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APRIL, 2022

1. With reference to State of World Population Report, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual flagship publication of the World Bank.
2. It highlights emerging issues in the field of sexual and reproductive health & rights.

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

2. World Energy Transitions Outlook is released by which organization?

- (a) International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- (b) World Energy Council
- (c) Energy Foundation
- (d) Sustainable Energy for All

3. Armed Forces (Special) Powers Act (AFSPA) is in force in which of the following states?

1. Assam
2. Manipur
3. Nagaland
4. Punjab
5. Chhattisgarh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding Mullaperiyar dam

1. It is built on the Krishna River.
2. It is situated in the Eastern Ghats, adjacent to Periyar wildlife sanctuary.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

5. Wright Mons Volcano recently seen in the news ,it is related to which of the following ?

- (a) Mars
- (b) Jupiter
- (c) Pluto
- (d) Saturn

6. With reference to the Balance of Payments (BoP) Account, consider the following statements:

- 1. All Transfer payments are part of the capital account of the BoP.
- 2. The Indian rupee is fully convertible in both the current account and the capital account for all transactions.

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

7. With reference to Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) , consider the following statements:

- 1. It was formulated on the basis of recommendations made by the Santhanam Committee and KV Kamath Committee .
- 2. It is a World Economic Forum assisted Central Sector Scheme.
- 3. It supports various COVID Resilience and Recovery Interventions of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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

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

8. With reference to Olive Ridley Turtles, consider the following statements:
1. They are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
 2. They are found in only the Pacific and Indian oceans.
 3. They are recognized as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red list.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1,2 and 3
9. With reference to Coal in India, consider the following statements:
1. There are no coal reserves in the state of Karnataka.
 2. Dhanbad district is considered as the coal capital of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
10. With reference to the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), consider the following statements:
1. The Films Division is tasked with organising National Film Awards.
 2. The National Film Heritage Mission aiming at digitisation and restoration of films and documentaries will now be implemented by NFDC.

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

11. Which of the statements is /are correct regarding Antarctica ?
1. The temperature in the middle of Antarctica is much colder than the temperature on the coasts.
 2. It has no trees or bushes.
 3. Himadri is the permanent research base station in Antarctica.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) 1 and 3 only
12. 'Digital Form J' recently seen in the news, it is related to which of the following?
- (a) Income Tax
 - (b) Agricultural produce
 - (c) School Education
 - (d) Conservation of Biodiversity
13. Consider the following statements:
1. The Governor is the constitutional head of the state.
 2. The President of India acts as the executive head of the union territory.
- 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. Arrange the following places from the West to East direction
1. Kalapani
 2. Limpiyadhura
 3. Lipulekh

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

15. Endosulfan, frequently seen in the news, is:

- (a) a fertiliser
- (b) an insecticide
- (c) a drug for diabetes
- (d) a herbicide

16. With reference to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), consider the following statements:

- 1. It was established by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1988.
- 2. It provides governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.
- 3. It does not itself engage in scientific research.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

17. With reference to Look Out Circular (LOC), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is issued to stop absconding individuals from leaving the country.
- 2. It is mostly used at immigration checkpoints at international airports and seaports.
- 3. It can only be initiated by an officer not below the rank of deputy secretary.
- 4. can not be modified by the Bureau of Immigration .

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

18. Consider the following statements

1. Capital punishment in India is a legal penalty.
2. The Indian Penal Code in accordance with the provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India provided for awarding of capital punishment for certain specific offences.

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

19. India conducts a joint military exercise named “Mitra Shakti” with which country?

- (a) Thailand
- (b) Nepal
- (b) Bangladesh
- (d) Sri Lanka

20. With reference to Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), consider the following statements:

1. Digi Yatra initiative is making use of FRT to make air travel easier.
2. Variation in light intensity majorly affects the quality of FRT.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. With reference to Stand Up India Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote entrepreneurship among all the economically marginalized people.
2. It facilitates bank loans between 1 lakh and 1 crore.
3. Loans under the scheme are available for only greenfield projects.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

22. “The Renke commission” sometimes seen in the news, is related?

- (a) To look after atomic energy activities.
- (b) To recommend ways to improve cattle condition.
- (c) To protect and promote the interests of women.
- (d) To identify and list the DNT communities.

23. Which of the following countries border Ukraine?

1. Belarus
2. Moldova
3. Russia
4. Poland
5. Hungary
6. China
7. Kazakhstan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (b) 4, 5, 6 and 7
- (c) 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

24. Which of the following is correct regarding the Land for Life Award?
- (a) It is an award programme of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
 - (b) It is given to most diverse changemakers engaged in land restoration and conservation through exemplary and innovative initiatives.
 - (c) It is conferred every year to the most deserving organisation in the field of Conservation of Nature.
 - (d) None of the above

25. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the given statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
26. Which of the following are features of the Electoral Bonds Scheme?
1. The State Bank of India (SBI) and Reserve bank of India have been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds .
 2. Electoral Bonds will be issued in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 100,000 and Rs 1 crore .
 3. Electoral Bonds shall be valid for fifteen calendar days from the date of issue.
 4. The electoral bonds will not bear the name of the donor.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

27. Which of the following assistance is /are provided by Asian Development Bank (ADB) to its members?

1. Loans
2. Technical assistance
3. Grants
4. Equity investments

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

28. With reference to Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal (SYL), consider the following statements

1. In 1982, then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi launched the construction of the SYL Canal.
2. The canal once completed will enable sharing of the waters of the rivers Ravi and Beas.
3. Water is a state subject but the Union Government has the power for regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys.

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

29. What do you understand by the term Countercyclical capital buffer?

- (a) A decrease in the value of an asset over time due to wear and tear.
- (b) The policy of a government by which it adjusts the tax rates and spending levels to influence the national economy.
- (c) It is an account that a bank holds on behalf of another bank. The funds in this account are for foreign counterparts.
- (d) It is part of Basel-III norms and is calculated as a fixed percentage of a bank's risk-weighted loan book.

30. Which of the following countries are part of Five Eyes Alliance?

1. United States
2. United Kingdom
3. Australia
4. Canada
5. New Zealand
6. India
7. South Korea

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 only
- (c) 1, 4, 6 and 7 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

31. With reference to 'palm oil' consider the following statements:

1. The palm oil tree is native to Southeast Asia.
2. The palm oil can be used to produce biodiesel.
3. Indonesia is currently India's top supplier of palm oil.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

32. With reference to National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), consider the following statements

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. Special focus will be on the Northeast region and the Lakshadweep Islands.
3. The proposed scheme will subsume the current National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm programme.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

33. With reference to Indian Tent Turtle, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is primarily a riverine turtle, inhabiting small and large rivers.
- 2. Its preferred habitats are freshwater rivers and swamps.
- 3. IUCN Red Lists classifies it as Vulnerable.
- 4. It is listed in Schedule –I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 .

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

34. Ganoderma lucidum recently seen in the news ,it is related to

- (a) Algae
- (b) Fungus
- (c) Bacteria
- (d) Virus

35. With reference to the Indian Polity, consider the following statements:

- 1. Adjournment motion is introduced in both the houses of the Parliament.
- 2. Adjournment motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.
- 3. A no-confidence motion can be moved only in Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. With reference to Nipah virus (NiV), consider the following statements:

1. Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are the natural host of Nipah virus.
2. Nipah virus was first recognized in 1999 during an outbreak among pig farmers in Malaysia.
3. Human-to-human transmission of the Nipah virus has not been reported yet .
4. There are currently no drugs or vaccines specific for Nipah virus infection .

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

1. BRICS nations have adopted the Brasilia Declaration.
2. New Development Bank (NDB) and Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) are the outcomes of the Johannesburg Declaration.
3. The first summit of BRICS took place in Brazil in 2009.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

38. Recently, the RBI has introduced the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF), consider the following statements regarding it

1. It is a new tool for absorbing liquidity without any collateral.
2. The SDF will replace the fixed rate reverse repo as the floor of the Liquidity adjustment facility corridor.

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 New guidelines to banks on Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act rules, consider the following statements

1. It is mandatory for all NGOs to receive foreign funds in a designated bank account at the Reserve Bank of India's New Delhi branch.
2. Foreign contributions can now be received through banking channels or in cash.

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. With reference to the Sinatra Doctrine, consider the following statements:

1. It is the policy of non-interference in the internal policies of other countries.
2. Its implementation and popularization were part of new political thinking by Mikhail Gorbachev.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. Consider the following statements:

1. He is believed to be the first Hindu to start an orphanage for unfortunate children.
2. He along with his followers formed the Satyashodhak Samaj.
3. His well-known books include Gulamgiri and Shetkarayacha Aasud.

Which of the following social reformers has been referred to here?

- (a) Dayanand Saraswati
- (b) Debendranath Tagore
- (c) Jyotiba Phule
- (d) Gopal Ganesh Agarkar

42. Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are given in which of the following categories ?

1. Music
2. Dance
3. Theatre
4. Puppetry

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

43. With reference to Political parties, consider the following statements:

1. Recognition as a State or National Party can be done if the conditions mentioned under Representation of People's Act are fulfilled.
2. A political party recognised in 4 or more states becomes eligible to be known as National Party.

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. With reference to Dhrupad, consider the following statements:

1. It is associated with Carnatic Music.
2. Dhrupad is traditionally performed by women.
3. Instruments like tanpura are used in it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 323A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative Tribunals with respect to conditions of service of persons appointed to public services.
2. The provision for Tribunals was added by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act.

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. With reference to HELINA Missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is a third generation fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system.
2. It is mounted on the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
3. It has all weather day and night capability.
4. A variant of the HELINA Weapon System called DHRUVASTRA is being inducted into the Indian Navy.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

47. With reference to State Energy and Climate Index , consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. The States have been categorised based on size and geographical differences as larger and smaller States and UTs.
3. The index is based on 2019–20 data.
4. Gujarat, Kerala, and Punjab have been ranked as the top three performers in the category of smaller states.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

48. With reference to “Learning Poverty”, consider the following statements

1. Learning Poverty means being unable to read and understand a short, age-appropriate text by age 10.
2. Learning Poverty is higher for boys than for girls in India.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given

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

50. With reference to Deputy Speaker, consider the following statements:

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

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

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

51. Which of the following are covered under the National Monetisation Pipeline?

- 1. Roads
- 2. Railways
- 3. Power
- 4. Oil & gas pipelines
- 5. Telecom

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

52. Which of the following are eligible to vote at the election to the Office of President of India ?

- 1. Elected members of both Houses of Parliament
- 2. Nominated Members of either Houses of Parliament
- 3. Elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all the States .

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

53. Which organization releases the “Global Wind Report”?
- (a) Global Wind Energy Council
 - (b) Wind Energy Association
 - (c) International Renewable Energy Agency
 - (d) European Renewable Energy Council
54. With reference to Zonal Councils, consider the following statements
1. The idea of creation of Zonal Councils was mooted by the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
 2. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.
 3. It looks after the matter concerning border disputes also.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
55. With reference to Jallian Wala Bagh massacre, consider the following statements:
1. Reginald Dyer had ordered the massacre.
 2. Passing of the Rowlatt Act was an important event immediately preceding the massacre.
 3. People were protesting at Jallian Wala Bagh because of the arrest of Saifuddin Kitchlew and Satyapal.
- 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
56. Recently, Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani were in the news as zones of conflict between India and which other country?
- (a) Maldives
 - (b) Pakistan
 - (c) Bhutan
 - (d) Nepal

57. With reference to latest OXFAM's report: First Crisis, Then Catastrophe, consider the following statements:

1. The estimates are based on the projections by World Economic Forum(WEF).
2. The World Bank defines extreme poverty as living on less than \$1.90 per day.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

58. Which of the following are priority areas of cooperation of East Asia Summit (EAS)

1. Environment and Energy
2. Education
3. Finance
4. Natural disaster management
5. Pandemic diseases

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

59. India's first Persian newspaper "Mirat-ul-Akhbar" was started by?

- (a) Raja Rammohun Roy
- (b) Fardaonji Murzban
- (c) Shishir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh.
- (d) Ferozeshah Mehta

60. With reference to Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
2. It is proposed to develop the Panchayati Raj System across India in the rural areas.
3. It will include institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist.

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. With reference to Vaquita porpoise, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the world's smallest cetacean and the most endangered marine mammal.
- 2. It only lives in Mexico's upper Gulf of California.
- 3. It has been listed under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List as Vulnerable.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

62. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Festival</i>	-	<i>State</i>
1. Bihu	-	Assam
2. Pohela Boishakh	-	West Bengal
3. Puthandu	-	Tamil Nadu

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

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

63. Grammy Awards recently seen in the news ,it is related to

- (a) Sports
- (b) Music
- (c) Acting
- (d) Literature

64. With reference to Solomon Islands, consider the following statements:

1. It is part of the ethnically Melanesian group of islands in the Indian Ocean .
2. It lies between Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.
3. It became independent in 1978 to become a constitutional monarchy under the British Crown, with a parliamentary system of government.

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

65. Which of the following are Literary Works of B. R. Ambedkar?

1. Pakistan or the Partition of India
2. The Buddha and His Dhamma
3. Administration and Finance of the East India Company
4. Discovery of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

66. Consider the following statements regarding Chennakeshava temple

1. It is a 12th-century Hindu temple in Tamil Nadu.
2. Chennakesava is a form of the Hindu god Shiva.
3. The temple artwork depicts pictorial narration of Hindu texts such as the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Puranas through numerous friezes.

Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

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

67. Which of the following are included in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)?

1. Stroke
2. Cancer
3. Diabetes
4. Heart disease

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

68. Arrange the following countries surrounding Black Sea in clockwise order.

1. Ukraine
2. Georgia
3. Romania
4. Bulgaria
5. Turkey
6. Russia

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

69. With reference to Oil bonds, consider the following statements

1. It is a kind of promissory note issued by the government.
2. They are issued by the government to compensate Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to offset losses that they suffer to shield consumers from rising crude prices.
3. These bonds qualify as statutory liquidity ratio securities making them highly liquid when compared to other government securities.

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

70. Which of the following are Beneficiaries of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) ?

- 1. Children below 16 years
- 2. Pregnant and lactating women
- 3. Women in the age group of 15-44 years
- 4. Adolescent girls in selected blocks

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

71. Which of the following are Recommendations of the National Cyber Cybersecurity Strategy of India?

- 1. A minimum allocation of 5% of the annual budget has been recommended for cyber security.
- 2. The creation of a 'cyber security services' with cadres chosen from the Indian Engineering Services.
- 3. The setting up exclusive courts to deal with cybercrimes.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

72. With reference to Green Agriculture Project, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is funded by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
- 2. It supports harmonisation between India's agricultural and environmental sector priorities.
- 3. It will act as a lifeline for the Desert National Park (DNP) in Madhya Pradesh .

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

73. The Red Sea is surrounded by which of the following countries?

- 1. Iraq
- 2. Israel
- 3. Jordan
- 4. Egypt
- 5. Sudan
- 6. Yemen

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

74. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Parboiled rice?

- 1. It is a new practice of cultivating rice recently adopted from Brazil.
- 2. It makes rice tougher and increases the nutrient value of the rice.
- 3. It is resistant to insects and fungi.
- 4. It requires less investment than a raw rice milling unit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

75. Consider the following statements:

1. An Environmental Clearance is a long-drawn process that is mandatory for projects beyond a certain size.
2. The process for clearance is outlined by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 2006.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

76. Recently seen in the news, Kodava Takke is related to:

- (a) An ethnolinguistic group in Karnataka
- (b) A festival celebrated in South India
- (c) A language in the Dravidian group
- (d) A group of land-owning people during ancient period

77. Which of the following committees are associated with poverty estimation in India ?

1. Y K Alagh
2. D T Lakdawala
3. Suresh Tendulkar
4. C Rangarajan.
5. KV Kamath

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

78. With reference to Haemophilia , consider the following statements:

1. It is an inherited condition that causes bleeding for a long time after injury.
2. Haemophilia A is more common among all the types.
3. It is caused by a mutation or change in one of the genes.

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

79. With reference to Nitrogen Cycle, consider the following statements:

1. Nitrogen fixation is a process to convert nitrogen gas into inorganic nitrogen compounds.
2. Ammonification also forms a part of steps in the nitrogen cycle.

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. Other things remaining unchanged, market demand for a good might increase if

1. Price of its substitute increases
2. Price of its complement increases
3. The good is an inferior good and income of the consumers increases
4. Its price falls

Which of the given above statements are correct?

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

81. Which of the following Reports are released by the International Monetary Fund(IMF)?

1. World Economic Outlook (WEO)
2. Global Financial Development Report
3. Fiscal Monitor (FM).
4. Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR)
5. Global Gender Gap Report

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

82. With reference to Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate, consider the following statements:

1. It was instituted by State Bank of India (SBI) with effect from April 1, 2016
2. It is the lowest interest rate that a bank or lender can offer.
3. It is applicable to fresh corporate loans and floating rate loans taken before October 2019.

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

83. Recently seen in the news, DSR technique is related to:

- (a) Detecting virus in a computer network
- (b) Sending a broadcast message
- (c) Bettering soil quality
- (d) Seeding of crops

84. With reference to Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill 2022, consider the following statements:

1. It allows details of arrested persons as well as persons detained under any preventive detention law to be taken.
2. It enables both the central government and state government to make rules.

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

85. The “Common Carbon Metric” supported by UNEP, has been developed for

- (a) Assessing the carbon footprint of building operations around the world
- (b) Enabling commercial farming entities around the world to enter carbon emission trading
- (c) Enabling governments to assess the overall carbon footprint caused by their countries
- (d) Assessing the overall carbon foot-print caused by the use of fossil fuels by the world in a unit time

86. What are some of the benefits of the Digital Banking Units?

- 1. The flow of credit will improve in the rural areas.
- 2. This will decrease the manpower requirement.
- 3. For the scheduled banks, they will ensure steady profits.

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

87. With reference to *Ariosoma indicum*, consider the following statements:

- 1. It belongs to the Congrid eels group .
- 2. It is possibly distributed along the Indian coast, including the coastal waters of Kerala and West Bengal.

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. He Born into a humble middle-class family in a small village near the Coastal city of Visakhapatnam. In August 1922, he launched the Rampa Rebellion against the British. He was honoured for his valour and fiery spirit with the title, “Manyam Veerudu” (Hero of the Jungle). Every year, the Government of Andhra Pradesh commemorates his birth date, the 4th of July, as a state festival.

He was

- (a) Birsa Munda
 - (b) Veer Narayan Singh
 - (c) Sidhu Murmu
 - (d) Alluri Sitaram Raju
89. Recently seen in news, Cape Town Convention is related to:
- (a) Aircraft equipments
 - (b) CO2 reduction in response to climate change
 - (c) Solid waste management
 - (d) Curtailment of piracy
90. With reference to “Nidhi Companies”, consider the following statements:
- 1. It is a type of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) registered with RBI.
 - 2. It deals with chit funds, insurance or securities business.
 - 3. It cannot give loans to companies.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
91. With reference to Fincluvation, consider the following statements:
- 1. It aims to mobilize the start-up community for better financial inclusion.
 - 2. It was launched by HDFC and ICICI in partnership with the Government of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

92. With reference to Cosmos Malabaricus project, consider the following statements:

1. It is being jointly implemented by India and England .
2. It is aimed at shedding light on the history of Kerala using 18th Century Dutch documents.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

93. With reference to Smart Cities Mission , consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2015.
2. It has only two focused areas namely construction of walkways and pedestrian crossings.

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. With reference to the UNSC reforms, which of the following countries belongs to the G4 grouping?

1. France
2. Japan
3. India
4. Mexico

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

95. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true with respect to Andaman islands:

1. Port Blair is located in Middle Andaman.
2. Duncan passage separates South Andaman from Little Andaman.
3. Saddle hill is located in North Andaman.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

96. The IUCN red list classifies 'Gharial' as

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

97. Which of the following moon's are associated with Jupiter?

1. Enceladus
2. Titan
3. Europa
4. Ganymede

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

98. With reference to Wheat procurement system in India , consider the following statements:

1. Wheat is procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI), along with state government agencies (SGAs).
2. The wheat procurement system can be decentralised (DCP) to states only.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

99. With reference to Special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs), consider the following statements:

- 1. They are also known as Blank check companies.
- 2. These companies do not have any operations or revenues.
- 3. The Indian regulatory framework does not allow the creation of these companies.

Which of the given above statements are correct?

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

100. With reference to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005, consider the following statements:

- 1. It provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of skilled work in every financial year to adults in rural areas.
- 2. It comes under the category of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- 3. At least one-third beneficiaries have to be women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

101. Which of the following committees are associated with Panchayati Raj in India?

- 1. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee
- 2. Ashok Mehta Committee

3. L M Singhvi Committee
4. Bimal Jalan committee
5. Raja Chelliah Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

102. Perseverance mission recently seen in the news ,it is related to :

- (a) Jupiter
- (b) Venus
- (c) Mars
- (d) Saturn

103. With reference to the Wheat crop, consider the following statements

1. It is native to Southeast Asia.
2. It is a Kharif crop.
3. Soils with a clay loam and moderate water holding capacity are ideal for wheat cultivation.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

104. With reference to phone tapping, consider the following statements:

1. All interception of phones and emails by the Union home secretary needs to follow the prescribed procedure.
2. In the states, police have the power to tap phones.

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. Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

106. With reference to Seafloor Spreading Theory, consider the following statements:

1. It was propounded by famous geographer Richard Hartshorne.
2. As per the theory, the ocean floor moves from trenches towards the mid-oceanic ridges.

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

107. Recently seen in news, Falkland Islands is located in the:

- (a) South Pacific Ocean
- (b) South Atlantic Ocean
- (c) West of the Strait of Magellan
- (d) None of the above

108. With reference to Kuril Islands, consider the following statements:

1. These are a set of four islands situated between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Indian Ocean .
2. Both Russia and China claim sovereignty over them though the islands have been under Russian control since the end of World War II.

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. With reference to Pranahita river, consider the following statements:

1. It is a perennial river that provides sufficient water and food for wild creatures
2. It is a tributary of Godavari river.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

110. With reference to the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), consider the following statements:

1. Under this, every Indian citizen will have unique health IDs, digitised health records with identifiers for doctors and health facilities.
2. The initiative is implemented by respective states under the National Health Mission.

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. With reference to Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), consider the following statements:

1. It is a rare condition in which a person's immune system attacks the peripheral nerves.
2. It is preceded only by bacterial infection.
3. People of all ages can be affected.

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

112. With reference to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, consider the following statements:

1. It grants citizenship only to Hindus and Sikhs from Afghanistan and Bangladesh who had arrived in India before December 31, 2014.
2. It does not apply to tribal areas of Tripura, Mizoram, Assam and Meghalaya

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

113. Recently, the “Boom and Bust report” was in the news. It is released by which organisation?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) World Economic Forum
- (c) Global Energy Monitor
- (d) The International Atomic Energy Agency

114. With reference to PM CARES Fund, consider the following statements

1. It comes under the State fund under Article 12 of the Constitution of India.
2. The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions.
3. Donations to the Fund would qualify for exemption under the Income Tax Act but will not qualify as Corporate Social Responsibility.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

115. Consider the following statements:

1. The term 'secular' was added to the Preamble in the 44th Constitutional Amendment.
2. The freedom of religion is guaranteed to aliens also.

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

116. With reference to Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme .
2. It facilitates working capital loan up to 10,000 at subsidised rate of interest
3. It is available only for beneficiaries belonging to North Eastern States.

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

117. With reference to Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), consider the following statements:

1. It is a 3 stage Launch Vehicle configured with three Solid Propulsion Stages.
2. It can carry satellites weighing a maximum 500 kg to low orbit.
3. It has flexibility in accommodating multiple satellites.

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

118. With reference to Civil Registration System in India, consider the following statements

1. Registration of births, deaths and stillbirths is mandatory in India.
2. Activities of registration and implementation of the statute are vested with the Registrar General of India solely.
3. The Civil Registration System has been linked to the National Population Register.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

119. Consider the following statements

1. The Collegium System is prescribed in the constitution.
2. It consists of the Chief Justice of India with two senior most judges.
3. National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014 was brought to replace commission.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

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

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

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

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

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

121. With reference to Malcha Mahal, consider the following statements:

1. It was built by Sher Shah Suri.
2. It is located in Delhi.
3. It is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and UNESCO.

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

122. With reference to Chipko movement, consider the following statements:

1. It was a forest conservation movement in India which created a precedent for starting non-violent protest in India.
2. It began in 1973 in Jammu and Kashmir.
3. The support for the movement came mainly from the womenfolk.

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

123. Consider the following statements with respect to Section 144 of CrPC:

1. It empowers the Superintendent of district police to issue orders to prevent any untoward incident.
2. The immediate relief against the order lies with the Sessions Judge of the district.

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

124. With reference to Raisina dialogue, consider the following statements :

1. Its primary objective is denuclearise the world.
2. It is co-hosted by the Center for Policy Research (CPR) along with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

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

125. With reference to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), consider the following statements:

1. It is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents.
2. It derives its powers from the National Cyber Security Policy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

126. With reference to Ebola virus disease (EVD), consider the following statements:

1. Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are natural Ebola virus hosts.
2. Human to human transmission is not possible .
3. It first appeared in 1976 in the United States of America(USA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

127. With reference to Index of Eight Core Industries(IIP) , consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the Ministry of Finance (MoF).
2. Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the IIP.
3. The base year has been revised to 2011-12 from 2004-05 in alignment with the new series of IIP.

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

128. Consider the following statements with respect to National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP):

1. It is a Central sector scheme with an objective of increasing area and productivity under Oilseeds and Oil Palm.
2. The scheme subsumed the erstwhile National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

129. With reference to Hatti community, consider the following statements

1. It is a Scheduled Tribe from Uttarakhand.
2. They follow Khumbli which is a traditional council despite the establishment of the panchayat system.

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

130. Which of the following have been accorded legal status in India?

1. Sukhna Lake
2. Nature
3. All animals, birds, aquatic life in state of Haryana
4. River Yamuna

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Explanation

1. [ANS] b

[SOL] Context : Recently, the UN Population Fund 's annual State of World Population Report 2022 was released.

Statement 1 is not correct: The State of World Population report is United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)'s annual flagship publication. It has been published yearly since 1978.

Statement 2 is correct: It shines a light on emerging issues in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, bringing them into the mainstream and exploring the challenges and opportunities they present for international development. In its annual State of World Population Report 2022 released, the fund said over 60% of unintended pregnancies end in abortion and an estimated 45% of abortions are unsafe, causing 5% to 13% of maternal deaths. The report is titled as -"Seeing the Unseen: The case for action in the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy".

2. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : IRENA launched the World Energy Transitions Outlook 2022 at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue.

- World Energy Transitions Outlook outlines priority actions till 2030 to keep 1.5°C alive.
- Aim: It calls on governments to fast-track energy transition for more energy security, resilience and affordable energy for all.
- Goals: The Outlook sets out priority areas and actions based on available technologies that must be realised by 2030 to achieve net zero emissions by mid-century.
 - Renewables will have to scale-up massively across all sectors from 14 percent of total energy today to around 40 per cent in 2030.
 - Global annual additions of renewable power will triple by 2030 as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

3. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Recently ,The Union Home Ministry has considerably reduced the “disturbed areas” under the Armed Forces (Special) Powers Act (AFSPA) in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. AFSPA remains in force in parts of these three states as well as in parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

- The order, effective from April 1, would be applicable for six months.
 - AFSPA was enacted by the Parliament and approved by the President in 1958.
 - It confers certain special powers on members of the Armed Forces (military forces, air forces operating on the ground as land forces and any other armed forces of the Union (CRPF, BSF, ITBP etc) for carrying out proactive operations against the insurgents in a

highly hostile environment.

- They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area.

4. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : The Supreme Court found in the Dam Safety Act of 2021 a panacea to end the “perennial” legal battle between Tamil Nadu and Kerala over the Mullaperiyar dam.]

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct : Mullaperiyar dam was built in 1895 on the Periyar River in the Idukki district of Kerala.

- It is situated high up in the Western Ghats, adjacent to Kerala’s famed Periyar wildlife sanctuary.
- Mullaperiyar is listed among the world’s big dams that need to be decommissioned in a report by the UN University – Institute for Water, Environment and Health.
 - It has been stated that the Mullaperiyar dam, situated in a seismically active area, faces the risk of failure.
 - The ageing of large dams is an emerging global development issue as they pose threats to human safety and the environment.
- Decommissioning Mullaperiyar is strongly opposed by Tamil Nadu state, which inherited a lease agreement between the former princely state of Travancore (now Kerala) and the British government.
 - The matter is still subjudice in the Supreme Court.

5. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Pluto has a giant ice volcano like Wright Mons that could hint at the possibility of life.

- It was spotted on the surface of Pluto by the New Horizons spacecraft in July 2015.
- It was informally named by the New Horizons team in honour of the Wright brothers.
- It is about 150km across its base and has a central depression (a hole) 40-50km wide, with a floor at least as low as the surrounding terrain.
- It rises 4-5km above its surroundings.
- Its volume exceeds 20 thousand cubic kilometres.

6. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The Current Account records exports and imports in goods, trade in services and transfer payments and the Capital account records all international

purchases and sales of assets such as money, stocks, bonds, etc. It includes foreign investments and loans. Capital receipts and payments are part of the Capital account not of the current account.

Statement 2 is not correct: Rupee convertibility is the ease with which the rupee can be converted into another currency at the market exchange rate. It is of two types, one is Capital Account Convertibility and the other is Current Account Convertibility. Capital Account Convertibility means the freedom to convert rupee into any foreign currency (Euro, Dollar, Yen, Renminbi etc.) and foreign currency back into rupee for capital account transactions. Current Account Convertibility allows free inflows and outflows of foreign currency for all-purpose including resident Indians buying foreign goods and services (imports), Indians selling foreign goods and services (exports), Indians receiving and sending remittances, accessing foreign currency for travel, study abroad, medical tourism purpose etc. The Indian rupee is fully convertible only in the current account and partial in the capital account.

7. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister approved a USD 808 million or Rs 6,062.45 crore, World Bank assisted programme on “Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance” (RAMP).

Statements 1,2 and 3 are not correct : RAMP was formulated and proposed by the Government of India, for strengthening MSMEs in line with the recommendations made by U K Sinha Committee, KV Kamath Committee and Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC).

- RAMP is a World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme, supporting various COVID Resilience and Recovery Interventions of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

8. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News :As a record number of 4.92 lakh Olive Ridley turtles have crawled to the Rushikulya coast in Odisha, scientists have tagged more than 6,000 turtles to gather more information about their breeding behaviour and migration.

Statements 1 and 3 are correct : The Olive ridley turtles are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world. The species is recognized as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red list.

- International trade in these turtles and their products is banned under CITES Appendix
- They are carnivores, and feed mainly on jellyfish, shrimp, snails, crabs, molluscs and a variety of fish and their eggs.

Statement 2 is not correct : They are inhabiting warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. These turtles spend their entire lives in the ocean, and migrate thousands of kilometres between feeding and mating grounds in the course of a year.

9. [ANS] c

[SOL] The ongoing high coal prices are set to increase input prices for independent power producers and power distribution companies.

Statement 1 is correct: There are no coal reserves in Karnataka. Only following states have presence of coal reserves:

- Jharkhand
- Odisha
- Chhattisgarh
- West Bengal
- Madhya Pradesh
- Telangana
- Maharashtra
- Andhra Pradesh
- Bihar
- Uttar Pradesh
- Meghalaya
- Assam
- Nagaland
- Sikkim
- Arunachal Pradesh

Statement 2 is correct: Coal deposits are found in Dhanbad, a city known as the "capital of coal," and the nearby Jharia mines.

10. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) notified that India's several film bodies will be part of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).

Statement 1 is not correct: Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) was established in 1973. It is tasked with cultural exchange, promoting Indian cinema worldwide, organising the National Film Awards and Dadasaheb Phalke Awards, the Mumbai International Film Festival, and the International Film Festival of India in Goa. All of this will now be part of NFDC's mandate under

its Promotion Vertical, with which DFF employees will be attached on a temporary basis.

Statement 2 is correct: The National Film Heritage Mission aiming at digitisation and restoration of films and documentaries will now be implemented by NFDC.

11. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : The government introduced the 'Antarctica Bill' in the Lok Sabha .

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : Antarctica is a continent. It is Earth's fifth largest continent. Antarctica is covered in ice. Antarctica covers Earth's South Pole.

Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth. The temperature in the winter is cold enough to freeze water all the time. The temperature in the middle of Antarctica is much colder than the temperature on the coasts.

- Antarctica has two seasons: summer and winter. Earth is tilted in space and the direction of tilt never changes. During summer, Antarctica is on the side of Earth tilted toward the sun. It is always sunny. In winter, Antarctica is on the side of Earth tilted away from the sun. Then, the continent is always dark.
- Antarctica has no trees or bushes. The only plants that can live in a place that is cold are moss and algae.

Statement 3 is not correct : Since 1981, India has completed 40 scientific expeditions and built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica — Dakshin Gangotri (1983), Maitri (1988) and Bharati (2012).

- India has successfully launched the 41st scientific expedition to Antarctica with the arrival of the first batch of its contingent at southern Antarctica.
- Dakshin Gangotri was established in 1983 over the Ice Shelf in the Central Dronning Maud Land region.
 - The station was abandoned in 1990 as it got buried under snow.
 - Currently, Maitri and Bharati are fully operational.

12. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : The Punjab Mandi Board has decided to send a 'digital form J' on the WhatsApp number of farmers from this Rabi procurement season.

- 'J form' is the sale receipt of a farmer's agricultural produce in mandis (grain market).
- These forms were earlier issued manually by arthiyas (commission agents) because in Punjab, a majority of farmers sell their crops through such agents only.
 - Several arthiyas had the habit of keeping these forms with themselves, instead of providing it to the farmers, which was their right.

- But by getting digitised J form, farmers will now have a clear record of the crop sold and income received in lieu of that and it will save their time as well, ensuring that they do not need to run to arthiyas to get copies of their sale.
- The move, aimed at bringing transparency as well as empowering farmers, will make Punjab the first state in the country to provide 56 digitised form J in real time.

13. [ANS] c

[SOL] In Context: Recently, the Punjab Assembly passed a resolution reiterating the state's claim on Chandigarh.

Statement 1 is correct: The executive power of the State shall be vested in the Governor and shall be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with the Constitution of India (Article 154). The Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal (Article 155). The Governor is the constitutional head of the state.

Statement 2 is correct: Every Union territory shall be administered by the President acting, to such extent as he thinks fit, through an administrator to be appointed by him with such designation as he may specify. The President of India is the executive head of the union territory.

14. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, India and Nepal signed key pacts on connectivity and energy.

- Correct order from West to East direction is:

Limpiyadhura->kalapani->Lipulekh

15. [ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct: Endosulfan is a highly toxic insecticide that produces tonic-clonic convulsions, headache, dizziness and ataxia. The toxicity of endosulfan is well known on non-target organisms and has been responsible for many severe poisonings, including several fatal cases. It can also cause life threatening metabolic disturbances. The Supreme Court banned the manufacture, sale, use and export of endosulfan throughout India, citing its harmful health effects.

16. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : The 56th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) approved the Summary for PolicyMakers (SPM) of the Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Cycle (AR6 WGIII) titled 'Mitigation of Climate Change'.

Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct : IPCC is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations (UN).

- Established by World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1988

- It provides objective scientific information in order to understand human- induced climate change.
 - It also covers natural, political & economic impacts of these anthropogenic climate changes and possible response options.
- Its main activity is to prepare Assessment Reports, special reports, and methodology reports assessing the state of knowledge of climate change.
 - However, the IPCC does not itself engage in scientific research. Instead, it asks scientists from around the world to go through all the relevant scientific literature related to climate change and draw up the logical conclusions.

17. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Recently ,Delhi High Court sought the Enforcement Directorate's (ED's) response on journalist Rana Ayyub's challenge to its action of restraining her from leaving the country.

- Ayyub was stopped in Mumbai based on a look out circular (LOC) issued by the ED, which is investigating her in a case of alleged money laundering.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct :An Look Out Circular (LOC), is issued to make sure that an individual who is absconding or wanted by law enforcement agencies is not able to leave the country. It is mostly used at immigration checkpoints at international airports and seaports by the immigration branch. In certain cases, the police can approach a court asking for the restriction of a person's movement outside the country, when that person is a suspect and there is an apprehension that they may not join the investigation at a later stage. The subject of an LOC can challenge the circular and get relief from a court.

Statements 3 and 4 are not correct :An LOC can be initiated by a large number of authorised officers, including an officer not below the rank of deputy secretary, an officer not below the rank of joint secretary in the state government, a district magistrate or superintendent of police, designated officers of various law enforcing and security agencies, a designated officer of Interpol, an officer not below the rank of additional director in the Serious Fraud Investigation Office, and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

- In 2018, the government also empowered the heads of public sector banks to directly request the authorities to issue an LOC against wilful defaulters to prevent them from leaving the country.
 - So now, an officer not below the rank of chairman/managing director/chief executive of any public sector bank can make a request.
- An LOC can be modified/deleted/withdrawn by the Bureau of Immigration only on the specific request of the authorised originator on whose request the LOC was issued.

18. [ANS] c

[SOL] The Supreme Court has suo motu opened a review of the process by which courts award the death penalty.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Death penalty or capital punishment is the highest degree of punishment that can be awarded to an individual under any penal law in force in any part of the world.

- Capital punishment in India is a legal penalty for some crimes under the country's main substantive penal legislation, the Indian Penal Code, as well as other laws.
 - Executions are carried out by hanging.
- There must be a very high degree of fairness in a system that is interested in subjecting individuals to the experience of death row, and ultimately taking lives through the instrumentality of law.
- After 1947, India became a democratic state, and the system of awarding death penalties too changed drastically.
 - The Indian Penal Code in accordance with the provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India provided for awarding of capital punishment for certain specific offences.
- Article 21 of the Constitution: which guarantees to every citizen the fundamental right to life, also expressly states, "no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law."

19. [ANS] d

[SOL] Option d is correct: Exercise Mitra Shakti, based on counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in semi urban terrain is the largest bilateral exercise being undertaken by the Sri Lankan Army and it forms a major part of India and Sri Lanka's growing defence partnership.

20. [ANS] c

[SOL] In Context: Facial Recognition System (FRS) will be implemented in a phased manner.

Statement 1 is correct: Facial recognition System is part of the Digi Yatra initiative of the government for providing passengers seamless and hassle-free experience at airports. It is to be implemented in a phased manner.

Statement 2 is correct: Variations of illuminations could reduce the efficiency of FRS. For moderate levels of lighting of the background, face detection and recognition are much difficult to perform. Variation in illumination can vary the total magnitude of light intensity being reflected back from an object. On the other hand, higher light levels could lead to over-exposure of the face and (partially) undetectable facial patterns.

21. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Recently, the 6th anniversary of the Stand Up India scheme is being celebrated.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Stand Up India scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5th April 2016. The scheme was launched to encourage entrepreneurship at the grassroots level especially for promoting economic empowerment and employment generation among SC, ST and women entrepreneurs.

Statement 2 is correct: The Stand Up India Scheme facilitates bank loans between 10 lakh and 1 crore to at least one scheduled caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe, borrower and at least one woman per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise.

Statement 3 is correct: Loans under the scheme are available for only greenfield projects. GreenField signifies, in this context, the first time venture of the beneficiary in the manufacturing or services or trading sector.

22. [ANS] d

[SOL] A standing committee of Parliament has criticized the functioning of the development programme for denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes.

Option d is correct: The Renke commission aims to identify Denotified Tribes (DNTs).

