 is correct: India is the world's 3rd largest importer of crude oil behind only the United States and China. India's imports from OPEC countries constitute 85 percent of its total crude imports and 94 percent of the gas imports.

24. (b)

[SOL] India overtakes other countries to become the **world's largest producer, consumer** of Sugar, and second largest exporter of sugar.

Statement 1 is correct: Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) is the minimum price at which sugarcane is to be purchased by sugar mills from farmers. The Government fixes MSP of 22 mandated agricultural crops and FRP of sugarcane on the basis of the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) and after due consideration of the views of State Governments and the concerned Central Ministries/ Departments.

Statement 2 is not correct: India has become the world's largest producer, consumer of Sugar, and second largest exporter of sugar. Over the years, India has become a sugar surplus nation as reflected from the trend of sugar production and consumption. Since 2010-11, production has outstripped consumption except in 2016-17. This has been possible because of various measures undertaken by the Government. For example, the interest of the farmers is protected by the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane which has **doubled in a span of ten years** (from ₹ 145 per quintal in 2011-12 to ₹ 290 per quintal in 2021-22).

25. (c)

[SOL] **Option c is correct: Lala Lajpat Rai:** He founded the **Home Rule League of America** in 1917 in New York. In the USA, he worked to get moral support for the Indian independence movement from the international community.

- He was also elected President of the **All India Trade Union Congress**.
- He helped in the establishment of **Punjab National Bank** in 1894.
- In 1885, he established the **Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School** in Lahore and remained a committed educationist throughout his life.
- The **Servants of People Society** was founded by him in 1921.

Servants of India Society:

- **Gopal Krishna Gokhale** was an Indian 'moderate' political leader and a social reformer during the Indian independence movement. Gokhale was a senior leader of the Indian National Congress and the **founder of the Servants of India Society**.

26. (c)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct. Aatmanirbhar in defence production

- **Make-I Category:**
 - **About:**
 - Under the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020, 'Make' Category aims to achieve self-reliance by involving greater participation of Indian industry.
 - Projects involving design and development of equipment, systems, major platforms or upgrades thereof by the industry can be taken up under this category.
 - **Financial Support:**
 - The Ministry of Defence will provide financial support up to 70% of the total cost of prototype development.

Statement 2 is correct.

- According to a recent study by SIPRI, India ranks fourth among 12 Indo-Pacific nations in self-reliant arms production capabilities.
 - India is highly dependent on imports of complete foreign major arms, including many produced under licence or as components for its domestic production.
 - Of India's total volume of procurement in 2016-20, 84 percent was of foreign origin.
 - Domestic arms companies provide only 16 percent of its total procurement.

27. (a)

[SOL] Online Gaming in india:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
 - There is currently no regulatory framework to govern various aspects of online gaming companies.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
 - Online gaming so far has been a state subject, but state governments have said they find it extremely difficult to enforce certain rules like geo-blocking certain apps or websites within the territory of their state.
- **Statement 3 is correct.**
 - State governments also do not have enough blocking powers like the Centre to issue blocking orders for offshore betting sites.

28. (a)

[SOL] Recently, the government has notified a **credit guarantee scheme for start-ups (CGSS)** under which lenders will extend **collateral-free loans up to Rs 10 crore** to each eligible borrower. **Statement 1 is correct:** Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) has been created by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). It aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialisation.

Funding:

Statement 2 is not correct: A sum of Rs. 945 crores have been allocated for the fund over the next four years for providing seed funding to eligible startups. Grants of up to Rs. 5 crores shall be provided to eligible incubators selected by an expert committee. They shall be offered grants of up to Rs. 20 lakhs for validation of proof of concept, prototype development or product trials.

Furthermore, investments of up to Rs. 50 lakhs shall be provided to startups for market entry, commercialization or scaling up through convertible debentures or debt-linked instruments.

29. (c)

[SOL] Recently, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister said that primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) will be set up in **all panchayats** of the country over the next five years.

Statement 1 is correct: Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were set up as government-sponsored, regional-based rural lending institutions under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. The RRBs were established as per the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee to cater to the rural credit needs of the farming and other rural communities. RRBs are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India and are supervised by NABARD.

Statement 2 is correct: Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are government-owned scheduled commercial banks of India that operate at the regional level in different states of India. The area of operation is limited to the area notified by the government of India covering, and it covers one or more districts in the State. The stakeholders hold the equity of the Regional Rural Banks in a fixed proportion. This proportion is 50:35:15, distributed as:

- Central Government – 50%
- Sponsor Bank – 35%
- State Government – 15%

30. (c)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Zoji La is a high mountain pass in the Himalayas in the Indian union territory of Ladakh.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is the second-highest pass on NH 1, with the first being the Fotu La Pass.

Statement 3 is correct: Zoji La tunnel will be the longest bidirectional tunnel in Asia.

31. (c)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct:

- The World Bank (WB) defines extreme poverty by **particular consumption level**. This is called the **poverty line**.
 - The poverty line is **pegged at US\$2.15**.
 - In other words, anyone living on less than \$2.15 a day is considered to be living in extreme poverty.
- **Statement 3 is correct:**
 - The PPP equivalent of \$2.15 is the number of Indian rupees an Indian would need to buy the same basket of goods in India that an American can buy with \$2.15 in the US.
 - **That equivalent in India is Rs 46.** [not Rs 176 - the value we get if we multiply 2.15 by the rupee's current market exchange rate with the US dollar (around 82)]
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:**
 - **India:**
 - According to the WB, **India is the country with the highest number of poor people.**
 - That's **almost 80% of the total 70 million** the world over that the World Bank estimates to have been pushed into poverty in 2020.
 - In other words, according to this estimate, **8 out of every 10 people in the world who were pushed into poverty during Covid were in India.**
 - **China:**
 - The World Bank found that between 1978 and 2019, China's poverty headcount dropped from 770 million to 5.5 million people.
 - In other words, China lifted 765 million (76.5 crore) people from extreme poverty in the past four decades.

32. (c)

[SOL] Statement (a) is correct:

- Direct tax is paid by a person or an organisation responsible for **paying tax directly to the entity that imposed it.**
- An individual taxpayer, for example, pays direct taxes to the government for various purposes, including **income tax, real property tax, personal property tax, or taxes on assets.**

Statement (b) is correct:

- What Is the Difference Between Direct Tax and Indirect Tax?
 - Direct taxes cannot be shifted to another party and remain your responsibility to pay.
 - Indirect taxes are the opposite. Whoever is liable for these taxes can pass on or shift them to another person or group.

Statement (c) is incorrect:

- India's net Direct tax collections in 2022-23 have risen to \square 7.45 lakh crore, more than half this year's Budget targets.

33. (d)

[SOL] Programming languages help crypto platforms and protocols run effectively.

Statement 1 is not correct: A cryptocurrency is a digital currency that is secured by cryptography, which makes it nearly impossible to counterfeit or double-spend. Many cryptocurrencies are decentralized networks based on blockchain technology. A defining feature of cryptocurrencies is that they are generally not issued by any central authority, rendering them theoretically immune to government interference or manipulation. Thus, they enable secure online payments **without the use** of third-party intermediaries.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Union Budget of 2022 provided that a **flat 30% tax** will be levied on the transfer of virtual digital assets (VDAs) or crypto assets. Along with this, a 1% tax deducted at source (TDS) will be applicable on each transfer of such assets.

34. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a type of fixed-income instrument that is specifically **earmarked to raise money for climate and environmental projects**.

- These bonds are typically **asset-linked and backed by the issuing entity's balance sheet**, so they usually carry the same credit rating as their issuers' other debt obligations.

Statement 2 is not correct: The **first green bond was issued in 2007 by the European Investment Bank**, the EU's lending arm.

- This was followed a year later by the **World Bank**. Since then, many governments and corporations have entered the market to finance green projects.

• 35 ANS (c)

- [SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the Election Commission of India (ECI) to recognise political parties and allot symbols. As per the guidelines, to get a symbol allotted, a party/candidate has to provide a list of three symbols from the ECI's free symbols list at the time of filing nomination papers. Among them, one symbol is allotted to the party/candidate on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** When a recognised political party splits, the ECI takes the decision on assigning the symbol. Under Paragraph 15 of the Order, it can decide disputes among rival groups or sections of a recognised political party staking claim to its name and symbol. The ECI is also the only authority to decide issues on a dispute or a merger.
-

36. (a)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct.

