

02.08.2021 to 31.08.2021

1. With respect to Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 consider the following statements.

1. The section provides police with power to arrest a person for posting offensive content online and provides for a punishment which can extend upto one year jail term.
2. It is a reasonable restriction on Right to Freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(2) of Indian Constitution.
3. The section 66A of IT act was struck down by Supreme Court in March, 2021 in Shreya Singhal case.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer (d)

Explanation:

- The Information Technology Act was introduced in 2000. An amendment to the act brought in 2008 which gave the government power to arrest and imprison an individual for allegedly offensive and menacing online posts.
- Section 66A of the Act empowered police to make arrests over what policemen, in terms of their subjective discretion. It prescribed the punishment for sending messages through a computer or any other communication device like a mobile phone or a tablet. Conviction under the act could fetch a maximum of three years in jail. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.
- Section 66A was criticised for being vague and soon was brought under Supreme court scrutiny. Section 66 A was struck down by the Supreme court in 2015.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect: A bench of Justices J. Chelameswar and R.F. Nariman ruled in Shreya Singhal v. Union of India declared Section 66A unconstitutional for “being violative of Article 19(1)(a) and not saved under Article 19(2).”

- Section 66A of the IT Act was recently in news because even after Six years after it was when Section 66A of the Information Technology Act 2000, was struck down by the Supreme Court, there has been continued use by law enforcement agencies of various states. SC recently directed the centre for compliance with its judgement.
- The Centre has now written to states, asking them not to register cases under the repealed provision and withdraw any such case that may have been filed.

2. Consider the following information about the Central Information Commission.

1. It was established in 2005 by a resolution of the Ministry of Information Technology.
2. It consists of one chief information commissioner and not more than five information commissioners who are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a committee.
3. The committee for recommendation of the President includes the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The Central Information Commission is a statutory body. It was constituted with effect from 12-10-2005 under the Right to Information Act, 2005. The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities.
- The Commission has certain powers and functions mentioned in sections 18, 19, 20 and 25 of the RTI Act, 2005. These broadly relate to adjudication in
 - second appeal for giving information,
 - direction for record keeping,
 - suo motu disclosures receiving and enquiring into a complaint on inability to file RTI

- imposition of penalties and Monitoring and Reporting including preparation of an Annual Report.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The commission includes one chief information commissioner and not more than ten information commissioners who are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister. The decisions of the Commission are final and binding. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- CIC has been in the news recently. It slammed the Union government's blanket denial of information related to a committee overseeing medical oxygen supplies during the pandemic.

3. Violent clashes erupted recently between Police officials of Indian States of Assam- Mizoram. With respect to these two Northeastern Indian states consider the following statements.

1. Assam shares its border with six Indian states whereas Mizoram is bordered by three Indian states.
2. Mizoram was carved out of Assam in 2008.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Statement 2 is incorrect: Mizoram is one of the states of Northeast India with Aizawl as its capital. It was previously part of Assam until 1972 when it was carved out as Union Territory. It was converted into a full-fledged state following the Mizoram Peace Accord (1986) between the Government and the MNF (Mizo National Front).

- Mizoram is the southernmost landlocked state sharing borders with three of the Seven Sister States namely Tripura, Assam and Manipur and neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- Statement 1 is incorrect: The state of Assam on the other hand is bordered by Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh to the north, Nagaland and Manipur to the east; Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram and Bangladesh to the south; and West Bengal to the west.

4. It is an archaeological site located in the state of Gujarat. City is a well-preserved urban settlement in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE. Discovered in 1968, the site is set apart by its unique characteristics, such as its water management system, multi-layered defensive mechanisms, extensive use of stone in construction and special burial structures. A range of artefacts of copper, shell, stone, jewellery, terracotta and ivory had been found at the site. It was recently declared a UNESCO heritage site.

The city in the above statement refers to

- a) Surkotada
- b) Lothal
- c) Dholavira
- d) Kalibangan

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed happiness on UNESCO declaring Dholavira, Harappan city in India a World Heritage site. He also said that It is a must visit, especially for those interested in history, culture and archaeology.
- UNESCO's announcement came just days after another site, Ramappa Temple in Telangana, was admitted to the list on Sunday. The ancient city of Dholavira is one of the most remarkable and well-preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE (Before Common Era). Discovered in 1968, the site is set apart by its unique characteristics, such as its water management system, multi-layered defensive mechanisms, extensive use of stone in construction and special burial structures," UNESCO said.

- A range of artefacts of copper, shell, stone, jewellery, terracotta and ivory had been found at the site. “The two newly inscribed World Heritage Sites offer great insight into the knowledge and ways of life of earlier societies, customs, and communities,” UNESCO said.
- Located in the Kutch district, Dholavira is the larger of the two most remarkable excavations of the Indus Valley Civilisation dating back to about 4,500 years ago. The site had been on UNESCO’s tentative list since 2014 and India had submitted its dossier in January 2020.

5. With respect to the “Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana” consider the following statements.

1. It is a comprehensive relief package for the poor to help them fight the battle against CoronaVirus.
2. The scheme which aims at providing free ration to over 80 crore people mostly poor was extended by five more months till 2021 November.
3. The scheme is implemented by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

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) All of above

Answer (d)

Explanation:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will interact with beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana in Gujarat on 3rd August 2021 at 12:30 PM via video conferencing. A public participation programme is being launched in the state to create further awareness about the scheme.
- In line with commitment to the poor and to ameliorate the hardships faced by the poor and needy due to Covid-19 situation, the PMGKAY scheme was announced by the Government of India last year.

- Under this scheme it was decided to allocate free-of-cost food grains @ 5 Kg per person per month to nearly 80 Crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act, 2013. This allocation was over and above NFSA foodgrains.
- Food Corporation of India was to provide additional foodgrains to respective State/ UT Governments in addition to their regular NFSA allocation.
- The scheme has been extended from time to time. In his last announcement, the Prime Minister of India conveyed the decision of extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY-III) till Deepawali (till November 2021).
- FCI is transporting food grains all across the country to ensure smooth supply to all States/ UT Governments.
- The Government of India will bear the entire cost on account of such distribution including food subsidy, intra-state transportation and dealer's margin/ additional dealers margin, without any sharing by States/ UTs.

6. This Tiger reserve is situated on the northwestern side of the Nilgiri Hills at the junction of the three states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. It is at an elevation of 1,140 mtrs. A variety of habitats ranging from tropical evergreen forest, moist deciduous forest, moist teak forest, dry teak forest, secondary grasslands and swamps are found here. The protected area is home to several endangered and vulnerable species including Indian elephant, Bengal tiger, gaur and Indian leopard. There are at least 266 species of birds in the sanctuary, including critically endangered Indian white-rumped vulture and long-billed vulture.