- These are communities who are the most vulnerable and deprived.
- Denotified tribes (DNTs) are communities that were 'notified' as being 'born criminal' during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871.
 - Nomadic and Semi-nomadic communities are defined as those who move from one place to another rather than living at one place all the time.
- Historically, Nomadic Tribes and De-notified Tribes never had access to private land or home ownership.
- While most DNTs are spread across the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) categories, some DNTs are not covered in any of the SC, ST or OBC categories.
- Many commissions and committees constituted since Independence have referred to the problems of these communities.
 - These include the Criminal Tribes Inquiry Committee, 1947 constituted in the United Provinces.
 - Ananthasayanam Ayyangar Committee in 1949 (based on the report of this committee the Criminal Tribes Act was repealed).
 - Kaka Kalelkar Commission (also called first OBC Commission) constituted in 1953.

- In 1965, an Advisory Committee constituted for revision of the SC and ST list under the chairmanship of B N Lokur referred to denotified tribes.
- The B P Mandal Commission constituted in 1980 also made some recommendations on the issue.

23. [ANS] d

[SOL] More than 300 bodies have been found in a Kyiv suburb called Bucha. The discoveries have drawn comparisons with the killings of civilians in this area during World War II.

- Ukraine is located in eastern Europe.
- Ukraine is bordered by the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov to the south, Russia to the east and north, Belarus to the north, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary to the west, and Romania and Moldova to the south.

24. [ANS] b

[SOL] About 2.5 million saplings have been planted in the past 15 years, with active participation of students and desert dwellers under Familial Forestry was given Land for Life Award in 2021.

The Land for Life Award of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is designed to reward impactful holistic approaches and practices that address the ecological and the social aspects of sustainable land management as a means of achieving land degradation neutrality. It is conferred every two years.

The Land for Life Award is given to most diverse changemakers engaged in land restoration and conservation through exemplary and innovative initiatives. Beyond creating a positive impact on land, past winners have been recognized for their positive influence on individual lives, communities and society at large.

25. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: NATGRID is an ambitious counter terrorism programme. It collects and collates a host of information from government databases including- Tax and Bank account details, Credit card transactions, Visa and Immigration records, Itineraries of Rail and Air travel. The combined data from NATGRID will be made available to 10 Central Intelligence Agencies.

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

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

26. [ANS] d

[SOL] Chief Justice of India N V Ramana has assured petitioners that the Supreme Court will take up for hearing a pending plea challenging the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018.

Statement 1 is not correct : Electoral Bonds Scheme Introduced with the Finance Bill, 2017, the Electoral Bond Scheme was notified on January 29, 2018. The State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorised Branches.

Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct : Electoral Bonds Scheme Introduced with the Finance Bill, 2017, the Electoral Bond Scheme was notified on January 29, 2018.

- Electoral bonds is an instrument through which anyone can donate money to political parties
- It is like a promissory note that may be purchased by a person who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India.
- The bonds are like banknotes that are payable to the bearer on demand and are interest-free
- Any party that is registered under section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and has secured at least one per cent of the votes polled in the most recent General elections or Assembly elections is eligible to receive electoral bonds.
- The electoral bonds will not bear the name of the donor. Thus, the political party might not be aware of the donor's identity.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorised Branches.
- The bonds are sold by the SBI in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore.
- One can purchase these bonds only digitally or through cheques.
- Electoral Bonds shall be valid for fifteen calendar days from the date of issue and no payment is being made to any payee Political Party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period.

27. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Recently, Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022 was released .

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region. Despite the region's many successes, it remains home to a large share of the world's poor: 263 million living on less than \$1.90 a day and 1.1 billion on less than \$3.20 a day. ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.

28. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Haryana Assembly has passed a resolution seeking completion of the Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal (SYL) Canal, bringing back into focus the contentious issue of sharing of river waters between Haryana and Punjab.

- History: In 1982, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi launched the construction of the SYL Canal with a groundbreaking ceremony in Kapoori village in Patiala district.
 - The issue dates back to 1966 at the time of reorganization of Punjab and formation of Haryana.
 - Punjab was opposed to sharing the waters of the two rivers with Haryana, citing riparian principles.
- A stretch of 214 km was to be constructed, out of which 122 km was to cross Punjab and 92 km in Haryana.
 - But the Akalis launched an agitation in the form of Kapoori Morcha against the construction of the canal.
- In July 1985, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and then Akali Dal chief signed an accord agreeing for a new tribunal to assess the water.
- Significance of the Canal: The canal once completed will enable sharing of the waters of the rivers Ravi and Beas between the two states.
- Water is a state subject as per entry 17 of State List with respect to water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power, subject to the provisions of Entry 56 of List 1.”
- Entry 56 of Union List gives power to the Union Government for regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys.

29. [ANS] d

[SOL] The Reserve Bank said it has decided not to activate the countercyclical capital buffer at this point in time as it is not required.

Option d is correct: The RBI had proposed the CCCB for Indian banks in 2015 as part of its Basel-III requirements; it hasn't actually required the CCCB to be maintained, keeping the ratio at zero percent ever since.

- This is based on the RBI's review of the credit-GDP gap, the growth in GNPA, the industry outlook assessment index, interest coverage ratio and other indicators, as part of the first monetary policy of every financial year.
- Following Basel-III norms, central banks specify certain capital adequacy norms for banks in a country.

- The CCCB is a part of such norms and is calculated as a fixed percentage of a bank's risk-weighted loan book.
- The CCCB is supposed to be in the form of equity capital, and if the minimum buffer requirements are breached, capital distribution constraints such as limits on dividends and share buybacks can be imposed on the bank.
- It requires banks to build up a buffer of capital in good times, which may be used to maintain the flow of credit to the real sector in difficult times.
- It achieves the broader macro prudential goal of restricting the banking sector from indiscriminate lending in periods of excess credit growth that have often been associated with the building up of system-wide risk.

30. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Australia, United States and United Kingdom alliance made an announcement to develop hypersonic missiles.

Option d is correct: The Five Eyes is an intelligence-sharing alliance consisting of:

- The US,
- UK,
- Australia,
- Canada &
- New Zealand.

The origins of the Five Eyes can be traced back to WWII.

31. [ANS] b

[SOL] The world's largest producer and exporter of palm oil is facing domestic shortages, leading to price controls and export curbs.

- Statement 1 is not correct: Oil palm trees are native to Africa but were brought to South-East Asia just over 100 years ago as an ornamental tree crop.
- Statement 2 is correct: The palm oil can be used to produce biodiesel. The Indonesian government has, since 2020, made 30% blending of diesel with palm oil mandatory as part of a plan to slash fossil fuel imports.
- Statement 3 is not correct: Indonesia has been India's top supplier of palm oil, though it was overtaken by Malaysia in 2021-22.

32. [ANS] c

[SOL] The world's largest producer and exporter of palm oil is facing domestic shortages, leading to price controls and export curbs.

Option c is correct: It is a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a special focus on the Northeast region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- A financial outlay of Rs.11,040 crore has been made for the scheme, out of which Rs.8,844 crore is the Government of India share and Rs.2,196 crore is State share and this includes the viability gap funding also.
- The Mission hopes to increase oil palm acreage by an additional 6.5 lakh hectares by 2025-26 and grow production of crude palm oil to 11.2 lakh tonnes by 2025-26 and up to 28 lakh tonnes by 2029-30.
- This is the first time the Centre will give oil palm farmers a price assurance, with industry mandated to pay the viability gap funding of 14.3% of crude palm oil prices.
- The proposed scheme will subsume the current National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm programme.

33. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change provided information regarding the Indian Tent Turtle.

Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct: Indian tent turtle (*Pangshura tentoria*) is primarily a riverine turtle, inhabiting small and large rivers; they bask on rocks and tree snags

- Its preferred habitats are freshwater rivers and swamps
- *Pangshura tentoria* is included in CITES Appendix II, allowing international commercial trade in the species, provided such trade is not detrimental to the species, and subject to national trade legislation
- The Indian tent turtle is listed in Schedule –I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and is thereby provided the highest degree of protection.

Statement 3 is not correct: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies it as Least Concern.

34. [ANS] b

[SOL] Attempts are being made to popularise *Ganoderma lucidum* mushroom (fungus) for business and livelihood, by cultivating it on wood logs and sawdust.

- It is a medicinal mushroom in use for centuries to heal diseases like diabetes, cancer, inflammation, ulcer as well as bacterial and skin infections.

- In India, however, the potential of the fungus is still being explored.
- The history of consumption of this mushroom can be traced back to 5,000 years ago in China.
- It also finds mention in the historical and medical records of countries like Japan, Korea, Malaysia and India.
- It thrives well in warm and humid climates, and grows preferably in mixed forests of subtropical to temperate regions.

35. [ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 2 and 3 are correct: Adjournment motion is regarded as an extraordinary device because it interrupts the normal business of the House and needs the support of 50 members to be admitted in the Parliament. It is adopted to draw the attention of the House to a recent matter of urgent public importance having serious consequences. As it involves the element of censure against the government hence Rajya Sabha is not allowed to make use of this option. A no-confidence motion demonstrates to the head of state that the elected Parliament no longer has confidence in the government. In India, the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to Lok Sabha and it remains in office till it enjoys the confidence of majority of the members in the Lok Sabha. Thus, a motion of no-confidence is moved to remove the council of ministers and oust the government from office.

36. [ANS] c

[SOL] Scientists at Pune's Indian Council of Medical Research – National Institute of Virology were able to detect the presence of IgG antibodies against Nipah virus infection (NiV) in 51 bats that were captured from Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct : Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic virus (it is transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people. Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are the natural host of Nipah virus. Nipah virus was first recognized in 1999 during an outbreak among pig farmers in, Malaysia. No new outbreaks have been reported in Malaysia since 1999.

- There are currently no drugs or vaccines specific for Nipah virus infection although WHO has identified Nipah as a priority disease for the WHO Research and Development Blueprint.
- Intensive supportive care is recommended to treat severe respiratory and neurologic complications.

Statement 3 is not correct : Human-to-human transmission of Nipah virus has also been reported among family and caregivers of infected patients.

37. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: The 11th BRICS Summit took place from 13th-14th November 2019 in Brasilia, Brazil. The theme of the 2019 BRICS summit is "Economic Growth for an Innovative Future." BRICS countries adopted the Brasilia Declaration. BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China

and South Africa. In 2001, the British economist, Jim O'Neill, coined the term BRIC to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China.

Statement 2 is not correct: BRICS's New Development Bank and BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement agreements signed in Fortaleza in 2014.

Statement 3 is not correct: The BRICS was officially formed in 2006, originally including Brazil, Russia, India and China. Its first summit took place in Russia in 2009.

38. [ANS] c

[SOL] Unveiling the first bi-monthly monetary policy review of the fiscal 2022-23 the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI decided unanimously to leave the key policy rate unchanged and to remain accommodative.

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: It is a new tool for absorbing liquidity at an interest rate of 3.75 per cent, making the reverse repo almost irrelevant.

- The SDF will replace the fixed rate reverse repo (FRRR) as the floor of the LAF (liquidity adjustment facility) corridor.
- In 2018, the amended Section 17 of the RBI Act empowered the central bank to introduce the SDF as an additional tool for absorbing liquidity without any collateral.
- By removing the binding collateral constraint on the RBI, the SDF strengthens the operating framework of monetary policy.
- The SDF is also a financial stability tool in addition to its role in liquidity management.
- The SDF rate will be 25 bps below the policy rate (Repo rate), and it will be applicable to overnight deposits at this stage.

39. [ANS] d

[SOL] The Supreme Court upheld amendments introducing restrictions in the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) while holding that no one has a fundamental or absolute right to receive foreign contributions.

Both the statements are not correct: State Bank of India's New Delhi branch: A new provision that makes it mandatory for all NGOs to receive foreign funds in a designated bank account at the State Bank of India's New Delhi branch was inserted.

- Designated FCRA account: All NGOs seeking foreign donations have to open a designated FCRA account at the SBI branch.
 - The NGOs can retain their existing FCRA account in any other bank but it will have to be mandatorily linked to the SBI branch in New Delhi.
- Only banking channels allowed: Foreign contribution has to be received only through banking channels and it has to be accounted for in the manner prescribed.

- OCI or PIO: Donations given in Indian rupees by any foreign source including foreigners of Indian origin like OCI or PIO cardholders” should also be treated as foreign contribution.
- Sovereignty and integrity: It requires NGOs to give an undertaking that the acceptance of foreign funds is not likely to prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India or impact friendly relations with any foreign state and does not disrupt communal harmony.

40. [ANS] c

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct. Sinatra Doctrine can be summed up as a policy of non-interference in internal policies of other countries and let them manage the affairs their way. The phrase was coined on 25th October 1989 by the Soviet foreign ministry spokesman, Gennadi Gerasimov.

Statement 2 is correct. The implementation of the doctrine was part of new political thinking by Mikhail Gorbachev. It replaced the Brezhnev doctrine, which was put forth by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in 1968, and called on the Soviet Union to intervene, including militarily, in countries where a socialist rule was under threat.

41. [ANS] c

[SOL] The Prime Minister has paid tribute to the great social reformer, philosopher and writer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on his birth anniversary.

Option c is correct: Jyotirao Govindrao Phule was an Indian writer, social activist, thinker and anti-caste social reformer from Maharashtra.