- **SAATHI:**
 - It is a South-Asian Mental Health Outreach Program of ASHA International that aims to:
 - Promote awareness about mental health and emotional wellbeing
 - Improve access to care.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

- **Kiran Helpline**
 - The helpline is a giant step towards suicide prevention and can help with support and crisis management.
 - The helpline aims to provide early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, mental well-being, and psychological crisis management and will be managed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).
- **SMILE:**
 - The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has come up with a national level umbrella scheme called SMILE i.e., **Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise.**

37. (b)

[SOL] Indian Space Association (ISpA)

- **Aim:**
 - To supplement the Centre's efforts in commercial space exploration and space-based communication.
- **Members:**
 - Various stakeholders in the Indian space domain with members comprising the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bharti Airtel, OneWeb, Tata Group's Nelco, L&T, MapMyIndia among others. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
 - **The progress:**
 - ISpA has grown from seven members to more than 50 members in a year.
- **About:**
 - ISpA is an industry association for private players in space. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - It is an organisation meant to represent the interests of the space sector with government and private sector bodies across the board.
 - It will support start-ups and will work towards facilitating and enabling private players to work in tandem with ISRO.
 - The industry association will act as an independent and "single-window" agency for enabling the opening up of the space sector to start-ups and the private sector. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

38. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** The first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress was held in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China in 2018.

- **The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)** organizes the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) every four years.
- **The objectives are** enhancing international collaboration among the Member States and relevant stakeholders in Geospatial information management and capacities.

Statement 2 is not correct: SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas) scheme is an initiative of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**. It aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes. The scheme is for surveying the land parcels in rural inhabited areas using Drone technology.

39. (a)

[SOL] World Post Day is annually observed across the globe on 9th October to mark the establishment of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**.

Statement 1 is correct: About Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- Established in 1874, the **second oldest** international organization worldwide.
- **Headquarters:** the Swiss capital Berne
- **Functions:**
 - The **primary forum for cooperation** between postal sector players.
 - It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services.
 - Fulfills an advisory, mediating and liaison role;
 - Provides technical assistance where needed.

Statement 2 is not correct:

- **Member countries:**
 - Any member country of the United Nations may become a member of the UPU.
 - Any non-member country of the United Nations may become a UPU member provided that its request is approved by at least two-thirds of the member countries of the UPU.
 - The UPU now has **192 member countries**.

40. (d)

[SOL] Recently, a PIL was filed raising the issue of “**governmental inaction** over hate speeches”.

Statement 1 is correct: Viswanathan Committee 2019: It proposed inserting Sections 153 C (b) and Section 505 A in the IPC for incitement to commit an offence on grounds of religion, race, caste or community, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, place of birth, residence, language, disability or tribe. It proposed punishment of up to two years along with Rs. 5,000 fine.

Statement 2 is correct: Bezbaruah Committee 2014: It proposed amendment to Section 153 C of IPC (promoting or attempting to promote acts prejudicial to human dignity), punishable by five years and fine or both and Section 509 A IPC (word, gesture or act intended to insult member of a particular race), punishable by three years or fine or both.

Statement 3 is correct: In the 267th Report of the Law Commission of India, hate speech is stated as an incitement to hatred primarily against a group of persons defined in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief and the like.

41. (c)

[SOL] Ujjain City

- **History:**
 - The city of Ujjain was also one of the primary centres of learning for Hindu scriptures, called Avantika in the **6th and 7th centuries BC**.
 - Later, astronomers and mathematicians such as **Brahmagupta** and **Bhaskaracharya** made Ujjain their home.
- **Significance of the city:**
 - **Geography:**
 - Also, **as per the Surya Siddhanta**, one of the earliest available texts on Indian astronomy dating back to the 4th century, Ujjain is geographically situated at a spot where the **zero meridian of longitude and the Tropic of Cancer intersect**.
 - In keeping with this theory, it is believed that many of Ujjain temples are in some way connected to time and space, and the main Shiva temple is dedicated to Mahakal, the lord of time.
 - It is home to Mahakaleshwar temple, one of the 12 jyotirlinga sites in India.
 - **Observatory:**
 - In the 18th century, an observatory was built here by **Maharaja Jai Singh II**, known as the **Vedh Shala or Jantar Mantar**, comprising **13 architectural instruments** to measure astronomical phenomena.

42. (d)

[SOL] **All the statements are correct:** Surrogacy is defined as a practice wherein one woman bears and gives birth to a child with the intention to thereafter hand it over to the intending couple.

- **A married woman of the age of 25 to 35 years** on the day of implantation, with a child of her own, can be a surrogate mother.
 - She can act as a surrogate mother **only once in her lifetime** and with only **three attempts of procedure is allowed**.
- **Surrogacy is legal in India**. But, making it **commercial is illegal**. It is a humanitarian act and is recognized by law.
 - Surrogacy comes under the reproductive choices of women and it is included as a fundamental right **under the purview of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution**.
- The Centre and State governments are expected to constitute a National Surrogacy Board (NSB) and State Surrogacy Boards (SSB) respectively.

- The two Acts have been described as **discriminatory** against the single man who may desire to become a father via surrogacy or the married woman who already has a child and is desirous of expanding her family through the procedure.

43. (a)

[SOL] **The Drugs Controller General of India**

- Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) is the head of department of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of the Government of India
- It is responsible for approval of licences of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, IV fluids, vaccines, and sera in India.
- Drugs Controller General of India, comes under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- DCGI also sets standards for manufacturing, sales, import, and distribution of drugs in India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)

- It is a dynamic document and is revised on a regular basis considering the changing public health priorities as well as advancement in pharmaceutical knowledge.
- It was first formulated in 1996 and was revised thrice in 2003, 2011 and 2015, before 2022.
- The NLEM independent Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM) was constituted by the Union Health Ministry in 2018. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- For inclusion in NLEM, the drugs have to be useful in treating diseases that are a public health problem in India.
- They have to be licensed by the DCGI, have proven efficacy, a safety profile based on scientific evidence and are cost effective.

44. (d)

[SOL] **Option d is correct:** There is a risk that **Britain's economy** could end up in a "doom loop".

- The doom loop is the **circle of vulnerability where a country's banking system can be severely hurt by volatility** in the price of the sovereign bonds they hold for reserves resulting in a contraction in lending provided by the banks.
- This contraction in credit, in turn, **slows the domestic economy, resulting in a further deterioration in the price of the sovereign's bond issues** as the government is forced to increase its borrowing to maintain services in a period when tax receipts are falling.
- The loop can also begin with the **banking sector if a contraction in bank lending due to liquidity or non-performing loan** problems sparks volatility in the government bond prices by slowing the economy and eroding confidence in the sovereign credit.

2.

45. (b)

[SOL] The decades-old dispute over the Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) canal between the two neighbouring states (Punjab and Haryana) is back in the limelight.

Statement 1 is not correct: Paddy in Punjab and Sugarcane in Maharashtra are **not agro climatically suitable crops** because they need more water in these areas and deprive other crops from getting sufficient water.

Statement 2 is correct: India initiated its first water policy in 1987 and now has to look back at the nitty-gritties of earlier policies, find strong points and loopholes to work accordingly on the new policy.

46. (c)

[SOL] Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE)

- **About:**
 - Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) is a new scheme for the Northeastern states which was announced in the Union Budget.
 - The scheme will be operational for the remaining four years of the 15th Finance Commission, from 2022-23 to 2025-26, and will have an outlay of Rs 6,600 crore.
- **PM-DevINE will target:**
 - The creation of infrastructure,
 - Support industries,
 - Social development projects and
 - Create livelihood activities for the youth and women, with a focus on job creation.
 - These projects will include basic infrastructure in all primary healthcare centres and government schools. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Funding and implementation:**
 - It is a central sector scheme with **100% central funding.**
 - PM-DevINE will be implemented by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)**, through the North Eastern Council or central ministries and agencies. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

47. (a)

[SOL] Flexi-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FFV-SHEV):

- **Characteristic features:**
 - An FFV SHEV has a flex-fuel engine and an electric powertrain.
 - It thus provides a dual benefit of **higher ethanol use and greater fuel efficiency**, as it can run for a significant time period on its EV mode, wherein the engine is shut off.
 - These vehicles will run on 100% petrol as well as 20-100% blended ethanol and electric power. **Hence statement 1 is correct but statement 2 is incorrect.**
- **Global availability:**
 - Flex-fuel vehicles are available in Brazil, the USA and Canada. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
 - Ethanol is a major alternate fuel used globally and Brazil has the highest average blending of 48 percent.