Tiger Reserve in the above case refers to

- a) Bandipur Tiger Reserve
- b) Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
- c) Periyar Tiger Reserve
- d) Melghat Tiger Reserve

Answer (b)

- The Mudumalai National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, also a declared tiger reserve, lies in the northwestern side of the Nilgiri Hills in the Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu. It shares its boundaries with the states of Karnataka and Kerala. The sanctuary is divided into five ranges – Masinagudi, Thepakadu, Mudumalai, Kargudi and Nellakota.

- This Sanctuary extends over an area of 321 sq.km. It is at an elevation of 1,140 mtrs. A variety of habitats ranging from tropical evergreen forest, moist deciduous forest, moist teak forest, dry teak forest, secondary grasslands and swamps are found here. The protected area is home to several endangered and vulnerable species including Indian elephant, Bengal tiger, gaur and Indian leopard. There are at least 266 species of birds in the sanctuary, including critically endangered Indian white-rumped vulture and long-billed vulture.
- The Tiger Reserve has been in news because recently Wild elephant Rivaldo, who was in captivity for around three months in the buffer zone of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR), was freed from captivity on Monday. The elephant was put inside a "kraal" (shelter used to train elephants) at Vazhaithottam in the buffer zone of the MTR on May 5 after it was found to have got habituated to humans and the forest staff.

7. Krishna river dispute has been a bone of contention between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for a long time. Consider the following statement about Krishna river.

- 1) Krishna river originates near Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.
- 2) It is the third-biggest river in terms of water inflows and river basin area in India.
- 3) Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Bhima, Tungabhadra and Musi are principal tributaries of Krishna.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer (C)

- The Krishna River is the fourth-biggest river in terms of water inflows and river basin area in India, after the Ganga, Godavari and Brahmaputra. The river is almost 1,288 kilometres (800 mi) long. The Krishna river originates in the Western Ghats near Mahabaleshwar at an elevation of about 1,300 metres.
- Krishna empties into the Bay of Bengal in Andhra Pradesh on the east coast. The river flows through the state of Karnataka before entering Telangana State. The delta of this river is one of the most fertile regions in India and was the home to ancient Satavahana and Ikshvaku

Sun Dynasty kings. Ghataprabha, the Malaprabha, the Bhima, the Tungabhadra and the Musi are the principal tributaries of Krishna.

- The river has been in the news because of Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana offered to send a water dispute case filed by Andhra Pradesh against Telangana for mediation.

8. “e-RUPI” digital solution was recently launched by the Prime Minister of India. With respect to this technology, which of the following statements are correct?

1)e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless digital payments medium which will be a person-specific and purpose-specific system.

2)The Platform has been developed by the Reserve bank of India(RBI).

3)It will be delivered to the mobile phones of beneficiaries in the form of an SMS- string or a QR code.

4)It is a first step towards having a digital currency in the country.

Which of the following statements above are correct ?

a)1 and 2 only

b)1 and 3 only

c)1, 2 and 3 only

d)1, 3 and 4 only

Answer (d)

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched digital payment solution e-RUPI, a person and purpose specific digital payment solution on 2nd August, 2021 via video conference. e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment.
- The platform, which has been developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the National Health Authority. It will be delivered to the mobile phones of beneficiaries in the form of an SMS-string or a QR code.
- The people-specific and purpose-specific payments system will essentially function like a prepaid gift-voucher that will be redeemable at specific accepting centres without any credit or debit card, a mobile app or internet banking. e-RUPI will connect the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface.

- According to the government, e-RUPI — built on NPCI's UPI system — would ensure leak-proof delivery of welfare services. It will initially be deployed alongside the National Digital Health Mission and to support the vaccine drive. It can also be used for delivering services under schemes meant for providing drugs and nutritional support.
- It is seen as the first step towards having a digital currency in the country. The government is already working on developing a central bank digital currency and the launch of e-RUPI could potentially highlight the gaps in digital payments infrastructure that will be necessary for the success of the future digital currency. In effect, e-RUPI is still backed by the existing Indian rupee as the underlying asset and specificity of its purpose makes it different to a virtual currency and puts it closer to a voucher-based payment system.

9. With respect to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), consider the following statements.

1. It is a statutory body established under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.
2. It comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
3. It is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety.

Which of the statements above are correct ?

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

Answer (b)

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards, 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments.
- FSSAI has been created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI. The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have already been appointed by the Government of India. The Chairperson is in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.
- In a push back against the Centre's plan to mandatorily fortify rice and edible oils with vitamins and minerals, a group of scientists and activists has written to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), warning of the adverse impacts on health and livelihoods. They cited multiple studies to show that dietary diversity and higher protein consumption are key to solving undernutrition in India, rather than adding a few synthetic micronutrients which could harm the health of consumers.

10. With respect to Rajendra Chola I, the legendary Chola King, consider the following statements.

1. He was succeeded by Rajaraja Chola.
2. During his time, the Chola empire was the most powerful maritime empire of India with influence of the Chola empire extending to the banks of river Ganga in North India and across South East Asia.
3. He built the new Capital city called Gangaikonda Cholaपुरam after his successful campaign in the North.

Which of the above options are correct

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. All of above

Answer (b)

For the first time, the Tamil Nadu government is planning to observe the birth anniversary of the legendary Tamil king Rajendra Chola I on Aadi Thiruvathirai at Gangaikonda Cholaपुरam in Ariyalur district later this week.

11. Consider the following statement about “Mekedatu Project” recently in news

1. Mekedatu dam is built at a deep gorge situated at the confluence of Godavari with its tributary Arkavathi.
2. The project has been proposed by Tamil Naidu to deal with water scarcity in the City of Chennai.
3. Construction of the dam has been a bone of contention between the state of Tamil Naidu and Kerala.