- He led the movement against the prevailing caste restrictions in India.
- He revolted against the domination of the Brahmins and struggled for the rights of peasants and other low-caste people.
- He is believed to be the first Hindu to start an orphanage for unfortunate children.
- He and his wife, Savitribai Phule, were pioneers of women's education in India.
 - He started his first school for girls in 1848 in Pune at Tatyasaheb Bhide's residence (Bhidewada).
- He, along with his followers, formed the Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth Seekers) to attain equal rights for people from exploited castes.
 - People from all religions and castes could become a part of this association which worked for the upliftment of the oppressed classes
- He is regarded as an important figure in the social reform movement in Maharashtra. He was bestowed with the honorific Mahatma title by Maharashtrian social activist Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar in 1888.
- He was also a reputed author. His well-known books include Gulamgiri (Slavery) and Shetkarayacha Aasud (Cultivator's Whipcord).

42. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Vice-President of India presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2018 and National Awards of Lalit Kala Akademi for the year 2021. Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are national honours bestowed by the government on performing artists as well as teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts. The awards were given out in the categories of music, dance, and theatre. In addition, one category was reserved for traditional, folk, and tribal dance, music, theatre and puppetry.

43. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) replied to the Supreme Court in a PIL against freebies offered by the state parties.

Statement 1 is not correct: Registered political parties, in course of time, can get recognition as 'State Party' or National Party' subject to the fulfilment of the conditions prescribed by the Commission in the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, as amended from time to time.

Statement 2 is correct: If a political party is treated as a recognised political party in four or more States, it shall be known as a 'National Party' throughout the whole of India, but only so long as that political party continues to fulfil thereafter the conditions for recognition in four or more States on the results of any subsequent general election either to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of any State.

44. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Hindustani classical music is primarily vocal-centric. The major vocal forms associated with Hindustani classical music are the khayal, Ghazal, dhrupad, dhammar, tarana and thumri.

Statement 2 is not correct: Dhrupad style of singing is traditionally performed by men.

Statement 3 is correct: Main instruments used are tanpura and pakhawaj. The lyrics sung in Dhrupad are in a mediaeval form of Hindi and typically heroic in theme, or in praise of a particular deity.

45. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct. Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body set up to deal with problems such as resolving administrative or tax-related disputes. Article 323A empowers the parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for adjudicating the disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of a person appointed to public service of centre, states, local bodies, public corporations and other public authority.

Statement 2 is not correct. The provision for Tribunals was added by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act which added two new articles to the constitution.

46. [ANS] b

[SOL] The flight-test was jointly conducted by the teams of scientists from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF).

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : HELINA (Helicopter based NAG) is a third generation fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system mounted on the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).

- The system has all weather day and night capability and can defeat battle tanks with conventional armour as well as explosive reactive armour.
- The HELINA missile can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode.

Statement 4 is not correct : HELINA Weapon Systems is being inducted into the Indian Army (IA).

- A variant of the HELINA Weapon System called DHRUVASTRA is being inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF).

47. [ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct : NITI Aayog has launched the State Energy & Climate Index-Round I.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : The States have been categorised based on size and geographical differences as larger and smaller States and UTs. The index is based on 2019–20 data.

Statement 4 is not correct : Gujarat, Kerala, and Punjab have been ranked as the top three performers in the category of larger states.

- Goa, emerged as the top-performing state in the smaller states category, followed by Tripura, and Manipur.

48. [ANS] c

[SOL] The World Bank's Global Director for Education made concerns over learning losses for children due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for concerted efforts to bridge these gaps.

- Learning Poverty means being unable to read and understand a short, age-appropriate text by age 10.
- All foundational skills are important, but we focus on reading because:
 - Reading proficiency is an easily understood measure of learning
 - Reading is a student's gateway to learning in every other area
 - Reading proficiency can serve as a proxy for foundational learning in other subjects, in the same way that the absence of child stunting is a marker of healthy early childhood development.
- As in most countries, Learning Poverty is higher for boys than for girls in India.

49. [ANS] d

[SOL] Special Drawing Right (SDR) is a kind of reserve of foreign exchange assets comprising leading currencies globally and created by the International Monetary Fund in the year 1969. SDR is often regarded as a 'basket of national currencies' comprising major currencies of the world - US dollar, Euro, British pound sterling, Yen (Japan) & the Chinese renminbi (included in 2016).

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

50. [ANS] b

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

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

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

51. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, The Centre has completed transactions worth Rs 96,000 crore under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) in 2021-22, surpassing the ambitious programme's first-year target of Rs 88,000 crore.

- The pipeline has been developed by NITI Aayog, in consultation with infrastructure line ministries, based on the mandate for 'Asset Monetisation' under Union Budget 2021-22.
- NMP estimates aggregate monetisation potential of Rs 6.0 lakh crores through core assets of the Central Government, over a four-year period, from FY 2022 to FY 2025.
- It aims to unlock value in brownfield projects by engaging the private sector, transferring to them revenue rights and not ownership in the projects, and using the funds generated for infrastructure creation across the country. The top 5 sectors (by estimated value) capture ~83% of the aggregate pipeline value.
 - These top 5 sectors include: Roads (27%) followed by Railways (25%), Power (15%), oil & gas pipelines (8%) and Telecom (6%).
- In terms of annual phasing by value, 15% of assets with an indicative value of Rs 0.88 lakh crore are envisaged to be rolled out in the current financial year (FY 2021-22).

52. [ANS] c

[SOL] The tenure of the current President of India is set to end in July 2022.

- The President is elected by an Electoral College, which consists of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all the States and also of NCT of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry
 - Only elected members of both Houses of Parliament and of the State Legislative Assemblies are members of the Electoral College for Presidential Election. Therefore, nominated members cannot vote in this election.
 - As per Article 55(3) of the Constitution of India, the election of the President shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot

53. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Global Wind Report for 2022 was published by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).

As per the report, New offshore installations in 2022 are likely to decline to the 2019 / 2020 levels, primarily due to the reduction of installations in China. Market growth is expected to regain momentum from 2023, eventually passing the 30GW-mark in 2026. New installations of 93.6 gigawatt (GW) in 2021 brought global cumulative wind energy capacity to 837 GW, a year-on-year (YoY) growth of 12 per cent. More than three times the capacity of offshore wind compared to 2020 was installed. Offshore wind energy generation increases return on investment, along with reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon dioxide emissions can reduce by 0.3-1.61 gigatonnes every year by 2050 if offshore wind energy generation is scaled up.

54. [ANS] c

[SOL] Several inter-state issues will be discussed in the meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council, comprising the states of Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand. The idea of creation of Zonal Councils was mooted by the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1956 when during the course of debate on the report of the States Reorganisation Commission. The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils. Functions Of The Councils:

- Any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning;
- Any matter concerning border disputes, linguistic minorities or inter-State transport;
- Any matter connected with or arising out of, the reorganization of the States under the States Reorganisation Act.

55. [ANS] d

[SOL] PM paid tribute to the brave Indians who died in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on April 13, 1919.

Statement 1 is correct: When Colonel Dyer got to know about the gathering, he reached the venue with around 50 soldiers.

- With a motive to punish civilians for showing "disobedience", Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer arrived at the Jallianwala Bagh and sealed off the exit to ensure nobody could flee the spot. He then ordered the troops to fire into a crowd of thousands of unarmed civilians.

Statement 2 is correct: The British had imposed a draconian Martial Law, banning public gatherings.

- On March 10, 1919, Rowlatt Act (Black Act) was passed, authorising the government to imprison or confine, without a trial, any person found involved in seditious activities.
- The rule led to discontent among Indians.

Statement 3 is correct: Two popular Indian independence activists, Saifuddin Kitchlew and Satyapal, also organised a peaceful protest against the Rowlatt Act in Amritsar.

- On the occasion of Ram Navami on April 9, 1919, an order was issued to arrest the duo.
- In view of the protests, Britishers banned the public gatherings.
- The crowd assembled at Jallian Wala Bagh to peacefully protest at the venue condemning the arrest of these freedom fighters.

56. [ANS] d

[SOL] [In News - The first meeting of Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group (IMCG) on India's neighbourhood outreach was convened.]

- New maps drawn up in 2020 and the Nepalese Constitution amended to show the Indian territories of Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani as belonging to Nepal are some of the other zones of conflict.

57. [ANS] b

[SOL]Context

According to a new report by Oxfam, over a quarter of a billion people will be pushed into poverty in 2022.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Oxfam estimates are based on World Bank projections and earlier research by the World Bank and Centre for Global Development. The report was released ahead of the spring meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Statement 2 is correct: The World Bank defines extreme poverty as living on less than \$1.90 per day.

58. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : Recently, India and Singapore organised an East Asia Summit workshop on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing.

- The East Asia Summit (EAS) process was initiated in 2005 with the convening of the 1st East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At its inception, the East Asia Summit comprised 16 participating countries, namely ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea. The United States and Russian Federation joined at the 6th East Asia Summit in Bali, Indonesia on 19 November 2011.
- The East Asia Summit refers to the Meeting of Heads of States/Governments of the EAS participating countries which is convened annually.
- The East Asia Summit has identified six priority areas of cooperation, namely environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster management, and ASEAN Connectivity. Plans of Actions have been developed to promote cooperation on these priority areas.
- The East Asia Summit also discussed cooperation in other areas and emerging issues such as food security, trade and economics, maritime security and cooperation, and traditional and non-traditional security issues.

59. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : India's first Persian newspaper Mirat-ul-Akhbar was seen in the news

- Raja Rammohun Roy started India's first Persian newspaper the Mirat-ul-Akhbar.
 - An erudite Persian scholar and a tenacious social reformer, he believed in 'searching for the truth through the light of discussion.'
- The newspaper was first published on 12 April 1822.
 - It was published on a weekly basis on Fridays.
- Persian was chosen because it was still recognised in courts, and was seen as a means to reach the intelligentsia, the top policymakers of the country.
 - Rammohan also realised that he could express himself best in a language he was most comfortable with.

60. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the continuation of the revamped RGSA from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2026 to develop governance capabilities of panchayati raj institutions (PRIs).

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) was launched on 24th April 2018 'National Panchayat Day' by Hon'ble Prime Minister, an umbrella scheme of the

Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India. It is a unique scheme proposed to develop and strengthen the Panchayati Raj System across India in the rural areas.

- The scheme of RGSA aims to strengthen capacities of institutions for rural local governance to become more responsive towards local development needs, prepare participatory plans leveraging technology and efficiently utilise available re-sources for realizing sustainable solutions to local problems linked to SDGs.
- RGSA is proposed to be implemented as a core Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for four years viz., from 2018-19 to 2021-22 with State and Central shares. The sharing ratio for the State components will be in the ratio of 60:40 except NE and Hilly States where Central and State Ratio will be 90:10.
- This scheme will extend to all States and UTs of the country and will also include institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist.

61. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : According to the United States Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Vaquita porpoise is nearing extinction and immediate measures are needed to save the remaining population .

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : The vaquita porpoise is the world's smallest cetacean and the most endangered marine mammal.

- It has the smallest range of any whale, dolphin or porpoise, and only lives in a small 1,500 square-mile area in Mexico's upper Gulf of California, near the town of San Felipe.
- It has a rounded head and black patches around its mouth and eyes

Statement 3 is not correct : It has been listed under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List as 'critically endangered'.

62. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : People from the Tamil community celebrated Puthandu on April 14 2022

- Along with Tamilians across the world, many other Indian communities also celebrate their traditional new year around the same time — Vishu in Kerala, Bihu for those in Assam, Baisakhi in Punjab, and Pohela Boishakh in West Bengal.

63. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : The 64th Annual Grammy Awards were held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

- A Grammy Award is any of a series of awards presented each year in the United States by either the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences or the Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences.

- They are meant to recognize spectacular work in the music industry.
 - The name Grammy is an homage to the gramophone and its revolutionary impact on the music industry.

64. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Recently leaked document has revealed that the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific has reached a deal with China which outlines an unprecedented level of security cooperation.

Statement 1 is not correct :The Solomon Islands is part of the ethnically Melanesian group of islands in the Pacific Ocean .

Statement 2 and 3 are correct :It lies between Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

- The islands, which were initially controlled by the British Empire during the colonial era, went through the hands of Germany and Japan and then back to the U.K., after the Americans took over the islands from the Japanese during World War II.
- The islands became independent in 1978 to become a constitutional monarchy under the British Crown, with a parliamentary system of government.

65. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Every year, 14th April is observed as Ambedkar Jayanti to celebrate Dr BR Ambedkar's birthday.

Dr Ambedkar (1891-1956) Born to a Dalit (Hindu Mahar) family of Mhow (now in Madhya Pradesh) on 14th April 1891. Major Literary Works of B. R. Ambedkar are mentioned below :

- The Annihilation of Caste; Pakistan or the Partition of India; The Buddha and His Dhamma; Administration and Finance of the East India Company; What Congress and Gandhi Have Done to the Untouchables; Mooknayak (newspaper).

[The Discovery of India was written by the Indian Independence leader, Jawaharlal Nehru]

66. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News - The historic Chennakeshava temple in Belur continued with its age-old tradition of kicking off the rathotsava (chariot festival) after reciting passages from the Quran

Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect : It is a 12th-century Hindu temple in the Hassan district of Karnataka.

- Chennakeshava Temple is also referred to as Keshava, Kesava or Vijayanarayana Temple.
- Chennakesava is a form of the Hindu god Vishnu.