48. (a)

[SOL] Recently, the Interpol has rejected a second request by India to issue a **Red Corner Notice** against the Canada-based founder and legal advisor of the pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

Statement 1 is correct: Red Notice is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.

- It contains two main types of information:
 - Information to identify the wanted person, such as their name, date of birth, nationality, hair and eye colour, photographs and fingerprints if available.
 - Information related to the crime they are wanted for, which can typically be murder, rape, child abuse or armed robbery.
 - **A Red Notice is not an international arrest warrant.**

TYPES OF INTERPOL NOTICES



RED NOTICE: To seek the location and arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition or similar lawful action.



YELLOW NOTICE: To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.



BLUE NOTICE: To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.



BLACK NOTICE: To seek information on unidentified bodies.



GREEN NOTICE: To provide warnings and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.



ORANGE NOTICE: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.



INTERPOL-UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE: Issued for groups and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council sanctions committees.



PURPLE NOTICE: To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

Source: www.interpol.int

NATION GRAPHICS

Statement 2 is not correct: In each country, an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) provides the central point of contact for the General Secretariat and other NCBs.

- An NCB is run by **national police officials and usually sits** in the government ministry responsible for policing.
- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** is designated as the **National Central Bureau of India**.

49. (d)

[SOL] Recently, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) released Living Planet Report 2022.

- It is released every two years.
- It is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and health of the planet. It tracks changes in the relative abundance of wild species populations across the globe.
- The LPI is continually changing with 838 new species and 11,011 new populations being added to the dataset since the 2020 LPR was released.

- There has been a significant increase in the number of fish species (481) that have been added to the Living Planet Report.

50. (c)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Indian Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language. Hindi was definitely declared the national language. But, Hindi is a language spoken by only 40% of the Indian population. So, this would be a problem for the rest of the majority of the population as everybody would be required to learn Hindi and this is not possible at all. The Constitution of India has stipulated the usage of Hindi and English to be the two official languages of communication for the national government. Hindi is the language used by the Central Government as per Article 343 when communicating with the states of Hindi Belt.

Statement 2 is correct: English is the Associate official language and the language to be used while communicating with the states.

51. (b)

[SOL] Statement 1 is incorrect: Lead is a highly toxic metal and a very strong poison. Lead in the body is distributed to the brain, liver, kidney and bones. It is stored in the teeth and bones, where it accumulates over time. Human exposure is usually assessed through the measurement of lead in blood.

Statement 2 is correct: The Minamata Convention on Mercury is an International agreement that addresses specific human activities which are contributing to widespread **mercury pollution**. The Minamata Convention on Mercury entered into force on 16 August 2017. It is named after the Japanese city of Minamata, which experienced a severe incidence of mercury poisoning. The industrial wastewater from a chemical factory which was discharged into Minamata Bay contained methylmercury, which bioaccumulates in fish and shellfish in the bay.

52. (c)

[SOL] Recently, MoEFCC announced a **50 crore scheme** to incentivise industrialists and entrepreneurs to set up **paddy straw pelletisation and torrefaction plants** to arrest stubble burning.

Statement 1 is correct: Torrefaction is a thermal pre-treatment technology. It produces a solid biofuel product that has superior handling, milling and co-firing capabilities compared to other biomass fuels.

Statement 2 is correct: Torrefaction is costlier but it can deliver a product whose energy content is much higher and can substitute for more coal in a power plant.

53. (c)

[SOL] International Migration Outlook 2022

- **About:**
 - The report provides an **overview of trends in international migration flows and policies** up until 2021.
 - Report puts the spotlight on the countries of origin and destination of students signing up for academic degrees in OECD countries. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Higher retention by Indians:**
 - Indian students tend to have a higher stay rate than the overall international student population.
 - In nearly every OECD country, including Canada, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Japan, Indians have significantly higher retention rates than the Chinese. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

54. (a)

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Bihar was the first state in India to enact a law in 1999 to prevent witch practices and such instances where a woman is declared a witch and tortured.**Statement 2 is not correct: Incidences of witchcraft in India:** According to the 2021 National Crime Records Bureau report, three states in India – Chhattisgarh (20), Madhya Pradesh (18) and Telangana (11) – accounted for 49 out of the 68 registered cases of witchcraft in the country.

55. (c)

[SOL] Both the statements are correct: They are **set up for the first time** in the country (Andhra Pradesh) and they are **unique** seeds-to-sales, single-window service centres for farmers that have been set up across the state.

- They are a **one-stop solution** to all farmers' needs and grievances.
- The Centre has recently nominated the **RBK concept** for the Food and Agriculture Organisation's "**Champion**" award.
- **Features:** They sell pre-tested quality seeds, certified fertilisers and animal feed.
 - Farmers can purchase or hire farm equipment, and even sell their produce at the prevailing MSP in the RBKs.
 - They also provide services like soil testing and make recommendations – on which crops to sow, and quantity and type of fertilizer to be used.
 - They also assist in selling their produce at MSPs, through supporting systems of e-cropping, geo-tagging, and the CM App through which payments are made to farmers.

56. (c)

[SOL]

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has declared **October 12** as 'World Sloth Bear Day'.

- The first-ever World Sloth Bear Day celebrations were held by **Wildlife SOS** in **Agra** in collaboration with the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** and the **UP-Forest Department**.
- It is a **myrmecophagous bear species**.
- **Habitat:**
 - They are endemic to the **Indian sub-continent** and **90%** of the species population is found in India with small populations in **Nepal and Srilanka**.
 - Sloth bears are found in all parts of the country **except Jammu and Kashmir and northeastern States**.
- **Characteristics:**
 - They are **nocturnal animals**.
 - It feeds on **fruits, ants and termites**.
- **IUCN red list**
 - It is listed as 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.
- **Wildlife Protection Act of India, 1972**
 - It is listed under **Schedule I** of the (Wildlife Protection) Act of India, 1972 the species has the same level of protection as tigers, rhinos and elephants.

57. (b)

[SOL] According to a recent study, cold ocean currents have **sheltered the Galápagos Islands** from global warming.

Ocean Current Name	Type
Agulhas Current	Warm
Kuroshio Current	Warm
North Atlantic Current	Warm
Leeuwin Current	Warm

Therefore, **only two pairs** are correctly matched.

58. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** These are areas in India **notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), GoI** around Protected Areas, National Park and Wildlife sanctuaries.

Statement 2 is not correct: All identified areas around Protected Areas and wildlife corridors to be declared as ecologically fragile under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-2016). Eco-sensitive Zone could go up to 10 Kms around Protected Areas. In cases where sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches,

crucial for landscape linkage, are even beyond 10 Kms wide. Further, Eco-sensitive zones may not be uniform all around and it could be variable in width and extent.

59. (c)

[SOL] All the statements are correct: Galápagos Islands

- An archipelago of **volcanic** islands.
- They are distributed on each side of the equator in the **Pacific Ocean**.
- The **second-largest marine reserve** in the world and contributed to the inception of Darwin's theory of evolution.
- They were designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and described as a “**living museum and showcase of evolution**.”
- The island is a **biodiverse** ecosystem — home to several **endangered** species.
- Galápagos is home to the **critically endangered** — Galápagos penguin, Galápagos fur seal and Galápagos sea lion.

60. (a)

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Black Hole is a region in space where the pulling force of gravity is so strong that neither matter nor light can escape. For anything approaching a black hole, the point of no return is called the “event horizon” and anything that comes within the event horizon will be consumed forever.

Statement 2 is correct: This phenomenon occurs when a star is dying. Since no light can escape from it, a black hole is invisible. However, advanced space telescopes can identify black holes by observing the behaviour of material and stars that are very close to black holes.

Statement 3 is not correct: Abell 2261 is a galaxy where scientists have been looking for a black hole.

61. (b)

[SOL] Recently, the Department of Telecom has released the **draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022** for public comment.