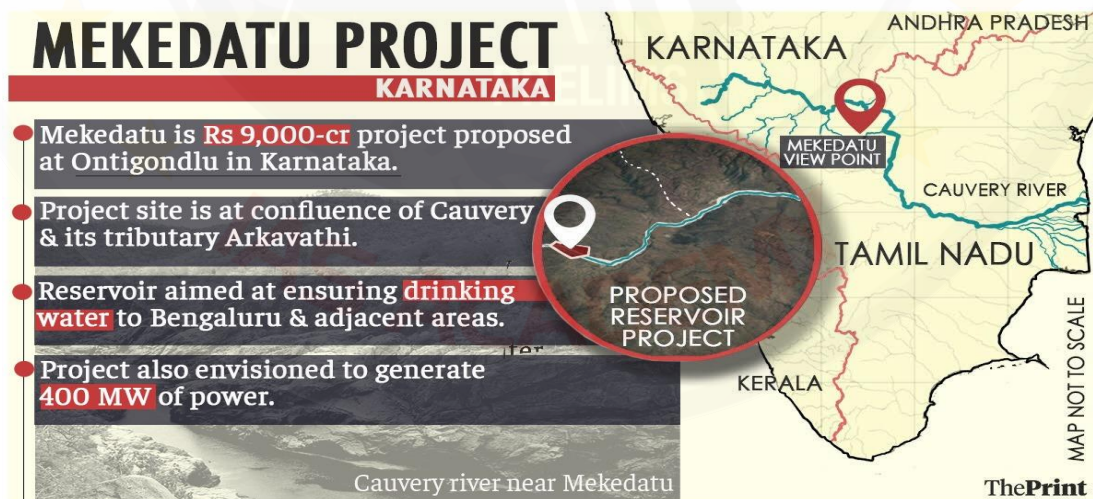
Which of the above statements are correct ?

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

Ans: (d)

EXPLANATION

- Mekedatu project is proposed to be built at a deep gorge situated at the confluence of the Cauvery and its tributary Arkavathi in Karnataka’s Ramanagara district.
- The reservoir would have a capacity of around 67,000 million cubic feet (tmcft) of water and is aimed at ensuring drinking water to Bengaluru and neighbouring areas. The project is also envisioned to generate 400 MW power once it is completed.



Why in the News?

- The project has been bone of contention between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Few days ago, in response to the planned one-day hunger strike on August 5 by BJP's Tamil Nadu unit chief K Annamalai to dissuade the Karnataka government from constructing the dam at Mekedatu, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that he will implement the project at any cost.
- Minister for Water Resources Duraimurugan on Tuesday said the statement of the new Chief Minister of Karnataka, Basavaraj Bommai, that the neighbouring State was determined to construct a dam at Mekedatu, was not acceptable.
- "The judgment of the Supreme Court and the order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal should be honoured. The statement of the Karnataka Chief Minister that they would not accept the court judgment is not acceptable," Mr. Duraimurugan told reporters at the Secretariat.

12. Consider the following statement with respect to Pardoning power of the Governor

1. Pardoning Power of the Governor has been mentioned in Article 161 of Indian Constitution.
2. Governor's power to pardon can override Section 433A of Code of Criminal Procedure which mandates that a prisoner's sentence can be remitted only after 14 years of jail.
3. Pardon power of a Governor is his discretionary power.
4. Action of commutation and release can be pursuant to a governmental decision and the order may be issued even without the Governor's approval.

Which of the statements above are correct ?

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

Ans: (d)

EXPLANATION

- Pardon power of the Governor has been mentioned under Article 161 of Indian constitution. The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that the Governor of a State can pardon prisoners, including those on death row, even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence.

- In fact, the Governor's power to pardon overrides a provision in the Code of Criminal Procedure — Section 433A — which mandates that a prisoner's sentence can be remitted only after 14 years of jail, a Bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and A.S. Bopanna observed in a judgment.
- "Section 433A of the Code cannot and does not in any way affect the constitutional power conferred on the President/Governor to grant pardon under Articles 72 or 161 of the Constitution... If the prisoner has not undergone 14 years or more of actual imprisonment, the Governor has a power to grant pardon... de hors the restrictions imposed under Section 433A... Such power is in exercise of the power of the sovereign, though the Governor is bound to act on the aid and advice of the State Government," the court observed.
- In fact, the court noted that the sovereign power of a Governor to pardon a prisoner under Article 161 is actually exercised by the State government and not the Governor on his own.
- "The advice of the appropriate government binds the Head of the State," Justice Gupta observed in the judgment which referred to the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench judgment in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case on the power of remission.
- "The action of commutation and release can thus be pursuant to a governmental decision and the order may be issued even without the Governor's approval. However, under the Rules of Business and as a matter of constitutional courtesy, it may seek approval of the Governor, if such release is under Article 161 of the Constitution," the court noted.
- The Bench was considering the feasibility of remission policies in Haryana.

13. Consider the following statement about the POCSO(Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act

1. The POCSO Act is a special law to protect Children against sexual exploitation.
2. The act is gender neutral.
3. "Child Welfare Committee" is the agency responsible for implementation of the act.

Which of the statement above are correct

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

Ans: (a)

EXPLANATION

- In order to effectively address the heinous crimes of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children through less ambiguous and more stringent legal provisions, the Ministry of Women and Child Development championed the introduction of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.
- The Act was amended in 2019, to make provisions for enhancement of punishments for various offences so as to deter the perpetrators and ensure safety, security and dignified childhood for a child.
- Act is gender neutral and regards the best interests and welfare of the child as a matter of paramount importance at every stage so as to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.
- The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age, and regards the best interests and well-being of the child as being of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.
- It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography, and deems a sexual assault to be "aggravated" under certain circumstances, such as when the abused child is mentally ill or when the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority vis-à-vis the child, like a family member, police officer, teacher, or doctor.
- People who traffic children for sexual purposes are also punishable under the provisions relating to abetment in the Act. The Act prescribes stringent punishment graded as per the gravity of the offence, with a maximum term of rigorous imprisonment for life, and fine.
- It defines "child pornography" as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child which include photograph, video, digital or computer generated image indistinguishable from an actual child, and image created, adapted, or modified, but appear to depict a child;'
- The National and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights have been established under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. The Commissions have been mandated vide Section 44 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 to monitor the implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012.

- Child Welfare committee is the final authority for exercising the powers and discharge duties in relation to child in need of care and protection under the Act. The committee consists of a Chairperson and four other members, of whom at least one shall be a woman and another, an expert on matters concerning children.

14. Consider the statements about Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021 are correct

1. Bill replaces the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021.
 2. Bill provides for an alternate insolvency resolution process called pre-packaged insolvency resolution process (PIRP) for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME)
 3. PIRP can initiated only by debtors.
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Ans (d)

EXPLANATION

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 26, 2021.
- It amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- The Code provides a time-bound process for resolving the insolvency of corporate debtors (within 330 days) called the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP). The debtor himself or its creditors may apply for initiation of CIRP in the event of a default of at least one lakh rupees.
- Under CIRP, a committee of creditors is constituted to decide on the insolvency resolution. The committee may consider a resolution plan which typically provides for the payoff of debt by merger, acquisition, or restructuring of the company. If a resolution plan is not approved by the committee of creditors within the specified time, the company is liquidated. During CIRP, the affairs of the company are managed by the resolution professional (RP), who is appointed to conduct CIRP. Bill also introduces an alternate insolvency resolution process for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), called the pre-packaged insolvency

resolution process (PIRP). Unlike CIRP, PIRP may be initiated only by debtors. The debtor should have a base resolution plan in place. During PIRP, the management of the company will remain with the debtor.