- It is reverentially described in mediaeval Hindu texts, and remains an important pilgrimage site in Vaishnavism.

Statement 3 is correct : The temple artwork depicts scenes of secular life in the 12th century, dancers and musicians, as well as a pictorial narration of Hindu texts such as the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Puranas through numerous friezes.

- It also includes themes from Shaivism and Shaktism, as well as images of a Jina from Jainism and the Buddha from Buddhism.

67. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News :Recently ,Governments of Ghana and Norway formed the first group to fast-track progress towards reducing NCD deaths .

- Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), including heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung disease, are collectively responsible for almost 70% of all deaths worldwide.
- Almost three quarters of all NCD deaths, and 82% of the 16 million people who died prematurely, or before reaching 70 years of age, occur in low- and middle-income countries.
 - The rise of NCDs has been driven by tobacco, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet, insufficient physical activity, overweight/obesity, raised blood pressure, raised blood sugar and raised cholesterol
 - The epidemic of NCDs poses devastating health consequences for individuals, families and communities, and threatens to overwhelm health systems.

68. [ANS] c

[SOL] Context: The recent sinking of the warship Moskva, the flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, is a serious setback for Russia.

The correct sequence in clockwise order is:

Ukraine -> Russia -> Georgia -> Turkey -> Bulgaria ->Romania

69. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : The Finance Minister has said the government cannot bring down taxes and thus oil prices because it has to pay for oil bonds issued by the UPA.]

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : An oil bond is an IOU, or a promissory note issued by the government to the OMCs, in lieu of cash that the government would have given them so that these companies don't charge the public the full price of fuel.

- When fuel prices were too high for domestic consumers, governments in the past often asked oil marketing companies (OMCs) to avoid charging consumers the full price.
 - But if oil companies don't get paid, they would become unprofitable.

- To address this, the government said it would pay the difference.
- But again, if the government paid that amount in cash, it would have been pointless, because then the government would have had to tax the same people to collect the money to pay the OMCs.
- Oil bonds were issued by several governments in the past.
- Oil bonds are issued by the government to compensate OMCs to offset losses that they suffer to shield consumers from rising crude prices.

Statement 3 is not correct :These bonds do not qualify as statutory liquidity ratio securities, making them less liquid when compared to other government securities.

70. [ANS] d

[SOL] In News : The Maharashtra government has developed a website-based migration tracking system (MTS) application to map the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identity numbers.

- It will maintain the continuity of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- It was launched on 2nd October, 1975 (5th Five year Plan) in pursuance of the National Policy for Children in 33 experimental blocks.
- Now the goal is to universalize ICDS throughout the country.
- The primary responsibility for the implementation of the programme is with the Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resources Development at the Centre and the nodal departments at the state which may be Social Welfare, Rural Development, Tribal Welfare, Health and Family Welfare or Women and Child Development.
- Beneficiaries:
 - Children below 6 years
 - Pregnant and lactating women
 - Women in the age group of 15-44 years
 - Adolescent girls in selected blocks

71. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Indian organisations witnessed a 218% increase in ransomware attacks in 2021, making the nation the tenth most targeted country globally and second after Australia in the Asia-Pacific region.

- Amid a surge in cyberattacks on India's networks, Centre is yet to implement the National Cyber Security Strategy which has been in the works since 2020.

- National Cyber Security Strategy was Conceptualised by the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) .To implement cybersecurity in the above-listed focus areas, the report lists the following recommendations:

- A minimum allocation of 0.25% of the annual budget, which can be raised upto 1% has been recommended to be set aside for cyber security.(Statement 1 is not correct :)
- Furthermore, a national framework should be set in collaboration with institutions like National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and ISEA (Information Security Education and Awareness) to provide global professional certifications in security. DSCI further recommends creating a 'cyber security services' with cadres chosen from the Indian Engineering Services.(Statement 2 is correct)
- Cyber diplomacy plays a huge role in shaping India's global relations.
- The report recommends unburdening the judicial system by creating laws to resolve spamming and fake news.
- It also suggests charting a 5-year roadmap factoring possible technology transformation, setting up exclusive courts to deal with cybercrimes and removing backlog of cybercrimes by increasing centres providing opinion related to digital evidence under section 79A of IT act.(Statement 3 is correct)

72. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : Green agriculture project will add life to Desert National Park (DNP)

Statements 1 and 3 are not correct : Green agriculture project is funded by the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Global Environment Facility.

- It will act as a lifeline for the Desert National Park (DNP) in western Rajasthan with the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes.

Statement 2 is correct : The project aims to catalyse transformative change of India's agricultural sector to support achievement of national and global environmental benefits and conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes.

- It supports harmonisation between India's agricultural and environmental sector priorities.

73. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News - Yemen's Houthis criticised a new U.S.-led task force that will patrol the Red Sea.]

- The Red Sea is a seawater inlet of the Indian Ocean, lying between Africa and Asia.
- Its connection to the ocean is in the south, through the Bab el Mandeb strait and the Gulf of Aden. To its north lie the Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Gulf of Suez (leading to the Suez Canal).

- The sea separates the coasts of Egypt, Sudan, and Eritrea to the west from those of Saudi Arabia and Yemen to the east.
- The Red Sea also has extensive shallow shelves, noted for their marine life and corals.
- The Red Sea was formed by the Arabian Peninsula being split from the Horn of Africa by movement of the Red Sea Rift.
- The Red Sea is one of the saltiest bodies of water in the world, owing to high evaporation and low precipitation; no significant rivers or streams drain into the sea.

74. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : The Centre has said it will stop the purchase of excess parboiled rice, of which Telangana is a major producer.

Statement

Statement 1 is not correct : Parboiling of rice is not a new practice, and has been followed in India since ancient times.

- However, there is no specific definition of parboiled rice of the Food Corporation of India or the Food Ministry.
- It means partly cooked by boiling.
- It refers to rice that has been partially boiled at the paddy stage, before milling.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct : Parboiling makes rice tougher: This reduces the chances of the rice kernel breaking during milling.

- Parboiling also increases the nutrient value of the rice.
- Parboiled rice has a higher resistance to insects and fungi.

Statement 4 is not correct : The rice becomes darker and may smell unpleasant due to prolonged soaking.

- Setting up a parboiling rice milling unit requires a higher investment than a raw rice milling unit.

75. [ANS] c

[SOL] Context

Recently, the Union environment ministry has extended the tenure of environmental clearances (EC) granted for existing or new projects.

Statement 1 is correct: An Environmental Clearance is a long-drawn process that is mandatory for projects beyond a certain size and often involves an environmental impact assessment of a

potential project and sometimes public hearings involving the local populace who might be affected by the project.

Statement 2 is correct: The process for clearance is outlined by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 2006.

76. [ANS] c

[SOL] A book of poems by a veteran Kodagu poet has brought the spotlight on Kodava Takke, an endangered language.

Kodava Takke

- A language in the Dravidian group
- The original language of the Kodagu district in Southern Karnataka
- UNESCO has classified the language as an Endangered Language.
- 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.

77. [ANS] d

[SOL] According to a World Bank working paper, extreme poverty in India dropped to 10.2% in the pre-Covid year of 2019 from as much as 22.5% in 2011 .

- Six official committees have so far estimated the number of people living in poverty in India
 - the working group of 1962
 - V N Dandekar and N Rath in 1971
 - Y K Alagh in 1979
 - D T Lakdawala in 1993
 - Suresh Tendulkar in 2009
 - C Rangarajan in 2014.
 - The government did not take a call on the report of the Rangarajan Committee; therefore, poverty is measured using the Tendulkar poverty line.

78. [ANS] d

[SOL] World Haemophilia Day is marked on 17 April annually, and is dedicated to raising awareness about haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : It is an inherited condition that causes bleeding for a long time after injury or surgery and painful swelling of the joints either after injury or even without injury.

- Haemophilia A – It is a more common type of haemophilia. It is due to deficiency of clotting factor VIII (factor eight).
- Haemophilia B- It is less common, only about 20% of people with haemophilia have haemophilia B.
 - There is a deficiency of clotting factor IX (factor nine) in haemophilia B.
- It is caused by a mutation or change, in one of the genes, that provides instructions for making the clotting factor proteins needed to form a blood clot.
- This change or mutation can prevent the clotting protein from working properly or to be missing altogether. These genes are located on the X chromosome

79. [ANS] c

[SOL] According to a new Report, Nitrogen levels are on a decline in the ‘nitrogen-rich world’ and plants and animals may face consequences.

Statement 1 is correct: Nitrogen fixation, in which nitrogen gas is converted into inorganic nitrogen compounds, is mostly (90 percent) accomplished by certain bacteria and blue-green algae. A much smaller amount of free nitrogen is fixed by abiotic means (e.g., lightning, ultraviolet radiation, electrical equipment) and by conversion to ammonia through the Haber-Bosch process.

Statement 2 is correct: The steps, which are not altogether sequential, fall into the following classifications:

- nitrogen fixation,
- nitrogen assimilation,
- ammonification,
- nitrification, and
- denitrification.

80. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the State of the economy report was released by the RBI.

- Demand is an economic principle referring to a consumer's desire to purchase goods and services and willingness to pay a price for a specific good or service.
- Holding all other factors constant, an increase in the price of a good or service will decrease the quantity demanded, and vice versa.

- Market demand is the total quantity demanded across all consumers in a market for a given good.
- Aggregate demand is the total demand for all goods and services in an economy.
- Multiple stocking strategies are often required to handle demand.
- Demand, along with supply, determines the actual prices of goods and the volume of goods that changes hands in a market.

81. [ANS] b

[SOL] The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its latest World Economic Outlook report, cuts global growth on Ukraine war

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international financial institution,
- Headquartered in Washington, D.C.
- It was formed in 1944, started in 27 December 1945
- Following Reports are released by IMF:
 - World Economic Outlook (WEO),
 - Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR), and
 - Fiscal Monitor (FM).

[Note : Global Financial Development Report released by world bank

The Global Gender Gap Report published by the World Economic Forum.]

82. [ANS] b

[SOL] In News : Recently ,State Bank of India (SBI) raised the marginal cost of funds-based lending rates (MCLR) for the first time in three years, signalling that the soft rates regime that has prevailed since 2019 may be over.

Statement 1 is not correct : It was instituted by RBI with effect from April 1, 2016

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : It is the lowest interest rate that a bank or lender can offer. It is applicable to fresh corporate loans and floating rate loans taken before October 2019.

83. [ANS] d

[SOL] Punjab decided to use an ancient broadcasting technique, Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR), to grow rice this Kharif season.

Option d is correct: Direct seeding of Rice (DSR) is a method under which pre-germinated seeds are directly drilled into the field by a tractor-powered machine.

- DSR is also called the ‘broadcasting seed technique’
- There is no nursery preparation or transplantation involved in this method.
- In this, water is replaced by real chemical herbicides and farmers have to only level their land and give one pre-sowing irrigation.
- The Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) in Ludhiana has developed a ‘Lucky Seed Drill’ that can both sow seeds and simultaneously spray herbicides to control weeds.

84. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the President has given assent to the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022.

Statement 1 is correct: The Bill widens the ambit of such persons whose details can be taken to include all convicts, arrested persons, as well as persons detained under any preventive detention law. Arrested persons will not be obliged to give their biological samples unless they have committed an offence against a woman or a child, or an offence punishable with a minimum of seven years of imprisonment.

Statement 2 is correct: The Act vested rule-making power only in the state government. The Bill extends this power to the central government as well. The central or state government may make rules on various matters, including:

- the manner of collecting details,
- the manner of collection, storage, preservation, destruction, dissemination, and disposal of details by NCRB.

85. [ANS] a

[SOL] NITI Aayog officials met a Finland delegation to discuss the Scandinavian nation’s offerings in the green energy sector in India.

Option a is correct: The purpose of a Common Carbon Metric for buildings is to give the sector that represents 40% of the world’s energy consumption and related 1/3rd of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions a tool that doesn’t exist today a way to measure, report, and verify reductions in a consistent and comparable way.

- With its high share of emissions the building sector has the responsibility and opportunity to take the global lead in reduction strategies.
- Awareness of these facts and widespread use of this tool for measuring and reporting is the key.

- The building sector has more potential to deliver quick, deep and cost effective GHG mitigation than any other.
- Significantly increasing building energy efficiency can be achieved in the short-term.
- Energy consumption in both new and existing buildings could be cut by an estimated 30-50% by 2020 through readily available technologies, design, equipment, management systems, and alternative generation solutions.
- This can be funded through investments that quickly payback and result in significant environmental, social, and economic benefits.
- A universal measuring stick for building emissions, a Common Carbon Metric provides the foundation for accurate performance baselines to be drawn, national targets set, and carbon traded on a level playing field.

86. [ANS] d

[SOL] The Finance Minister in her Budget announcement envisaged setting up 75 digital banking units in 75 districts of the country.

All the statements are correct: It is a business unit or hub with some digital infrastructure that helps in delivering banking products and services, in a digital form, in self-service mode.

- In simpler language, all the traditional bank work like depositing cheques, pay-in slips etc., will happen digitally in these units.
- Significance of Digital Banking
 - The flow of credit will improve in the rural areas.
 - Poor will get easier access to money and loans.
 - The establishment of these units will be cheaper than the conventional brick and mortar units.
 - They will provide better technical support to customers.
 - Digital Units will decrease the manpower requirement.
 - For the scheduled banks, they will ensure steady profits.
 - DBUs will help the government enhance digital literacy.

87. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently ,Scientists discovered new eel species named Ariosoma indicum from Kerala and West Bengal respectively .

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : Scientists confirmed *Ariosoma indicum* as a new species after two years of through research, taxonomic studies and molecular analysis.

- The newly discovered eel belongs to the Congrid eels group and has been named *Ariosoma indicum*.
 - The *Ariosoma* genus has seven species, including the newly identified eel that have been documented in Indian waters.
 - Globally, there are 223 species in the genus.
 - It is possibly distributed along the Indian coast, including the coastal waters of Kerala and West Bengal.

The new eel species is not listed as 'Threatened' or 'Endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

- Further study of the new species is needed to find out its nutritional status

88. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, the Vice President of India visited the birthplace of noted freedom fighter and revolutionary, Shri Alluri Sitarama Raju in Pandrangi village near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- He was an Indian revolutionary involved in the Indian independence movement.
- Birth and Early life : Born on July 4, 1897, into a humble middle-class family in a small village near the Coastal city of Visakhapatnam
 - He completed his initial years of schooling in his native village and then shifted to Visakhapatnam for his higher studies.
 - He was strongly influenced by patriotic discourse quite early in his life. In August 1922, he launched the Rampa Rebellion against the British.
 - He has left behind an inspiring legacy of anti-imperialist rebellion.
 - He was honoured for his valour and fiery spirit with the title, "Manyam Veerudu" (Hero of the Jungle). Every year, the Government of Andhra Pradesh commemorates his birth date, the 4th of July, as a state festival.

89. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has proposed a Draft law to enable aircraft lessors to repossess aircraft during dispute.

Option a is correct: The Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol on Matters specific to Aircraft Equipment (the 'Protocol') (together the 'CTC/

'Convention') came into effect on November 16, 2001 at a Diplomatic Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

- **Members:** Initially adopted by about 20 states the number has since grown to 83 and includes both developing and developed economies.
- **Aim:** Making available a competitive credit facility by providing readily enforceable rights, in mobile equipment such as the aircraft object, in the hands of the creditors.

90. [ANS] c

[SOL] The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has tightened the rules for Nidhi Companies.

- Nidhi Company is a type of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- It is formed to borrow and lend money to its members.
 - It inculcates the habit of saving among its members and works on the principle of mutual benefit.
- **Licence**
 - Nidhi Company isn't required to receive the licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - Nidhi Company is registered under the Companies Act.
- **Prohibited activities**
 - Nidhi Company can't deal with chit funds, hire-purchase finance, leasing finance, insurance or securities business.
 - It is strictly prohibited from accepting deposits from or lending funds to, any other person except members.
- **Members**
 - Minimum of seven members is required to start a Nidhi Company out of which three members must be the directors of the company.
- **Significance**
 - Nidhi companies are very popular in South India and are key players in the financial system as they mobilise funds from their members and give loans to them at a lower interest than commercial banks.
- **No Loan to companies**
 - Only individual members are allowed in Nidhi companies and it cannot give loans to companies.

91. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) announced the launch of Fincluvation under the ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotasav.

Statement 1 is correct: It is the first-of-its-kind industry initiative, Fincluvation would create a powerful platform to mobilize the start-up community towards building meaningful financial products aimed at financial inclusion.

Statement 2 is not correct: On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence & ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotasav, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) announced the launch of Fincluvation.

92. [ANS] b

[SOL] Kerala and the Netherlands have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for a project named 'Cosmos Malabaricus'.

Statement 1 is not correct :It is being jointly implemented by the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR), the National Archives, and the University of Leiden in the Netherlands.

- The project will be completed in six years.

Statement 2 is correct : The project deals with the 18th century Dutch documents on Malabar which are considered the most extensive source of information about the period in Kerala between 1643 and 1852.

- Cosmos Malabaricus project that is aimed at shedding further light on the history of Kerala using 18th Century Dutch documents.
 - The material is written in classical Dutch language and is available in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Netherlands.

93. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri said that 80 out of the 100 Smart Cities in the country have Integrated Command and Control Centres and the remaining will get them by August 15.

Statement 1 is correct : Smart Cities Mission is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2015.

- It will cover 100 cities and is being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and all state and union territory (UT) governments
- It is aimed at transforming the process of urban development in the country.

Statement 2 is not correct : Key focus areas : Construction of walkways, pedestrian crossings, cycling tracks, efficient waste-management systems, integrated traffic management and assessment.

- The scheme also assesses various indices to track urban development such as the Ease of Living Index, Municipal Performance Index, City GDP framework, Climate Smart Cities assessment framework, etc.

94. [ANS] b

[SOL] The United Nations is set to debate a provision that would require the five permanent members of the body's Security Council to justify invoking their veto powers.

Option b is correct: The G4 nations, comprising Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan, are four countries which support each other's bids for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.

- Unlike the G7, where the common denominator is the economy and long-term political motives, the G4's primary aim is the permanent member seats on the Security Council.
- Each of these four countries have figured among the elected non-permanent members of the council since the UN's establishment.
- Their economic and political influence has grown significantly in the last decades, reaching a scope comparable to the permanent members (P5).
- However, the G4's bids are often opposed by the Uniting for Consensus movement, and particularly their economic competitors or political rivals.

95. [ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct: It is a map-based question. Port Blair is located in Southern Andaman. Duncan Passage is a strait in the Indian Ocean. It is about 48 km wide, it separates Rutland Island to the north, and Little Andaman to the south. Saddle Peak or Saddle Hill is located on North Andaman Island is the highest point of the archipelago in the Bay of Bengal.

96. [ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct: The gharial is also known as the gavial or the fish-eating crocodile. It is the longest among all living crocodilians. IUCN Red List classifies it as Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List). Threats faced by Gharial are loss of habitat because of sand mining and conversion to agriculture, depletion of fish resources and detrimental fishing. Odisha is the only State in India having all three species of crocodiles (gharial, mugger and saltwater crocodiles). Gharial reserves of India: Uttar Pradesh (Ghaghara river), Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

97. [ANS] c

[SOL] In Context :Recently ,A team of researchers from Stanford University concluded that Jupiter's icy moon Europa is a prime candidate to find life in this solar system.

- Europa is named for a woman who, in Greek mythology, was abducted by the god Zeus – Jupiter in Roman mythology.

- Europa orbits Jupiter every 3.5 days and is locked by gravity to Jupiter, so the same hemisphere of the moon always faces the planet.
 - Jupiter's moons Io, Europa, and Ganymede.
- Europa is slightly smaller than Earth's moon and its diameter is about one-quarter that of the Earth.

98. [ANS] a

[SOL] In News : The procurement of wheat is underway in several states.

Statement 1 is correct : The Food Corporation of India (FCI), along with state government agencies (SGAs), procures wheat.

Statement 2 is not correct : The FCI's wheat procurement system can be decentralised (DCP) or centralised (non-DCP).

- Under the centralised procurement system, the procurement of foodgrains in Central Pool is undertaken either by FCI directly or by State Govt. Agencies (SGA).
 - Central pool refers to stocks procured through MSP operations for welfare schemes and calamity relief.
 - Quantity procured by SGAs is handed over to FCI for storage and subsequent issue against GoI (Government of India) allocations in the same State or movement of surplus stocks to other States.
 - The cost of the foodgrains procured by State agencies is reimbursed by FCI as per Provisional per cost-sheet issued by GOI as soon as the stocks are delivered to FCI.
- Under the decentralised procurement system, state governments or their agencies procure, store, and distribute — against the GoI's allocation for the targeted public distribution system and other welfare schemes (OWS) — rice, wheat, or coarse grains in the state.

99. [ANS] d

[SOL] The government is considering a regulatory framework for special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) to lay the ground for the possible listing of Indian companies through this route in the future.

All the statements are correct: A special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) is a company that has no commercial operations and is formed strictly to raise capital through an initial public offering (IPO) or the purpose of acquiring or merging with an existing company. They are also known as "blank check companies". The aim of this SPAC is to raise money in an initial public offering (IPO), and at this point in time, it does not have any operations or revenues. Investors in SPACs can range from well-known private equity funds and celebrities to the general public. Once the money is raised from the public, it is kept in an escrow account, which can be accessed while making the acquisition. If the acquisition is not made within two years of the IPO, the SPAC is delisted and the money is returned to the investors.

Regulation in India: the Indian regulatory framework does not allow the creation of blank cheque companies. The Companies Act, 2013 stipulates that the Registrar of Companies can strike off a company if it does not commence operations within a year of incorporation.

100. [ANS] b

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

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

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

101. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Prime Minister of India addressed India's 'gram sabhas' from Jammu's Palli village on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Diwas.

Panchayati Raj in India

- The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force with effect from 24th April 1993 and vested Constitutional status on Panchayati Raj institutions.
- Panchayat raj is the oldest system of local government.
- The word 'Panchayat' is an amalgamation of two words where 'Panch' means 'five' and 'Ayat' means 'assembly' and 'Raj' means 'rule'.
 - Rajasthan was the first state in the country where the Panchayati Raj system was implemented. It was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 2nd October 1959 at Nagaur district.

Genesis

- Balwant Rai Mehta Committee, 1957: Suggested a three-tier Panchayati Raj system of Gram Panchayats at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level and Zilla Parishad at the district level.
- Ashok Mehta Committee, 1977: Incorporated novel thinking in the concepts and practice of the Panchayat Raj and recommended a two-tier Panchayat Raj structure consisting of Zilla Parishad and Mandal Panchayat.
- G V K Rao Committee, 1985: Recommended making the district as the basic unit of planning and holding regular elections.

- L M Singhvi Committee, 1986: Recommended providing more financial resources and constitutional status to the panchayats to strengthen them.
- Other Contributing Committees: Hanumantha Rao Committee (1983), Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations (1988), P.K. Thungan Committee (1989) and Harlal Singh Kharra Committee (1990).
- 1991: P V Narashima Rao's government introduced a bill for this purpose in Lok Sabha in September and the bill finally emerged in 1992 and got enforced in 1993.

102. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the Perseverance Mars rover has captured Phobos, Mars' potato-shaped moon or satellite. The Mars 2020 Perseverance mission is part of NASA's Moon to Mars exploration approach, which includes Artemis missions to the Moon that will help prepare for human exploration of the Red Planet.

- It addresses high-priority science goals for Mars exploration, including key questions about the potential for life on Mars.
- The mission takes the next step by not only seeking signs of habitable conditions on Mars in the ancient past, but also searching for signs of past microbial life itself.
- It introduces a drill that can collect core samples of the most promising rocks and soils and set them aside in a "cache" on the surface of Mars

103. [ANS] c

[SOL] The WTO is looking into resolving its rules that are making it difficult for India to export food grains to meet shortages in other countries, caused by the Russia-Ukraine war.

- Origin: The cultivation of wheat was started some 10,000 years ago, with its origin being traced back to southeast Turkey.
- Crop Season: Wheat is a Rabi crop.
 - The Rabi crops include wheat, barley, oats (cereals), chickpea/gram (pulses), linseed, mustard (oilseeds) etc.
- Major wheat growing states in India: Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Gujarat.
- Water: Wheat needs 12 to 15 inches of water to produce a good crop.
- Temperature: It grows best when temperatures are warm, from 21° to 24° C but not too hot.
- Soil: Soils with a clay loam or loam texture, good structure and moderate water holding capacity are ideal for wheat cultivation.

104. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, several politicians have accused the Centre of protecting officers under probe for tapping the phones of political leaders.

Statement 1 is correct: All interception of phones and emails by the Union home secretary or state home secretary follow the prescribed procedure.

Statement 2 is correct: In the states, police have the power to tap phones. The competent authority must record reasons for tapping in writing. At the Centre, 10 agencies are authorised to do so:

- Intelligence Bureau,
- CBI,
- Enforcement Directorate,
- Narcotics Control Bureau,
- Central Board of Direct Taxes,
- Directorate of Revenue Intelligence,
- National Investigation Agency,
- R&AW,
- Directorate of Signal Intelligence, and
- the Delhi Police Commissioner.

Tapping by any other agency would be considered illegal.

105. [ANS] b

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

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

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

106. [ANS] d

[SOL] Study shows the pace of seafloor spreading has slowed down by roughly 35 per cent globally.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct: It is a geological process responsible for the creation of the Earth's crusts, the outermost shell of Earth.

- Harry Hess propounded the theory of Seafloor Spreading.
- As per the theory, the ocean floor is always moving from the mid-oceanic ridge towards the trenches.
- Hot basaltic magma rises and erupts at the ridge. It cools down to become a new seafloor at this juncture.
- The newly formed seafloor at the ocean crust then gradually moves away from the ridge and its place is taken by a newer seafloor and the cycle repeats.
- The entire process looks like a conveyor belt.

107. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the Government of Argentina launched a campaign in India demanding negotiation with the United Kingdom to settle the territorial dispute.

Option b is correct: Falkland Islands, also called Malvinas Islands or Spanish Islas Malvinas, internally self-governing overseas territory of the United Kingdom in the South Atlantic Ocean.

- It lies northeast of the southern tip of South America and a similar distance east of the Strait of Magellan.
- Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

108. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently „Japan’s Diplomatic Bluebook for 2022 described the Kuril Islands as being under Russia’s “illegal occupation”.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct : Kuril Islands are a set of four islands situated between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean near the north of Japan's northernmost prefecture, Hokkaido.