Statement 1 is not correct: The deep web, invisible web, or hidden web are parts of the World Wide Web whose contents **are not indexed by** standard web search-engines. This is in contrast to the “surface web”, which is accessible to anyone using the Internet. The Deep Web contains mostly benign sites, such as your password-protected email account, certain parts of paid subscription services like Netflix, and sites that can be accessed only through an online form. Also, the Deep Web is huge: back in 2001, it was estimated to be 400-550 times larger than the Surface Web, and it’s been growing exponentially since then.

Statement 2 is correct: By comparison, the Dark Web is pretty small: Dark Web sites number only in the thousands. The websites in the Dark Web are characterized by their use of encryption software that makes their users and their locations anonymous. That’s why illegal activity is so common on the Dark Web: users can withhold their identity; the owners of illegal websites can hide their location; and data can be transferred anonymously. The dark web forms a small part of the deep web, the part of the Web not indexed by web search engines, although sometimes the term deep web is mistakenly used to refer specifically to the dark web.

62. (c)

[SOL] **Bullwhip Effect**

- **About:**
 - It is a **supply chain phenomenon** that refers to the **amplification of variability** in demand as one moves up the supply chain from retailers to manufacturers.
 - Describes how **small fluctuations** in demand at the retail level can cause progressively **larger fluctuations** in demand at the wholesale, distributor, manufacturer and raw material supplier levels.
- **Derived From:**
 - a scientific concept in which movements of a whip become **similarly amplified** from the origin (the hand cracking the whip) to the endpoint (the tail of the whip).
- **Causes:**
 - Over- or under-reacting to demand expectations
 - **Less-than-optimal decisions** made by supply chain stakeholders
 - **Inaccurate forecasts** from over-reliance on historical demand to predict future demand
 - Lead-time issues such as **manufacturing delays**
- **Impacts:**
 - Increased costs associated with storage, transportation, spoilage, losses of revenue, delays to shipments
 - Excess inventory and overinvestment in production
 - Leads to disruptions to the supply chain

63. (b)

[SOL] Recently, an expert team has identified **six varieties of Neelakurinji** across the **Santhanpara region of Western Ghats**.

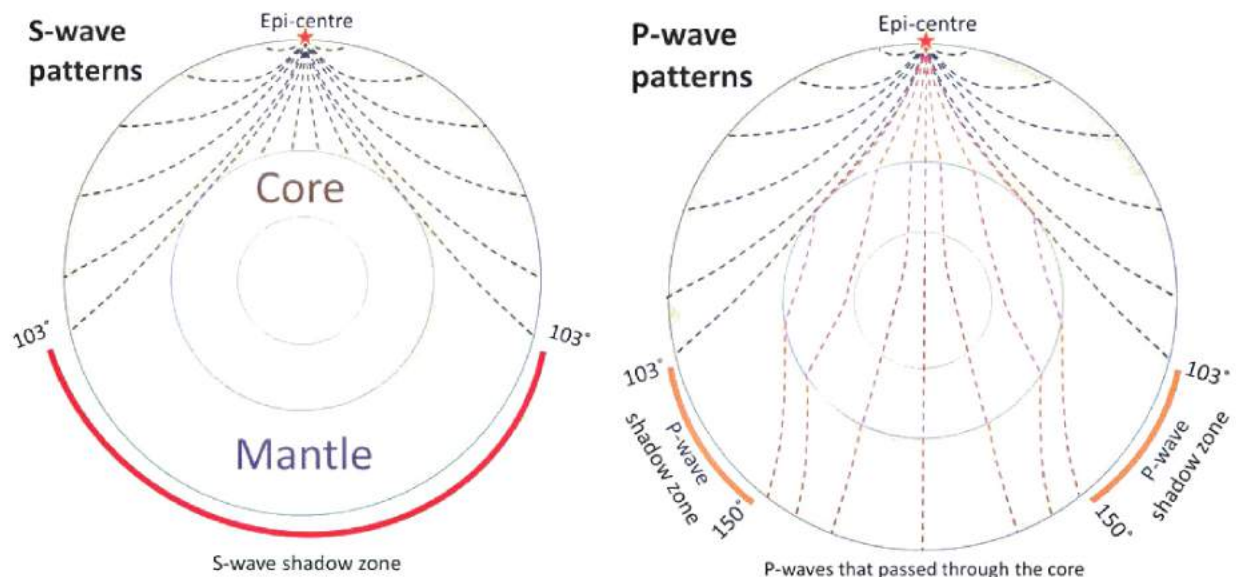
About Neelakurinji Flower

- It is a shrub of the **Acanthaceae family** that famously blooms once every 12 years.
- It is **endemic to Western Ghats**, covering the slopes of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- Their scientific name is '**strobilanthes kunthiana**',
- Strobilanthes is a **genus of about 350 species of flowering plants** in the family Acanthaceae, mostly native to tropical Asia and Madagascar.
- The **Topli Karvy (Strobilanthes sessilis)**, the **Karvy (Strobilanthes callosa)** and the **Kurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana)**, all belong to the Strobilanthes genus.
- The Topli Karvy is found more in the northern section of the Western Ghats in Maharashtra.
- The Karvy grows on the steepest cliffs where trees can't grow.
- They are seen mostly on the Nilgiri hills, which even got its name from the flowers – 'neela', meaning blue and 'kurinji', referring to the flowers.

64. (c)

[SOL] Statement 1 and statement 2 are not correct: The S-waves are not like sound waves. The P-waves are similar to sound waves. P-waves can travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials.

Statement 3 is correct: The shadow zone of S-wave is much larger than that of the P-waves. The shadow zone of P-waves appears as a band around the earth between 105° and 145° away from the epicentre. The shadow zone of S-waves is not only larger in extent but it is also a little over 40 per cent of the earth surface.



65. (c)

[SOL] The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has recently modified the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the aviation sector, raising the scheme's cheaper loan limit to 1,500 crore from 400 crore to help the sector tide over cash-flow problems.

- The move is aimed at giving the necessary collateral-free liquidity at reasonable interest rates to the aviation industry.
- The ECLGS was launched as part of the Rs 20 lakh crore Covid-19 relief package called the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The scheme aimed to provide Rs 3 lakh crore worth of collateral-free, government-guaranteed loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India to mitigate the distress caused by the coronavirus-induced lockdown.
- The loans under ECLGS provide a 100 percent guarantee to lending institutions in respect of the credit facility extended by them under the scheme to eligible borrowers.

66. (a)

[SOL] About Commodity Fetishism

- Introduced in the first chapter of Karl Marx's most ambitious project, Das Kapital, or Capital: A Critique of Political Economy,

- He applied his analysis of commodities in capitalism to society as a whole through the concept of commodity fetishism.
- The term describes how the **social relationships of production and exchange among people** take the **form of relationships between things** (money and commodities) **under capitalism**.
- The term fetishism in anthropology refers to the **belief among indigenous cultures of inanimate objects** (such as totems) possessing godly or mystical powers.
- Marx separates the religious connotation of the term and uses it to understand **how commodities possess mystical powers** once in the market as it severs ties with the production process.

67. (c)

[SOL] **'One Nation, One Fertilizer' scheme**

- **About:**
 - Under the scheme, all fertiliser companies, State Trading Entities (STEs) and Fertiliser Marketing Entities (FMEs) will be required to use a single "Bharat" brand for fertilisers and logo under the PMBJP. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - The new "Bharat" brand name and PMBJP logo will cover two-thirds of the front of the fertiliser packet.
 - The manufacturing brands can only display their name, logo, and other information on the remaining one-third space. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- **Significance of the scheme:**
 - **Standardisation:**
 - This will standardise fertiliser brands across the nation irrespective of the company that manufactures it.
 - **Affordability:**
 - Scheme will ensure affordable quality fertiliser of Bharat brand to the farmers.
 - This scheme will result in reduction of the cost of fertilisers and increase their availability.
 - **Stopping urea diversion:**
 - It will also stop the diversion of urea for industrial purposes. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

68. (a)

[SOL] Recently, Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud was appointed as the 50th Chief Justice of India.

Statement 1 is correct: The Chief Justice of India and the other judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Indian Constitution.

Statement 2 is correct: A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting.