- Application for initiating PIRP may be filed in the event of a default of at least one lakh rupees. The central government may increase the threshold of minimum default up to one crore rupees through a notification.
- PIRP may be initiated in the event of a default by a corporate debtor classified as an MSME under the MSME Development Act, 2006.

15. Consider the following

- 1) Idlib: Yemen
- 2) Aleppo: Syria
- 3) Mazar-e- Sharif: Turkey

Which of the above are correctly matched?

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

Ans (b)

EXPLANATION

- Idlib and Aleppo both are in Syria
- Mazar-e- Sharif is in Afghanistan



■ Opposition forces

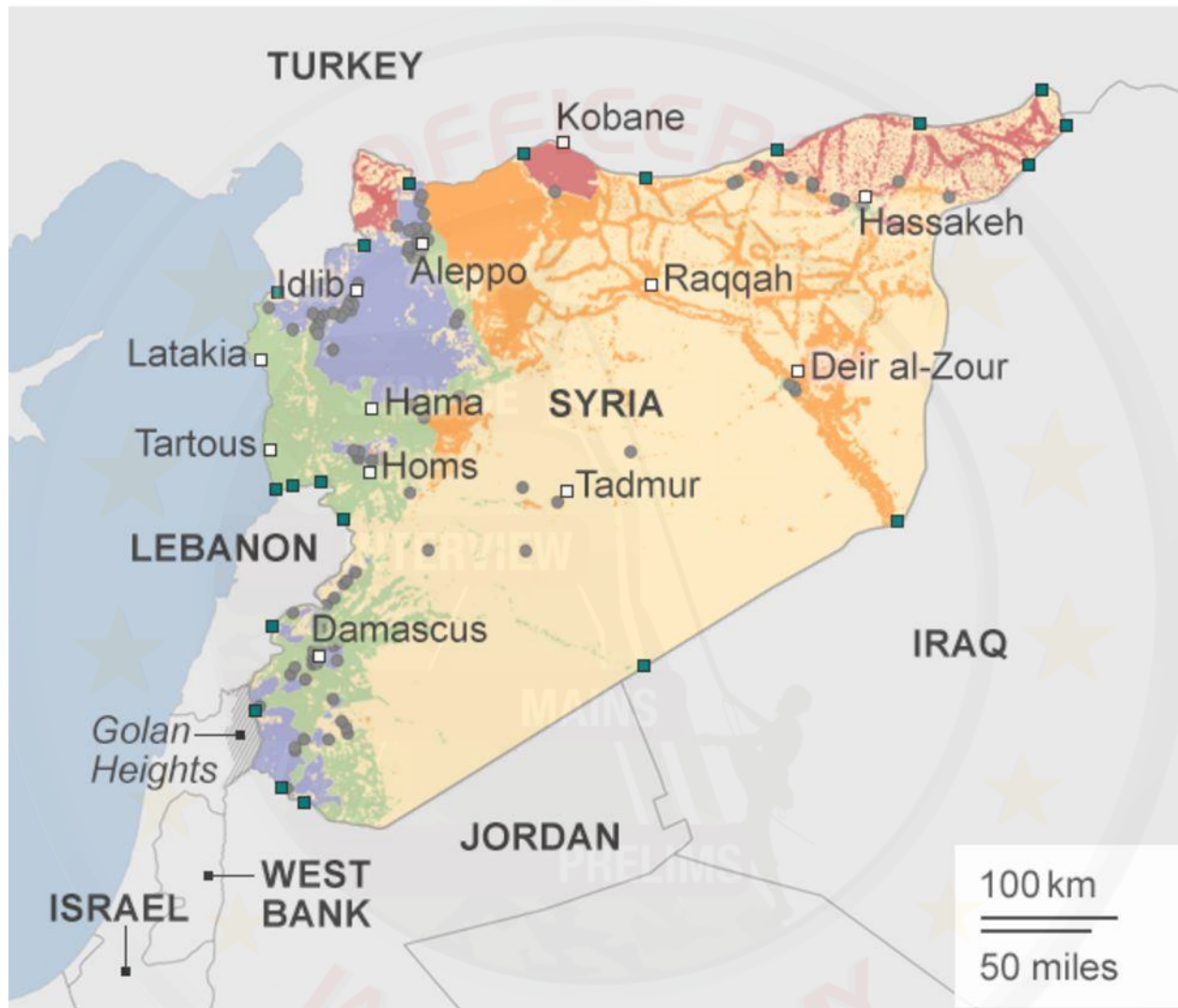
■ Islamic State

■ Kurdish

■ Syrian armed

■ Border crossing

● Contested areas (Jan-June 2015)



BBC

16. Consider the following statement with respect to “ Right to Strike”

1. Right to strike is a fundamental right.
2. Right to form associations and Recognition of association are both fundamental rights under Article 19 of Indian Constitution.
3. Under Article 33 of the Constitution, Parliament, by law, can restrict or abrogate the rights of the members of the armed forces or the forces charged with the maintenance of public order.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans (d)

EXPLANATION

- Recently, the Minister of Defence introduced the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021, in the Lok Sabha to provide for the maintenance of essential defence services so as “to secure the security of nation and the life and property of the public at large” and prevent staff of the government-owned ordnance factories from going on strike.
- This is not the first time that strikes by government employees are being made explicitly illegal by the government. The Madhya Pradesh (and Chhattisgarh) Civil Services Rules, 1965, prohibit demonstrations and strikes by government servants and direct the competent authorities to treat the durations as unauthorised absence.
- Under Article 33 of the Constitution, Parliament, by law, can restrict or abrogate the rights of the members of the armed forces or the forces charged with the maintenance of public order so as to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and maintenance of discipline among them. Thus, for the armed forces and the police, where discipline is the most important prerequisite, even the fundamental right to form an association can be restricted under Article 19(4) in the interest of public order and other considerations.
- The Supreme Court in Delhi Police v. Union of India (1986) upheld the restrictions to form association by the members of the non-gazetted police force after the Police Forces (Restriction of Rights) Act, 1966, and the Rules as amended by Amendment Rules, 1970,

came into effect. While the right to freedom of association is fundamental, recognition of such association is not a fundamental right. Parliament can by law regulate the working of such associations by imposing conditions and restrictions on their functions, the court held.