- Both Moscow and Tokyo claim sovereignty over them though the islands have been under Russian control since the end of World War II.
 - The Soviet Union had seized the islands at the end of World War II and by 1949 had expelled its Japanese residents.
- Tokyo claims that the disputed islands have been part of Japan since the early 19th century.
- Since 1991, there have been many attempts to resolve the dispute and sign a peace treaty.

109. [ANS] c

[SOL] Maha Harathi and other special rituals marked the grand finale of the 12-day Pranahita river festival.

- The mega river festival is dedicated to worshipping the Pranahita.

Statement 1 and 2 are correct : Pranahita is a perennial river that provides sufficient water and food for wild creatures.

- It is a tributary of river Godavari and flows through Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary.

110. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the National Digital Health Mission on August 15, 2020, during his speech on India's 74th Independence Day. With the launch of the historic mission, every Indian will soon have a digital health account. Under the National Digital Health Mission, every Indian will get a Health ID card that will work as a health account comprising information regarding the person's past medical conditions, treatment and diagnosis.

Statement 2 is not correct: National Health Authority (NHA) is leading the implementation of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) in coordination with different ministries/departments of the Government of India, State Governments, and private sector/civil society organizations. The NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

111. [ANS] c

[SOL] In News : The risk for developing Guillain-Barré syndrome after receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine is small, but higher with the Johnson & Johnson shot.

Statements 1 and 3 are correct : Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) is a rare condition in which a person's immune system attacks the peripheral nerves.

- The syndrome can affect the nerves that control muscle movement as well as those that transmit pain, temperature and touch sensations.
 - This can result in muscle weakness and loss of sensation in the legs and/or arms.
- It is more common in adults and in males, people of all ages can be affected.

Statement 2 is not correct :

- Guillain-Barré syndrome is often preceded by an infection. This could be a bacterial or viral infection. Guillain-Barré syndrome may also be triggered by vaccine administration or surgery.

112. [ANS] b

[SOL]: Recently ,the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) released the annual report for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) .

Statement 1 is not correct : The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) is an act that was passed in the Parliament on December 11, 2019.

- The 2019 CAA amended the Citizenship Act of 1955 allowing Indian citizenship for Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian religious minorities who fled from the neighboring Muslim majority countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan before December 2014 due to "religious persecution or fear of religious persecution".

- However, the Act excludes Muslims.

Statement 2 is correct :The Citizenship (Amendment) Act does not apply to tribal areas of Tripura, Mizoram, Assam and Meghalaya because of being included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

113. [ANS] c

[SOL] Global coal-plant capacity under development declined in 2021, according to a report by the Global Energy Monitor.

Global Energy Monitor (GEM)

- It is a San Francisco-based non-governmental organisation which catalogues fossil fuel and renewable energy projects worldwide.
- GEM shares information in support of clean energy and its data and reports on energy trends are widely cited by governments, media, and academic researchers.
- Global Energy Monitor produces datasets that document energy infrastructures at the project level.
 - This data is used by a variety of organisations, governments, media outlets, and academic institutions.
- It also conducts an annual survey of coal power capacity under development or deployment.
- Major reports by Global Energy Monitor (GEM)
 - Boom and Bust
 - Gambling On Gas: Risks Grow For Japan's \$20 Billion LNG Financing Spree
 - Gas Bubble 2020: Tracking Global LNG Infrastructure
 - How Plans for New Coal Are Changing Around the World
 - A Coal Phase-Out Pathway for 1.5 °C

114. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, a petition was filed seeking that the PM CARES Fund be declared as 'The State' under Article 12 of the Constitution of India.

- Established

- In March 2020
- It has been registered as a Public Charitable Trust.

- Objective

- To undertake and support relief or assistance of any kind relating to a public health emergency or any other kind of emergency, calamity or distress, either man-made or natural, including the creation or upgradation of healthcare or pharmaceutical facilities, other necessary infrastructure, funding relevant research or any other type of support.
- To render financial assistance, provide grants of payments of money or take such other steps as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees to the affected population.
- To undertake any other activity, this is not inconsistent with the above Objects.

- Composition

- Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.
- The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees shall have the power to nominate three trustees to the Board of Trustees who shall be eminent persons in the field of research, health, science, social work, law, public administration and philanthropy.
- Any person appointed a Trustee shall act in a pro bono capacity.

- Funding

- The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals/organisations and does not get any budgetary support.

- Exemptions

- Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Donations to PM CARES Fund will also qualify to be counted as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013
- PM CARES Fund has also got exemption under the FCRA and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened.

- Registration

- The trust deed of PM CARES Fund has been registered under the Registration Act, 1908.

115. [ANS] b

[SOL] Recently, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recommended that India be designated a 'Country of Particular Concern' (CPC).

Statement 1 is not correct: The Indian constitution's Preamble was amended in 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976 to state that India is a secular state.

Statement 2 is correct: The freedom of religion guaranteed under the Indian Constitution is not confined to its citizens but extends to all persons including an alien.

116. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the continuation of lending under the PM SVANidhi beyond March 2022 till December 2024.

Statement 1 and 2 are correct : PM SVANidhi is a Central Sector Scheme .

- It is fully funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with the following objectives:

- To facilitate working capital loan up to 10,000 at subsidized rate of interest
- To incentivize regular repayment of loan
- To reward digital transactions

- It aims to focus on enhanced collateral free affordable loan corpus, increased adoption of digital transactions and holistic socio-economic development of the Street Vendors and their families.

- The scheme will help formalize the street vendors with above objectives and will open up new opportunities to this sector to move up the economic ladder.

Statement 3 is not correct : The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.

- Beneficiaries from Meghalaya, which has its own State Street Vendors Act may, however, participate.

117. [ANS] d

[SOL] The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is hoping to have all three development flights planned for its 'baby rocket' — the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) — in 2022 itself.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is a 3 stage Launch Vehicle configured with three Solid Propulsion Stages and liquid propulsion based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) as a terminal stage.

- All three stages of the SSLV will be solid propulsion stages.
- The SSLV can carry satellites weighing a maximum 500 kg to low orbit, while the PSLV can launch satellites weighing above 1000 kg.
- The key features of SSLV
 - Low cost, with low turn-around time, flexibility in accommodating multiple satellites, Launch on demand feasibility, minimal launch infrastructure requirements, etc.

118. [ANS] a

[SOL] The Union government plans to revamp the Civil Registration System (CRS) to enable real-time recording of birth and deaths, the annual report of the Home Ministry mentioned.

- History: The history of the Civil Registration System (CRS) in India dates back to the middle of the 19th century.
 - In 1886 a Central Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act was promulgated to provide for voluntary registration throughout British India.
- Post-independence: The Registration of Births and Death Act (RBD Act) was enacted in 1969 to promote uniformity and comparability in the registration of Births and Deaths across the country and compilation of vital statistics based thereon.
 - With the enactment of the Act, registration of births, deaths and stillbirths has become mandatory in India.
- Registration: The Registrar General, India (RGI) at the Central Government level coordinates and unifies the activities of registration throughout the country.
 - However, implementation of the statute is vested with the State Governments.
 - The registration of births and deaths in the country is done by the functionaries appointed by the State Governments.
- Uniform birth and death reporting: The Act mandates the use of uniform birth and death reporting forms and certificates throughout the country.

119. [ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The Collegium System is not prescribed in the constitution nor in any statute. It came into existence through the 2nd Judges case..

Statement 2 is not correct: The 2nd Judges Case recommended the CJI+ 2 senior most judges but 3rd Judges cases upgraded it to CJI+4 senior most judges.

Statement 3 is correct: National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014 was brought to replace commission. But it was declared unconstitutional by SC.

120. [ANS] c

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

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

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

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

121. [ANS] b

[SOL] Delhi government is considering bringing Malcha Mahal for tourists after renovating the heritage structure.

Statements 1 and 3 are not correct : Malcha Mahal was built by the then Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq in the 14th century and was used as a hunting lodge by him.

- It later became the residence of the descendants of the Nawab of Awadh and has been neglected since the death of the last of the royal family in September 2017.
 - It is said that it came to be known as 'Wilayat Mahal' after Begum Wilayat Mahal of Awadh, who claimed that she was a member of the royal family of Oudh.
 - She was given the palace by the government in 1985.
- The monument is not ASI-protected and, therefore, no attention was paid to it in all these years in order to conserve it.

Statement 2 is correct : Malcha Mahal is located in Delhi.

122. [ANS] c

[SOL] Women in Chhattisgarh recreate the 'Chipko movement' to save Hasdeo Aranya forest.

Statements 1 and 3 are correct : Chipko Movement/Andolan was a forest conservation movement in India. It created a precedent for starting non-violent protest in India. It was a movement that practised methods of Satyagraha where both male and female activists from Uttarakhand played vital roles, including Gaura Devi, Suraksha Devi, Sudesha Devi, Bachni Devi and Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Virushka Devi and others. The support for the movement came mainly from the womenfolk. Today, beyond the eco-socialism hue, it is being seen increasingly as an ecofeminism movement. Although many of its leaders were men, women were not only its backbone, but also its mainstay.

Statement 2 is not correct : Chipko movement began in 1973 in Uttarakhand, then a part of Uttar Pradesh (at the foothills of Himalayas) and went on to become a rallying point for many future environmental movements all over the world.

123. [ANS] c

[SOL] The Uttarakhand administration imposed Section 144 CrPC in Roorkee to prohibit assembly of more than four persons in a Dharam Sansad.

Statement 1 is not correct: Section 144 CrPC gives power to a district magistrate, a sub-divisional magistrate or any other executive magistrate empowered by the state government to issue orders so as to prevent any untoward incident related to law and order situation.

Statement 2 is not correct: The order remains in force for not more than two months. The state government can extend the same by another two months subject to a maximum six months period. The state government can withdraw the order at any point of time if it feels that the situation has come back to normalcy.

124. [ANS] c

[SOL] Recently, the seventh edition of the Raisina Dialogue was held in New Delhi.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier foreign policy conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. The first session was held in 2016. It brings together leaders from the global strategic and policy-making community to discuss key geopolitical developments and strategic issues facing the world.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is organized on the lines of the Shangri La Dialogue which takes place annually in Singapore and is co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

125. [ANS] a

[SOL] Recently, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has issued new guidelines for cyber incidents.

Statement 1 is correct: CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.

Statement 2 is not correct: CERT-In is empowered under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act to collect, analyse and disseminate information on cyber security incidents.

126. [ANS] a

[SOL] The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has reported a fresh outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD).

Statement 1 is correct: Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans.

- It is thought that fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are natural Ebola virus hosts.
- Supportive care - rehydration with oral or intravenous fluids - and treatment of specific symptoms improve survival.

Statements 2 and 3 are not correct: The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission

- EVD first appeared in 1976 in 2 simultaneous outbreaks, one in what is now Nzara, South Sudan, and the other in Yambuku, DRC. The latter occurred in a village near the Ebola River, from which the disease takes its name.

127. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for the Month of March, 2022. (Statement 1 is not correct)

Statement 2 and 3 are correct : CI measures combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilisers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The base year of the index has been revised to 2011-12 from 2004-05 in alignment with the new series of IIP.

128. [ANS] b

[SOL] Indonesia has decided that it will be banning the exports of palm oil to give relief to domestic shortage in wake of rising oil prices.

Option b is correct: NMEO-OP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at increasing area and productivity under Oilseeds and Oil Palm. It subsumed the erstwhile National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm Scheme of the Central government. It aims to increase the area under oil palm cultivation to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26 and 16.7 lakh hectares by 2029-30. Under the scheme, farmers will be provided financial assistance and will get remuneration under the viability formula. The Viability Formula is an MSP like mechanism and the government will decide the price level.

129. [ANS] b

[SOL] The Centre will soon accord the Hatti community of Himachal Pradesh in the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Option B is correct:

- Location

- Hatti community is of the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh.
- They share social as well as cultural similarities with the Jaunsar community of the Jaunsar-Bawar area of Uttarakhand.
- This is because the Trans-Giri area and Jaunsar Bawar area, were part of the erstwhile Sirmour princely state.
- It is cut off from Sirmour by two rivers called Giri and Tons.
- Haat
 - The community is named after their age-old professional practice of selling their home grown crops at small markets called 'Haat' in nearby cities.
- Economy
 - The members of this community haven't been mainstreamed and most are dependent on animal rearing and agriculture.
- Khumbli (Governance)
 - They even still follow the Khumbli - the traditional council despite the establishment of the panchayat system.
- Demand for ST status
 - For the past 55 years, the Hatti community has been demanding for inclusion in the ST list.
 - Granting the ST status would ensure that people come into the mainstream and ensure a special budget for the area's overall development.
 - The move will benefit a population of about 3 lakh people in 154 panchayats in the trans-Giri area in the state.

130. [ANS] d

[SOL] Recently, Madras High Court stated that Mother Nature is a 'living being' with legal entity.

All the statements are correct: Legal Status has been accorded to the following:

- In 2018, a High Court bench had accorded the status of "legal person or entity" to animals in Haryana.
- Uttarakhand high court, in 2017, declared the Ganga and Yamuna as living entities, a verdict that was later stayed by the Supreme Court.
- In June 2019, the Punjab and Haryana High Court had ruled that all animals, birds and aquatic life in Haryana would be accorded the status of legal persons or entities.

- In 2020, Sukhna Lake was declared a legal entity for its survival, preservation and conservation.

□□□□



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