- With the address in the same session presented to the President for removal on one of the two grounds:
 - Proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

Statement 3 is not correct: The more than two decades-old collegium system is followed in the appointment of judges, consisting of five senior most judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

- The term “collegium” is not mentioned in the constitution, which only speaks of consultation by the President.

69. (a)

[SOL] Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- **About:**
 - The report is produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
 - The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is an international measure of acute multidimensional poverty covering over 100 developing countries.
- **Report indicators:**
 - The global MPI constructs a deprivation profile of each household and person through **10 indicators spanning health, education and standard of living.**
- **Calculating multidimensionally poor:**
 - The global MPI identifies people as multidimensionally poor if their deprivation score is 1/3 or higher.
 - The MPI is calculated by multiplying the incidence of poverty and the average intensity of poverty. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - The MPI ranges from 0 to 1, and higher values imply higher poverty.

70. (b)

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) is a statutory market committee constituted by a State Government in respect of trade in certain notified agricultural or horticultural or livestock products, under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act issued by that state government.

Statement 2 is correct: NABARD was established on the recommendations of B. Sivaraman Committee. NABARD is a development bank focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country. It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development. Its headquarter is located in Mumbai, the country’s financial capital. It was established in 1982 during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

71. (d)

[SOL] Union minister for Railways recently launched India's first all-aluminium freight rail rakes.

- **Characteristics:**
 - The rakes are 180 tonnes lighter than existing steel rakes. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
 - They can carry 5-10% more payload.
 - They consume less energy and are corrosion-resistant. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
 - They are 100% recyclable and even after 30 years, they will be as good as new. **Hence option 3 is correct.**
- **Significance of using Aluminium:**
 - Aluminium trains command a lion's share in the **United States, Europe and Japan.**
 - This is because of its attributes such as **sleek, aerodynamic designs.**
 - They also have an ability to tilt at high speeds without going off the rails.
 - Aluminium is the preferred choice for metro trains worldwide for their durability and most importantly – **passenger safety**, as it has improved crashworthiness or **superior crash absorption capability.** **Hence option 4 is correct.**
 - Indian Railways have already announced their plans to make **aluminium bodied Vande Bharat train sets.**

72. (a)

[SOL] Recently, Global leaders **pledged \$2.5 billion for polio eradication** at the World Health Summit.

Statement 1 is correct: Polio is a highly infectious disease, caused by the virus which multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and can cause paralysis. It is endemic in just two countries – Pakistan and Afghanistan. However, after just six cases were recorded in 2021, 29 cases have been recorded so far this year, including a small number of new detections in southeast Africa linked to a strain originating in Pakistan.

India was declared polio-free in January 2014, after three years of zero cases.

The eradication was the result of a successful Pulse Polio campaign.

Statement 2 is not correct: The virus is **transmitted by person-to-person**, mainly through the faecal-oral route or less frequently, by a common vehicle (contaminated water or food). Because the virus lives in the faeces of an infected person, people infected with the disease can spread it to others when they do not wash their hands well after defecating.

73. (a)

[SOL] Second India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD)

- **About:**
 - India-Africa Defence Dialogue was held on the sidelines of **DefExpo 2022** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- **Theme:**
 - The theme of the second India-Africa defence dialogue was:
 - **“Adopting strategies for synergising and strengthening defence and security cooperation”**. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- **Gandhinagar Declaration:**
 - Gandhinagar Declaration was adopted to enhance cooperation in the fields of training & military exercises. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Africa India Field Training Exercise:**
 - The next edition of the Africa India Field Training Exercise will be held in the first quarter of next year.
 - The last edition was held in 2019. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
 - India has held African partners, set up Defence training institutions and extended help for counter-insurgency training.

74. (a)

[SOL] Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs under the chairmanship of Prime Minister approved the **increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** for all mandated rabi crops for marketing season 2023-24.

Statement 1 is correct: MSPs are usually announced at the beginning of the sowing season.

Statement 2 is not correct: Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.

The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and two other commercial crops.

Statement 3 is correct: MSP is fixed on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

75. (d)

[SOL] Both the statements are not correct: The most abundant isotope of carbon in the atmosphere is C-12.

- A very small amount of C-14 is also present.
- **The ratio of C-12 to C-14 in the atmosphere is almost static.**
- Plants get their carbon through **photosynthesis**; animals get it mainly through food. Because plants and animals get their carbon from the atmosphere, they too acquire C-12 and C-14 in roughly the same proportion as is available in the atmosphere.
- When they die, their **interactions with the atmosphere stop.**
- **While C-12 is stable, the radioactive C-14 reduces to one half of itself in about 5,730 years known as its ‘half-life’.**
- **Carbon dating cannot be applied in all circumstances.**
- **It cannot be used to determine the age of non-living things like rocks, for example.**
 - Also, the age of things that are **more than 40,000-50,000 years old** cannot be arrived at through carbon dating.

- This is because after 8-10 cycles of half-lives, the amount of C-14 becomes almost very small and is almost undetectable.

76. (a)

[SOL] **Indian Edge**

- Prime Minister launched 'Indian Edge', an e-magazine on fertilizer.
- It will provide information on domestic and international fertilizer scenarios, including
 - recent developments,
 - price trends analysis,
 - availability and consumption, and
 - success stories of farmers among others.

77. (b)

[SOL] Recently, the Government of India unveiled the draft National Credit Framework (NCrF) to enable the **integration of academic and vocational domains**.

Statement 1 is not correct: National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes ensuring universal access to school education at all levels- pre-school to secondary. The policy has emphasized mother tongue/local language/regional language as the medium of instruction **at least till Grade 5**, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond. Sanskrit to be offered at all levels of school and higher education as an option for students, including in the three-language formula. Other classical languages and literature of India also to be available as options. No language will be imposed on any student.

Statement 2 is correct: NEP 2020 aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education including vocational education from 26.3% (2018) to **50% by 2035**. 3.5 Crore new seats will be added to Higher education institutions.

Statement 3 is not correct: The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in the Education sector to reach **6% of GDP** at the earliest.

78. (c)

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

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

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

79. (a)

[SOL] Recently, China once again **blocked proposals by India and the United States (US)** to designate Pakistan-based terrorists on the UN Security Council's 1267 list of terror entities.

Statement 1 is correct: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an international watchdog for financial crimes such as money laundering and terror financing. The intergovernmental organisation was established at the G7 Summit of 1989 in Paris. The aim is to address loopholes in the global financial system after member countries raised concerns about growing money laundering activities.

Statement 2 is not correct: The FATF currently comprises 39 members (37 member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations), representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe). **India is a member country.** The decision-making body of the FATF, known as its plenary, meets thrice a year. Its meetings are attended by 206 countries of the global network, including members, and observer organisations, such as the World Bank, some offices of the United Nations, and regional development banks.

80. (d)

[SOL] **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**

- The LAC is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory. **Hence statement (a) is correct.**
- For India, the LAC is 3,488 km long, while China considers it to be only around 2,000 km.
- **It is divided into three sectors:**
 - the eastern sector which includes Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim,
 - the middle sector in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and
 - the western sector in Ladakh.
- LAC in the eastern sector consisting of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim is called the McMahon Line which is 1,140 km long. **Hence statement (b) is correct.**
- **Difference between LoC with Pakistan and LAC with China:**
 - The Line of Control (LoC) is delineated on a map signed by DGMOs of both armies and has the international sanctity of a legal agreement.
 - In contrast, The LAC is only a concept, it is not agreed upon by the two countries, neither delineated on a map or demarcated on the ground. **Hence statement (c) is correct.**

81. (a)

[SOL] **The positive indigenisation list:**

- The positive indigenisation list essentially lists items that the armed forces – Army, Navy, and Air Force – will procure only from domestic manufacturers. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- These manufacturers could be from the private sector or Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It lays special focus on equipment/systems, which are being developed and likely to translate into firm orders in the **next five to 10 years.**
 - The Defence Ministry has till now promulgated four Positive Indigenisation Lists.
- The items on the lists **cannot be imported by the Services** and should be sourced from within the country.

82. (c)

[SOL] Res Judicata is a phrase which has evolved from a Latin maxim, which stands for 'the thing has been judged', meaning thereby that the issue before the court has already been decided by another court, between the same parties.