- There is no fundamental right to strike under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. Strikes cannot be justified on any equitable ground. Strike as a weapon is mostly misused which results in chaos. Though the employees of OFB have threatened to go on strike, Parliament, which has the right to restrict even the fundamental rights of the armed forces, is well within its right to expressly prohibit resorting to strike.

17. Consider the following statement about Pegasus recently in news

1. Pegasus is a spyware which has infected many phones recently in India.
2. Iphones can't be targeted using Pegasus due to its enhanced security features.
3. Attackers can control the phone's camera and microphone, and use the GPS function to track a target using Pegasus software.

Which of the above options are correct?

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

Ans (b)

EXPLANATION :

- Project Pegasus is an Israeli spyware revealed to have been used to target hundreds of phones in India
- Pegasus software is marketed by the NSO Group aka Q Cyber Technologies as “a world-leading cyber intelligence solution that enables law enforcement and intelligence agencies to remotely and covertly extract” data “from virtually any mobile devices”,
- All devices are particularly vulnerable to Pegasus. iPhones have been widely targeted with Pegasus through Apple's default iMessage app and the Push Notification Service (APNs)

protocol upon which it is based. The spyware can impersonate an application downloaded to an iPhone and transmit itself as push notifications via Apple's servers.

- Usually, an attacker needs to feed the Pegasus system just the target phone number for a network injection. "The rest is done automatically by the system," says a Pegasus brochure, and the spyware is installed in most cases.
- Apparently, one way to dodge Pegasus is to change one's default phone browser. According to a Pegasus brochure, "installation from browsers other than the device default (and also chrome for android based devices) is not supported by the system".
- Upon installation, Pegasus contacts the attacker's command and control (C&C) servers to receive and execute instructions and send back the target's private data, including passwords, contact lists, calendar events, text messages, and live voice calls (even those via end-to-end-encrypted messaging apps). The attacker can control the phone's camera and microphone, and use the GPS function to track a target.

18. Consider the following with respect to judges recuse from cases in India.

1. SC judges can rescue when there is conflict of interest involved.
2. Decision to recuse generally comes from the judge herself as it rests on the conscience and discretion of the judge.
3. If a conflict of interest is pointed out by lawyers or parties in the case, the Judge of the supreme court must recuse from the case.
4. Which of the following options related to above are incorrect?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) All of the above

Ans (a)

EXPLANATION:

- When there is a conflict of interest, a judge can withdraw from hearing a case to prevent creating a perception that she carried a bias while deciding the case. The conflict of interest can be in many ways — from holding shares in a company that is a litigant to having a prior or personal association with a party involved in the case.
- The practice stems from the cardinal principle of due process of law that nobody can be a judge in her own case. Any interest or conflict of interest would be a ground to withdraw from a case since a judge has a duty to act fair. Another instance for recusal is when an appeal is filed in the Supreme Court against a judgement of a High Court that may have been delivered by the SC judge when she was in the HC.
- The decision to recuse generally comes from the judge herself as it rests on the conscience and discretion of the judge to disclose any potential conflict of interest. In some circumstances, lawyers or parties in the case bring it up before the judge. If a judge recuses, the case is listed before the Chief Justice for allotment to a fresh Bench.
- There are no formal rules governing recusals, although several Supreme Court judgments have dealt with the issue.
- Once a request is made for recusal, the decision to recuse or not rests with the judge. While there are some instances where judges have recused even if they do not see a conflict but only because such an apprehension was cast, there have also been several cases where judges have refused to withdraw from a case.
- For instance, in 2019, Justice Arun Mishra had controversially refused to recuse himself from a Constitution Bench set up to re-examine a judgement he had delivered previously, despite several requests from the parties. Justice Mishra had reasoned that the request for recusal was really an excuse for “forum shopping” and agreeing could compromise the independence of the judiciary.

19. Term “General Data Protection regulation” is seen recently in the context of

- a) USA
- b) Russia
- c) China
- d) European Union

Ans (d)

EXPLANATION:

- The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) (GDPR) is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy in the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA).
- It also addresses the transfer of personal data outside the EU and EEA areas.
- The GDPR's primary aim is to enhance individuals' control and rights over their personal data and to simplify the regulatory environment for international business.

20. Kawal Tiger Reserve often seen in news belongs to which state

- 1. West Bengal
- 2. Andhra Pradesh
- 3. Telangana
- 4. Odisha

Ans (c)

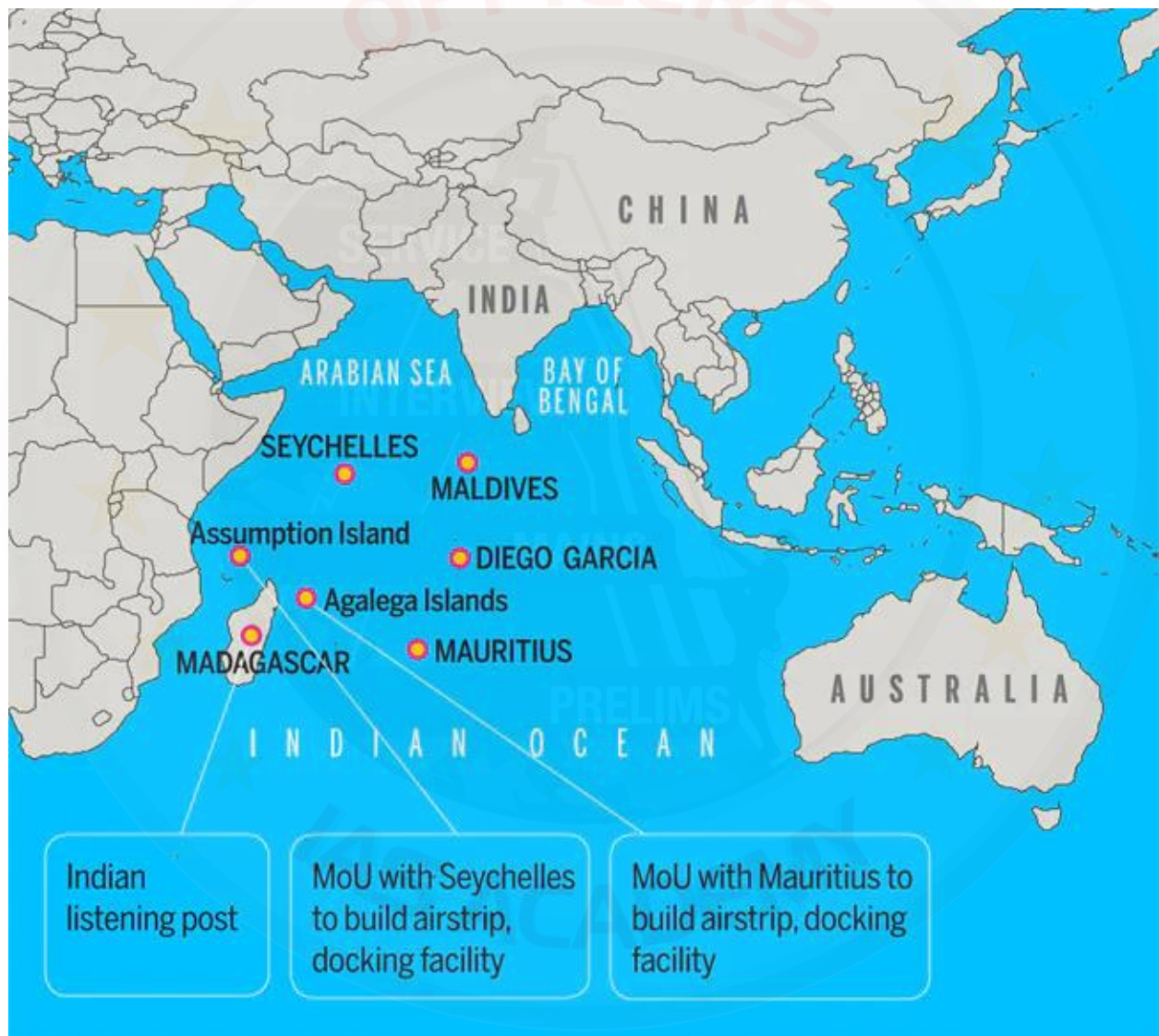
EXPLANATION:

- Kawal Tiger Reserve is located at Jannaram mandal of Mancherial District (Old Adilabad district) in Telangana state of India.
- Govt of India declared Kawal wildlife sanctuary as Tiger Reserve in 2012.
- The reserve is the oldest sanctuary in the northern Telangana region of the state.
- It is well known for its abundant flora and fauna. This sanctuary is catchment for the rivers Godavari and Kadam, which flow towards the south of the sanctuary

21. Agalega Island recently seen in news belongs to which country

- a) Maldives
- b) SriLanka
- c) Mauritius
- d) Part of Andman and Nicobar islands

Ans: (c)



- Agalega islands has been in news because of a planned Indian Military base in the Island.

- Mauritius has denied a report that it has allowed India to build a military base on the remote island of Agalega, with a government official telling AFP that no such agreement exists between the two nations.
- Earlier this week, news broadcaster Al Jazeera reported on the construction of an airstrip and two jetties to house an Indian military base on Agalega, located about 1,000 km north of the archipelago's main island.
- But on Wednesday, the Mauritian government denied any plans to allow a military installation on the Agalega island, home to about 300 people.
- "There is no agreement between Mauritius and India for the creation of a military base in Agalega," Ken Arian, a communications adviser to Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, said.

22. Which of the following are neighbouring countries of Lebanon?

1. Iran
2. Turkey
3. Jordan
4. Israel
5. Syria

Which of the following options above are correct

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

Ans (a)

- Lebanon has been in the news because on August 4, the first anniversary of the Beirut blast, residents of the city took out a march with a mock guillotine outside its port that was ripped apart by the explosion. Elsewhere in the city, protesters clashed with police with stones and fireworks. They wanted answers and the guilty to be punished. A year after the blast, one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions in history that killed more than 200 people and injured about 7,000 others, it's still not clear who was responsible for the incident.

- Authorities have said the blast occurred after a fire at a warehouse that had stored ammonium nitrate, a highly explosive material. But it's not clear who stored ammonium nitrate in a warehouse in the middle of Beirut's densely populated city centre or for what.
- While these questions are yet to be answered, the blast has worsened the country's economic and political crises, further deepening the public resentment.



23. Consider the following statement about Census in India

1. Responsibility of conducting Census of India has been shifted to the Ministry of Information Technology to make the Census digital and paperless.
2. The first census of India was conducted through the Government of India Act, 1919.
3. Caste based Census has never been done in India.

Which of the above statement are correct

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

Ans (d)

- The Indian Census is the largest single source of a variety of statistical information on different characteristics of the people of India conducted after every 10 years, beginning from 1872 when the first census was conducted in India non-synchronously in different parts.
- The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- Census has been in news in India because Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday said that he had written a letter seeking an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to press for a caste-based census.
- Every Census in independent India from 1951 to 2011 has published data on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but not on other castes. Before that, every Census until 1931 had data on caste.

24. Consider the following statement about Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021

1. It has been introduced to nullify the effect of the amendment brought by Finance Act, 2012
2. It has been introduced to overturn the Supreme court verdict in the Vodafone case.
3. It will do away with tax liability arising from indirect transfer of India assets with retrospective effect.

Which of the above statement are correct

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

Ans (d)

- The government on Thursday took the first step towards doing away with the contentious retrospective tax law of 2012, which was used to raise large tax demands on foreign investors such as Vodafone and Cairn Energy, and blamed for vitiating India's investment climate — less than a month after Cairn Energy secured an order from a French court to freeze India's assets in Paris.

- Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha on Thursday to nullify the relevant retrospective tax clauses that were introduced in 2012 to bring past indirect transfer of Indian assets under the ambit of taxation. As per the proposed changes, any tax demand made on transactions that took place before May 2012 shall be dropped, and any taxes already collected shall be repaid, albeit without interest. To be eligible, the concerned taxpayers would have to drop all pending cases against the government and promise not to make any demands for damages or costs.
- Former Finance Minister, the late Pranab Mukherjee, had introduced the retrospective taxation power after the Supreme Court held that Vodafone could not be taxed for a 2007 transaction involving its purchase of a 67% stake in Hutchison Whampoa for \$11 billion.

25. Consider the following with respect to Mega food parks Scheme

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture to reduce wastage of food grains.
3. It is a component scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

Which of the above options are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of above

Ans (c)

- Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing the Mega Food Park Scheme (MFPS) since 2008, which is now a component scheme of the Central Sector Umbrella Scheme – Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY).
- The primary objective of this scheme is to provide modern infrastructure facilities for the food processing along the value chain from farm to market.
- The Ministry has accorded final approval to 38 Mega Food Parks and in-principle approval to three Mega Food Parks in the country. Out of these, 22 Mega Food Park projects have been made operational and 19 projects are under various stages of implementation.