- The principle of res judicata applies when a **litigant attempts to file a subsequent lawsuit on the same matter**, after having received a judgment in a previous case involving the same parties.
- Res Judicata as a concept is applicable both in **case of Civil as well as Criminal legal system**.

83. (c)

[SOL] The city of Hyderabad has bagged the prestigious 'World Green City Award 2022' beating Paris, Bogota, Mexico City, Montreal, and Fortaleza in Brazil. Additionally, the city has also won 'Living Green for Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth' at the **International Association of Horticulture Producers (AIPH) 2022** held in Jeju, South Korea. The award is given for the city as the global leader in nature-oriented approaches to city design, form and function. Hyderabad is the only Indian city that was selected for the 'World Green City 2022,' **award**, the best across all six categories.

84. (d)

[SOL] GM Mustard

GM Mustard is also called **DMH-11**.

The Indian variety of GM Mustard was conceived in 2022.

In DMH-11 mustard, developed by Deepak Pental and colleagues in the South Campus of the University of Delhi, genetic modification allows cross-pollination in a crop that self-pollinates in nature.

85. (c)

[SOL] Deesa airfield:

- The foundation stone for the Deesa airfield in Gujarat which will be a **forward Air Force base** was also unveiled. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
 - Forward airforce base would add to the security architecture of the country.
- Spread over an area of 4,519 acres and 130 km from the Indo-Pak border, Deesa is a greenfield air base.
- It is expected to be operational by 2024. **Hence statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

Gujarat has four operational air bases in Vadodara, Jamnagar, Bhuj and Naliya in the Kutch district.

86. (c)

[SOL] Recently, Maharashtra Government restored general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate cases in Maharashtra.

Statement 1 is correct: Unlike the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is governed by its

own NIA Act and has jurisdiction across the country, the CBI is governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act. CBI must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government concerned before beginning to investigate a crime in a state.

Statement 2 is correct: The CBI was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

87. (d)

[SOL] Lothal was one of the **southernmost sites of the Indus Valley civilization (IVC).**

- The port city is believed to have been **built in 2,200 BC.** (The southernmost site of the Indus Valley Civilisation is Daimabad in Maharashtra.) **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was **located in the Bhāl region** of what is now the state of Gujarat.
- Lothal was a major trading center of the Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC).
- It was a **symbol of India's maritime power and prosperity**, as its trade of beads, gems and ornaments reached West Asia and Africa.
- Lothal was nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in April 2014 but its application is pending on the tentative list of UNESCO. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

88. (d)

[SOL] Both the statements are not correct: **Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:**

- Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were set up as government-sponsored, regional based rural lending institutions under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.
- The RRBs were established as per the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee to cater to the rural credit needs of the farming and other rural communities.
- The Prathama Grameen Bank was the first bank to be established on 02nd October 1975. The Syndicate Bank became the first commercial bank to sponsor the Prathama Grameen Bank RRB
- **Operation:**
 - Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are government owned scheduled commercial banks of India that operate at regional level in different states of India.
 - The area of operation is limited to the area notified by the government of India covering, and it covers one or more districts in the State.
 - Ownership
 - The equity of the Regional Rural Banks is held by the stakeholders in a fixed proportion. This proportion is 50:35:15, distributed as:
 - Central Government – 50%
 - Sponsor Bank – 35%
 - State Government – 15%

89. (c)

[SOL] About Great Indian Bustards

- **Science Name:** Ardeotis nigriceps

- It is one of the rarest birds in the world and is the State bird of Rajasthan
- Its population of about 150 in Rajasthan accounts for **95% of its total world population.**
- **Habitat:** It inhabits **arid and semi-arid grasslands** with scattered short scrub, bushes and low intensity cultivation in flat or gently undulating terrain.
 - Birds congregate in traditional less disturbed grassland patches to breed during mid-summer and monsoon.
- **Conservation Efforts:** It is listed as **Critically Endangered** because it has an extremely small population that has undergone an extremely rapid decline owing to a multitude of threats including habitat loss and degradation, hunting and direct disturbance.
 - It is listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby, according to its highest degree of legal protection from hunting.

90. (b)

[SOL] Recently, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global watchdog on terror financing and money laundering **removed Pakistan from its grey list.**

- Pakistan has been on the FATF grey list continuously since June 2018.

About Financial Action Task Force

- It is an inter-governmental decision-making body. **It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris** to develop policies against money laundering and its Secretariat is located in Paris.
- **India became an Observer at FATF in 2006.** Since then, it has been working towards full-fledged membership. On June 25, 2010, **India was taken in as the 34th country member of FATF.**
- **Functions:**
 - Bring national legislative and regulatory reforms in money laundering and efforts to stop funding for weapons of mass destruction.
 - Review money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and continuously strengthen its standards to address new risks, such as the regulation of virtual assets, which have spread as cryptocurrencies gain popularity.
 - Monitor countries to ensure they implement the FATF Standards fully and effectively and hold countries to account that do not comply with the standards.
- **FATF Lists:**
 - **Black List:** Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put on the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

■ Enlisted nations: North Korea and Iran.

- **Grey List:** Countries that are considered a safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

91. (a)

[SOL] **The International Court of Justice:**

- The International Court of Justice, also known as the World Court.
- It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- **Role and Responsibilities:**
 - The Court settles legal disputes submitted to it by States, in accordance with international law.
 - It also gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred by authorised UN organs and specialised agencies.
 - Judgments in disputes between States are binding.
 - The Court decides disputes between countries, based on the voluntary participation of the States concerned. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - If a State agrees to participate in a proceeding, it is obligated to comply with the Court's decision.

The International Criminal Court:

- Unlike the International Court of Justice, which hears disputes between states, the ICC handles prosecutions of individuals. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The ICC can also put individuals under trial who have been accused of committing international crimes.

92. (c)

[SOL] The United States (US) is considering retrieving **older HAWK air defence equipment** from storage to send to Ukraine.

- The HAWK interceptor missiles would be an **upgrade to the Stinger missile system**, which is a smaller, shorter-range air defence system.

HAWK

- HAWK, short for '**Homing All the Way Killer**',
- It entered service with the US Army in 1959, during the Vietnam war.
- It is an American **medium-range surface-to-air missile**.
- It underwent upgrades over the decades that followed, including a major one in 1971 that produced the so-called **I-HAWK** (or improved HAWK), with a kill probability of 85%.
- The HAWK system was the **predecessor to the PATRIOT missile defence system** that Raytheon built in the 1990s.
- US forces largely stopped using HAWK from the early years of the new century.

93. (c)

[SOL] Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) heaviest rocket **Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3 or GSLV Mark 3)** has successfully orbited 36 satellites of **U.K.-based One Web**.

- The launch is also the first for LVM3-M2 to place the satellites in the **Low Earth Orbit** (up to 1,200 km above the earth) unlike **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**.

About LVM3-M2/One Web India-1

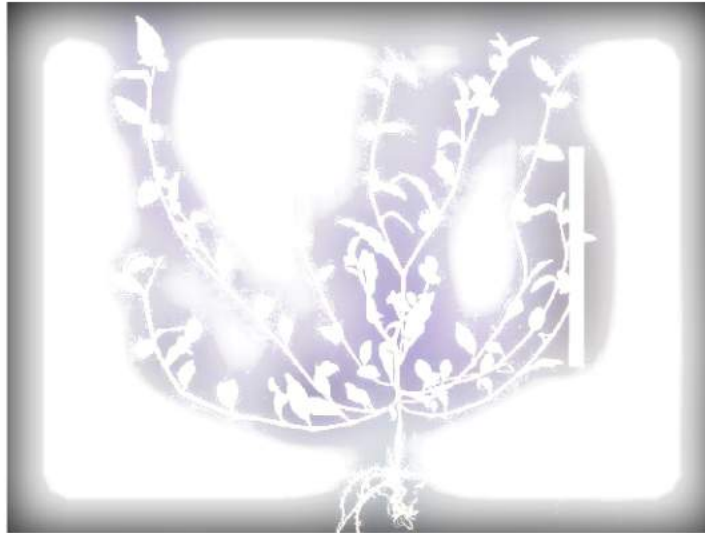
- **LVM3-M2 is the dedicated commercial satellite mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).**
 - It is a **Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the Department of Space, Government of India.
- **Specifications:**
 - **LVM3-M2 is a three-stage launch vehicle** consisting of two solid propellant S200 strap-ons on its sides and core stage comprising L110 liquid stage and C25 cryogenic stage.
 - **The 43.5 metre LVM3 weighing around 644 tonnes** carried 36 satellites weighing 5,796 kg or about 5.7 tonnes.
 - With this launch, LVM3 has made its **entry into the global commercial launch service market**.
- **Significance:**
 - The mission will enable the company to start **offering satellite broadband services in the country by 2023**.
 - provide high-speed internet services in remote areas, where **terrestrial networks cannot be set up** — middle of the ocean, the **Himalayas (even on top of Mount Everest)**.

94. (c)

[SOL] Recently, a plant spotted in **Palakkad** is the second species of the **genus Allmania**.

- It is an **annual herb** that **grows to a height of about 60 cm**.

About Allmania Multiflora



- **Background:**
 - The first species, **Allmania nodiflora**, was originally published under the genus **Celosia** as **Celosia nodiflora** in 1753.
 - Specimens found in **Ceylon (Sri Lanka)** were first described as **Allmania nodiflora** in 1834.
- **Location:**
 - The plant is spotted on the **granite hillocks of Palakkad**.
- **Scientific name:**
 - **Allmania multiflora**.
- **Characteristics:**
 - It is found at **heights ranging between 1,000 to 1,250 metres**.
 - It is an **annual herb, erect, with branches** arising from the base.
 - **The stem is red to violet** at the base and green above.
 - **Flowering and fruiting** occurs from **May to September**.
 - It has been so named for having a **higher number of florets within an inflorescence**.
- **IUCN Status:**
 - **Critically Endangered** in IUCN Red List criteria.
- **Threats:**
 - Its **population is quite small**.
 - It could be **accidentally exploited** by local people as a **vegetable along with amaranths**.

95. (b)

[SOL] Aparigraha

- Aparigraha or Non-possession is a philosophy that holds that no one or anything possesses anything.
- In Jainism, aparigraha is the virtue of non-possessiveness, non-grasping or non-greediness.
 - Aparigraha is not only renunciation but also controlling all kinds of attachments.
- This particular iteration of aparigraha is distinct because it is a component of Gandhiji's active non-violent resistance to social problems permeating India.

96. (a)

[SOL] More about the news

- The Nalanda University(NU) has recently offered '**Bay of Bengal: An Introduction**' as a certificate course via online classes. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
 - **About the course:**
 - The three-week course will include lectures from experts on
 - Navigation, fisheries,
 - Track-II policies and
 - Culture of countries involved with Bay of Bengal
 - India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, China, USA, France, Germany, UK, Japan and Korea.
- **Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies:**
 - PM Modi had also announced during the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit** in Kathmandu, that the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies would be established at NU. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - CBS (Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies) will conduct research on new fields as well as the historical and spiritual connections in order to assure connectedness through links and increase understanding of the bay and the broader Indo-Pacific region.

97. (b)

[SOL] Recently, several Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders asked the government to put pictures of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh on currency notes in order to bring “prosperity” to the country.

- Changes in the design and form of bank notes and coins are decided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the central government.
 - Changes in the design of coins are the prerogative of the central government.
- Any change in design of a currency note has to be approved by the RBI’s Central Board and the central government.
- The central bank internally works out a design, which is put before the RBI’s Central Board.
- Section 22 of The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, gives RBI the “sole right” to issue banknotes in India.
- Section 25 states that “the design, form, and material of bank notes shall be such as may be approved by the Central Government after consideration of the recommendations made by the [RBI’s] Central Board”.
- The Coinage Act, 2011 gives the central government the power to design and mint coins in various denominations.

98. (c)

[SOL] Būta Kōlā, also referred to as **daiva kōlā or nēmā**, is an **animistic ritual dance performance prevalent** among Hindus of Tulu Nadu and parts of Malenadu of Karnataka and Kasargod in northern Kerala, India.

- The dance is highly stylized and held in honor of the **local deities worshiped by the Tulu speaking population**.
- Bhoota kōlā is closely related to Theyyam of neighbouring **Malayalam-speaking populations**.
- It is typically an annual ritual performance where local spirits or deities (bhūtas, daivas) are being channelised by ritual specialists from certain scheduled castes such as the Nalike, Pambada, or Parawa communities.
- Būtas and daivas are not worshiped on a daily basis like mainstream Hindu gods.
- Their worship is restricted to annual ritual festivals, though daily pūjās may be conducted for the ritual objects, ornaments, and other paraphernalia of the būta.
- Unlike with the better-known Hindu gods of the purāṇic variety, būta worship is congregational.

- This performer is feared and respected in the community and is believed to give answers to people's problems on behalf of the spirit.
- Bhootada Kola is said to have some influence from Yakshagana, a more popular and widely performed folk dance in coastal Karnataka.

99. (a)

[SOL] Recently, **Minicoy Thundi beach and Kadmat beach**, located in Lakshadweep, have received the International eco-label 'Blue Flag'.

About Blue Flag Certification Programme

- Started in **France** in 1985 and in areas outside of Europe in 2001.
- Globally recognised eco-label accorded on the basis of **33 stringent criteria** in four major heads which are:-
 - Environmental education and information,
 - Bathing water quality,
 - Environmental management and
 - Conservation and safety and services in the beaches.
- The certification is awarded to the cleanest beaches in the world by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).
- It is accorded by the **international jury** composed of eminent members -
 - United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP),
 - United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO),
 - Denmark-based NGO Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- **Indian beaches in the Blue List:**
 - Shivrajpur-Gujarat,
 - Ghoghla-Diu,
 - Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka,
 - Kappad-Kerala,
 - Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh,
 - Golden-Odisha,
 - Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar,
 - Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and
 - Eden in Pondicherry.
 - With the new additions, the number of beaches certified under the Blue Flag Certification is **twelve (12)**.

100. (d)

[SOL] Glyphosate is an herbicide. It is applied to the leaves of plants to kill both broadleaf plants and grasses. The sodium salt form of glyphosate is used to regulate plant growth and ripen

specific crops.

- **Glyphosate and its formulations are widely registered and currently used in more than 160 countries**, including the EU and the USA. Farmers across the globe have been using it for safe and effective weed control for over 40 years.
- Its usage became popular in the country after the **illegal cultivation of Ht BT cotton started**. It is mainly used in tea plantations to control the growth of unwanted plants. It is also used in non-crop areas to prevent plant growth.

Risk Factors of using Glyphosate

- Glyphosate is being banned because of its potential link to cancer in humans, as well as potentially causing the death of important insects, such as bees. Biologists have sounded the alarm over the serious decline in insect populations that affect species diversity.

101. (c)

[SOL] Kanishka:

- **About:**
 - Kanishka is considered to be the greatest king of the Kushan dynasty that ruled over the northern part of the Indian subcontinent, Afghanistan, and possibly areas of Central Asia north of the Kashmir region.
 - He is, however, chiefly remembered as a great patron of Buddhism. **Hence statement (a) is correct.**
- **Shaka Era:**
 - The year 78 marks the beginning of the Shaka era, a system of dating that Kaniska might have initiated. **Hence statement (b) is correct.**

Kadaphises:

- It was the Kushan emperor, Vima Kadaphises who introduced the **first gold coins of India**. **Hence statement (c) is incorrect.**
 - The **Double Dinar** can be considered as the first gold coin of the Indian subcontinent.
- He introduced gold and copper coins, a large number of them have survived till today.

102. (c)

[SOL] The Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022

- Recently the government released the draft of “**The Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022**”.
 - In the draft government proposes **significant changes like**
 - Provisions for waiving off dues for financially stressed operators,
 - Bringing over-the-top (OTT) platforms within the ambit of telecom services that require a licence to operate, and
 - Provisions for message interception in case of public emergency.
 - **Hence statements 2 and 3 are correct.**
- **Major issues:**
 - **Diluting TRAI’s powers:**
 - The concerns were regarding the possible dilution of powers of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in the proposed telecom policy. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
 - **Making TRAI subservient to the government:**
 - Bill undermines the regulator, by proposing to “take away the TRAI’s statutory independence, and seeks to make it subservient to the government”.
 - For example, the Bill proposed to remove provisions for referencing and back-referencing recommendations between the DoT and the TRAI.
 - The Bill also proposed to amend clauses that gave the regulator power to notify tariffs at which telecom services are to be offered.