- This information was given by Minister of State for M/o Food Processing Industries, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel in a written reply in Rajya Sabha today.

26. With respect to National Investigation Agency, consider the following statements

1. It was created immediately after the Kargil war(1999) to deal with the issue of Terrorism in the country.
2. The agency reports to the Ministry of Defence.

Which of the above options are correct ?

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

Ans (d)

- National Investigation Agency (NIA) is India's counter-terrorist task force.
- The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
- Statement a) is incorrect as the Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008, which was passed after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
- NIA has been in news as National Investigation Agency (NIA) for filling the chargemsheets i the murder case of Hindu Munnani spokesperson C. Sasikumar.
- Statement b) is incorrect as the agency reports to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

27. The place “ Gogra” have been in news recently in context of relations between which of the following countries:

- a) India-China
- b) India- Myanmar
- c) India- Pakistan
- d) INdia- Bangladesh

Ans (a)

- The place has been in the news in the context of the India- China border issue.

- Recently India and China have undertaken disengagement from the Gogra area of eastern Ladakh following an agreement at the 12th round of Corps Commander talks.
- Gogra is the second friction area from which disengagement has been carried out after Pangong Tso in February as part of efforts for overall disengagement and de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh to end the standoff that began in May last year.

28. He was a great painter of Modern India and is hailed as “ Father of Modern Indian art”. His iconic works include “The Passing of Shah Jahan ”, series of work on “Krishna Lila”, “The Arabian Nights” etc. He believed in the traditional Indian techniques of painting and rejected the materialistic art of the West. He also emphasized on returning to the Indian traditional art forms. The person above refers to:

- a) Raja Ravi Varma
- b) Nandalal Bose
- c) Abanindranath Tagore
- d) Jamini Roy

Ans (c)

- The person above refers to Abanindranath Tagore.
- Abanindranath was born in Jorasanko, Calcutta on 7 August 1871. His father Gunendranath was the son of Girindranath, the second son of Dwarkanath Tagore.
- Abanindranath Tagore, the nephew of Rabindranath Tagore, was one of the most prominent artists of India.
- He was the first major supporter of swadeshi values in Indian art.
- Abanindranath first created the ‘Indian Society of Oriental Art’ and later went on to establish Bengal school of art.
- His sole aim for establishing the school was to counter the English influence on Indian artists.
- He did that by incorporating Indian elements in his works and achieved success when British art institutions gave in and accepted to teach and propagate his style of works in their organizations. His idea of modernizing Mughal and Rajput paintings eventually gave rise to modern Indian painting, which took birth at his Bengal school of art.
- Abaninranath’s other Notable Paintings includes

- Ganesh Janani – Painted in the year 1908, ‘Ganesh Janani’ depicts an image of Lord Ganesh in his child form. The Lord is seen playing by hanging on to a branch of a tree while his mother wears a concerned look on her face.
- Bharat Mata – This beautiful painting was completed in the year 1905. The painting depicts Bharat Mata (Mother India). She is portrayed as having four hands, carrying important elements in each of her hands. The painting reflects Indian tradition, which features in most of his works.
- The Victory of Buddha – ‘The Victory of Buddha’ depicts a portrait of Buddha after achieving enlightenment. It also answers Buddha’s ultimate question pertaining to human suffering.
- The Passing of Shah Jahan – This is a scene straight out of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan’s final day. The picture depicts Shah Jahan on his deathbed, trying to get a final view of Taj Mahal, which would be his final resting place.
- He has been in news as Celebrations to mark 150 years of iconic artist Abanindranath Tagore has began

29. With respect to “Adjournment motion” of Indian parliament, consider the following statement

1. It can be introduced both in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.
2. Primary object of an adjournment motion is to draw the attention of the House to a recent matter of urgent public importance.

Which of the above options are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 both
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Ans (b)

- Statement a) is incorrect as Adjournment motion is introduced only in the Lok Sabha to draw the attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance.
- Since the motion involves an element of censure against the government, therefore Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device
- The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted in the Lok Sabha .

- The right to move a motion for an adjournment of the business of the House is subject to the following restrictions.
 - It should raise a matter which is definite, factual, urgent and of public importance.
 - It should not cover more than one matter.
 - It should be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence and should not be framed in general terms.
 - It should not raise a question of privilege.
 - It should not revive discussion on a matter that has been discussed in the same session.
 - It should not deal with any matter that is under adjudication by the court.
 - It should not raise any question that can be raised on a distinct motion.
- Statement b) is correct as the primary objective of an Adjournment Motion is to draw the attention of the House to a recent matter of urgent public importance having serious consequences and with regard to which a motion or a resolution with proper notice will be too late.
- The Adjournment Motion, if admitted, leads to setting aside of the normal business of the House for discussing the matter mentioned in the motion.
- The discussion on an Adjournment Motion should last for not less than two hours and thirty minutes.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/no-fundamental-right-to-strike/article35732405.ece>

30. With respect to monetary policy committee (MPC) consider the following statement:

1. The committee comprises seven members- four officials of RBI and three external members, nominated by the government of India.
2. The Finance Minister of India is the ex-officio chairperson of the committee.
3. MPC was constituted by amending RBI Act, 1934.

Which of the above option are correct:

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

Ans b)

- Option 1 is incorrect as the committee comprises six members - three officials of the Reserve Bank of India and three external members nominated by the Government of India.
- Option 2 is incorrect as Governor of Reserve Bank of India is the chairperson ex officio of the committee.
- Option 3 is correct Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 was amended by Finance Act (India), 2016 to constitute MPC

31. With respect to National flag of India, consider the following statements

1. The National Flag in its present form was adopted in the Lahore session (1929) to celebrate resolution for complete independence.
2. India's National Flag is based on the flag of the Indian National Congress designed by Pingali Venkayya.

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

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

Ans (b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect as the National Flag in its present form was adopted during a meeting of the Constituent assembly held on July 22, 1947 and not in the Lahore session.
- Statement 2 is correct. The flag is based on the Swaraj flag, a flag of the Indian National Congress designed by Pingali Venkayya.
- Context
 - o Ahead of the Independence Day celebration, the Union government has asked States to ensure that people do not use national flags made of plastic as ensuring the appropriate disposal of the Tricolor made of the non-biodegradable item was a practical problem.
- Therefore, in a communication to all States and Union Territories, the Union Home Ministry said the national flag represented the hopes and aspirations of the people of the country and, hence, should occupy a position of honor.