103. (a)

[SOL] About the President’s Bodyguard

- The **President’s Bodyguard (PBG)** is the **oldest regiment in the Indian Army**, having been raised as the **Governor-General’s Bodyguard** (later the Viceroy’s Bodyguard) in 1773. The regiment was **raised in Banaras (Varanasi) by the then Governor-General, Warren Hastings.**
- It had an initial **strength of 50 handpicked cavalry troopers** from the so-called **Moghal Horse**, which was raised by two local sardars in 1760, and was later augmented by another 50 horsemen.
- On January 27, 1950, the regiment was renamed the **President’s Bodyguard.**

Silver Trumpet and Banner

- As the President of India’s own Guard, it has the unique distinction of being the only military unit of the Indian Army that is privileged to carry the President’s Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner.
- This distinction was conferred on the **President’s Bodyguard in 1923 by the then Viceroy, Lord Reading**, on the occasion of the **Bodyguard completing 150 years of**

service. Each succeeding Viceroy, thereafter, presented the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the Bodyguard.

- Every President has continued the practice of honouring the regiment. **Dr Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, presented the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the President's Bodyguard on May 14, 1957.**

104. (b)

[SOL] The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working on a **series of improvements** to the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).

Statement 1 is not correct: NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) is an Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS). It is a constellation of seven satellites that is akin to the American GPS, the European Galileo and the Russian GLONASS, and can be used to track location. It covers the Indian mainland (primary coverage area) and a region extending up to 1,500 km beyond the mainland with plans of extension.

Statement 2 is correct: Currently, NavIC satellites orbit earth in a geostationary or geosynchronous (GEO) orbit, or about 36,000 km from earth. IRNSS has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits. Currently, NavIC is only compatible with the L5 and S bands and hasn't easily penetrated into the civilian sector.

105. (c)

[SOL] SAMADHAN doctrine:

- It is the **one-stop solution for the Left-wing Extremism(LWE) problem**. It encompasses the entire strategy of government from short-term policy to long-term policy formulated at different levels. SAMADHAN stands for-
 - **S**- Smart Leadership,
 - **A**- Aggressive Strategy,
 - **M**- Motivation and Training,
 - **A**- Actionable Intelligence,
 - **D**- Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas),
 - **H**- Harnessing Technology,
 - **A**- Action plan for each Theatre,
 - **N**- No access to Financing.zs

106. (d)

[SOL] About Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)

- **About:**
 - It was passed in 1967.
 - The Act provides special procedures to deal with terrorist activities, among other things.
- **Aim:**
 - It is aimed at “more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations for dealing with terrorist activities”.
- **Power to central government:**
 - The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
 - The provisions of this Act apply also to –
 - (a) citizens of India outside India;
 - (b) persons in the service of the Government, wherever they may be; and
 - (c) persons on ships and aircrafts, registered in India, wherever they may be. **Hence all the options are correct.**

107. (b)

[SOL] Recently, speakers of Tulu and Kodava have opposed the **draft of the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Bill, 2022**.

Statement 1 is not correct: Kodava Takke is a language in the **Dravidian** group. It is the original language of the Kodagu district in Southern Karnataka. It has no separate script and is traditionally written using the Kannada script. According to the 2001 census, Kodava takke is spoken by just 166,187 people.

Statement 2 is correct: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has classified Kodava Takke Language as an Endangered Language.

108. (b)

[SOL] **Office of Profit**

- 'Office of profit' is not defined in the Constitution. However, based on past judgments, the Election Commission has noted five below tests for what constitutes an office of profit:
 - Whether the government makes the appointment
 - Whether the government has the right to remove or dismiss the holder.
 - Whether the government pays remuneration.
 - What the functions of the holder are.
 - Does the government exercise any control?
 - over the performance of these functions.
- MPs and MLAs, as members of the legislature, hold the government accountable for its work. The essence of disqualification under the office of profit law is if legislators hold an 'office of profit' under the government, they might be susceptible to government influence, and may not discharge their constitutional mandate fairly.
- The intent is that there should be no conflict between the duties and interests of an elected member. Hence, the office of profit law simply seeks to enforce a **basic feature of the Constitution- the principle of separation of power between the legislature and the executive.**

What Does the Constitution Say about the Office of Profit?

- Under the provisions of **Article 102 (1) and Article 191 (1) of the Constitution**, an MP or an MLA (or an MLC) is barred from holding any office of profit under the central or state government.
- The Constitution specifies that the number of ministers including the **Chief Minister has to be within 15% of the total number of members** of the assembly (10% in the case of Delhi, which is a union territory with legislature)

109. (c)

[SOL]

Statement 1 is correct. Polavaram Project is in Andhra Pradesh but its reservoir spreads in parts of Chhattisgarh and Orissa too.

Statement 2 is not correct. It is situated on Godavari River.

Statement 3 is correct. Polavaram Project is a multipurpose dam project. Irrigation, electricity generation and drinking water supply are other objectives of Polavaram Dam. The project was started in 2008, accorded national status in 2014 in the Andhra Pradesh Bifurcation Act.

110. (c)

[SOL] Autosomal DNA technique

- It is a term used in **genetic genealogy** to describe **DNA that is inherited from the autosomal chromosomes**.
- An autosome is **any of the numbered chromosomes**, as opposed to the sex chromosomes. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The autosomal DNA technique can be used even **when very limited genetic data are available**.
- Autosomal DNA tests can be used to confirm relationships with a **high level of accuracy for parent/child relationships** and all relationships up to the second cousin level. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - For all relationships additional **contextual and genealogical** information is required to confirm the nature of the relationship.

111. (b)

[SOL] Presidential form of government:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In this, the President is directly elected by the people or the electoral college.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The President does not have nominal powers.
 - He is both the head of the executive and the head of the state.
 - As the head of the executive, he has a ceremonial position.
 - As the head of the government, he acts as the chief real executive.
 - Thus, the Presidential system is characterized by a single executive concept.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Prime Minister in the Parliamentary form of government can dissolve the lower house but the President in the Presidential form of government cannot dissolve its lower house.

112. (d)

[SOL] Curcumin compound is a **yellow pigment found primarily in turmeric**. It is a **polyphenol** with **anti-inflammatory properties** and the ability to increase the amount of antioxidants that the body produces. Research revealed that **Curcumin offers immunity in dairy cattle against infectious diseases including mastitis** by increasing complementary protein, Interferon, Immunoglobulin (IgM), lymphocytes and

monocytes. The compound will create appropriate immunity and facilitate **increased milk production by 10 percent.**

About Kalanamak Rice

- Kalanamak is a traditional variety of paddy with black husk and strong fragrance, which is considered a gift from Lord Buddha to the people of Sravasti when he visited the region after enlightenment.
- It has high salt content and overshadows basmati due to its agronomic potential.
- It is grown in 11 districts of the Terai region of northeastern Uttar Pradesh and in Nepal.
- The traditional Kalanamak rice is protected under the Geographical Indication (GI) tag system. It's recorded in the GI application that Lord Budhha gifted Kalanamak paddy to the people of Sravasti so that they remembered him by its fragrance.

113. (a)

[SOL] Kerala Governor and the State government have **major differences over multiple issues.**
Statement 1 is correct: Article 164 provides that the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor; and the other Ministers are appointed by the Governor on the CM's advice.

It adds that Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.

Statement 2 is not correct: Article 310 of Indian Constitution says every person in the defence or civil service of the Union holds office during the pleasure of the President, and every member of the civil service in the States holds office during the pleasure of the **Governor.**

114. (b)

[SOL] Recently, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a "**pay equity policy**", saying that its **centrally-contracted men and women players** would get the same match fees.

Explanation

Statement 1 is not correct: The 2022 Global Gender Gap Index was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF). According to the WEF, it is the longest-standing index, which tracks progress towards closing gender gaps over time since its inception in 2006. The Global Gender Gap Index benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions:

- Economic Participation and Opportunity,
- Educational Attainment,
- Health and Survival, and
- Political Empowerment.

Statement 2 is correct: The 2022 Global Gender Gap Index ranks India at 135 out of 146 countries. In 2021, India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries. In 2022, India's overall score has improved from 0.625 (in 2021) to 0.629.