32. With respect to UNSC (United Nation Security Council), consider the following statements

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. The Security Council consists of ten members out of which five members are permanent.

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

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

Ans (d)

- Statement 1 is incorrect as UNSC is not a specialized agency of the UN. It is one of the six principal organs of the UN charged with ensuring international peace and security.
- Statement 2 is incorrect as the Security Council consists of fifteen members.
 - Five members of UNSC are permanent.
 - Permanent members can veto any substantive resolution, including those on the admission of new member states to the United Nations or nominees for the office of Secretary-General.
 - The remaining ten members are elected on a regional basis to serve a term of two years.
 - The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.
 - Context
- UNSC has been in news as India took over the presidency of UNSC for the month of August, 2021.

33. Consider the following statement about Quit India movement

1. It was launched during the First World War to drive out the British from the country.
2. The slogan "Do or Die" was given by Gandhi during the Quit India movement.

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

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

Ans (b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect as the Quit India movement (1942) was launched during the Second World War(1939-1945).
- Statement 2 is correct
- CONTEXT
- Recently the current Prime Minister has paid tributes to all those who took part in the Quit India Movement, which played a crucial role in strengthening the fight against colonialism.

34. The Future of Jobs Report 2020 is released by

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO)
- International Labor Organization(ILO)
- World Economic Forum(WEF)
- UNCTAD(United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)

Ans (c)

- It is released by the World Economic Forum.
 - The Future of Jobs report maps the jobs and skills of the future, tracking the pace of change.
- Key Findings of the report
- The Future of Jobs Report 2020 aims to shed light on:
 - the pandemic-related disruptions thus far in 2020, contextualized within a longer history of economic cycles,
 - the expected outlook for technology adoption, jobs and skills in the next five years.
 - Despite the currently high degree of uncertainty, the report uses a unique combination of qualitative and quantitative intelligence to expand the knowledge base about the future of jobs and skills.

35. Consider the following statement about Dara Shikoh

1. Dara Shikoh was son of Mughal emperor Jahangir.
2. He is known for the translation of Upanishads from Sanskrit to Persian.
3. He was killed on orders of his brother Aurangzeb after losing the war of succession.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

Ans (b)

- a) Statement 1 is incorrect as Dara Shikoh was the son of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.
- b) Statement 2 is correct. Shikoh completed the translation of fifty Upanishads from their original Sanskrit version to Persian, in 1657, so that they could be studied by Muslim scholars.
- c) Statement 3 is correct. Dara Shikoh was the eldest son and heir-apparent of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. In the war of succession after Shah Jahan's illness in 1657, Dara was defeated by his younger brother Prince Muhiuddin. He was later executed under Aurangzeb's orders, in 1659.
- d) CONTEXT
 - i) In response to a Right to Information query by The Hindu, the ASI on July 28, replied- "no" when asked if it had located the grave of Dara Shikoh inside Humayun's Tomb complex. Dara Sikoh came into the news last year after the government of India announced the setting up of a committee to locate the grave, which some believe is among the many unmarked graves inside the complex, started in February 2020.

36. Recently seen in news "eSanjeevani initiative" is related to

- a) A program to treat Covid through traditional medicine
- b) An initiative to supply Ayurvedic medicine to India's neighbouring countries.
- c) A program to cultivate medicinal plants through using precision technologies.
- d) telemedicine system for seeking health services remotely

Ans (d)

- a) eSanjeevani is Government of India's National Telemedicine Service, conceptualised by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- b) It had recently completed 60 lakh teleconsultations in the country. This indicates its increasing popularity amongst doctors and patients across the country.
- c) Aslo, new users are continuously adopting telemedicine as eSanjeevani has proved to be a feasible, easy to use, practical means of seeking health services remotely.

- d) eSanjeevani is serving patients through two variants namely-
 - i) doctor to doctor (eSanjeevani AB-HWC)
 - ii) patient to doctor (eSanjeevani OPD).
- e) Sanjeevani AB-HWC was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in November 2019 under Govt. of India's Ayushman Bharat Scheme in the 'Hub & Spoke' model.
- i) eSanjeevani AB-HWC is functional at over 25,000 Health and Wellness Centres as spokes
- f) The second variant of this mammoth initiative i.e. eSanjeevani OPD was rolled out on 13th of April 2020 during the first lockdown when the OPDs across the country were shut down. eSanjeevaniOPD is enabling delivery of health services to patients in the confines of their homes.

37. Recently seen in news "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science" report is published by

- a) United Nations Environment Program(UNEP)
- b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC)
- c) World Economic Forum(WEF)
- d) World Wide Fund for Nature(WWF)

Ans (b)

- a) "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science" report has been recently published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC).
- b) The key highlights of the reports are:
 - i) Indian Ocean is warming at a higher rate than other oceans.
 - ii) Current overall global warming trends are likely to lead to an increase in annual mean precipitation over India, with more severe rain expected over southern India
 - iii) Warming of the ocean would lead to a rise in sea levels, leading to frequent and severe coastal flooding in low-level areas.
 - iv) India with a 7,517-km coastline, would face significant threats from the rising seas, especially the population of 28.6 million people living in the port cities of Chennai, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Surat and Visakhapatnam, in the coming decades.
 - v) Monsoon extremes are likely to increase over India and South Asia, while the frequency of short intense rainy days are expected to rise.

38. With respect to Socially and Educationally Backward classes in India, consider the following statements:

1. In India, both states and centres are empowered to declare socially and educationally Backward classes.
2. The National Commission for Backward classes is a constitutional body which investigates and monitors all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes under the Constitution or under any other law to evaluate the working of such safeguards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans (b)

- a) Statement 1 is incorrect as the Supreme Court in its May 2021 majority verdict had held that the 102nd Constitution amendment Act has taken away states power to declare Socially and Educationally Backward classes for grants in jobs and admissions.
- b) Statement 2 is correct, as India's National Commission for Backward Classes under India's Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was established on 14 August 1993.
- i) The One Hundred and Second Amendment of the Constitution of India, officially known as the Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018, granted constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- ii) NCBC is responsible for investigating and monitoring all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes under the Constitution or under any other law to evaluate the working of such safeguards.
- iii) body which investigates and monitors all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes under the Constitution or under any other law to evaluate the working of such safeguards.
- c) CONTEXT
- i) The Government is planning to introduce the One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, which seeks to restore the power of State governments to identify Other

Backward Classes (OBC) that are socially and economically backward after the Supreme Court, in a May 2021 order, that had empowered only the Centre for such identification.

- ii) The amendment has been necessitated after the Supreme Court in its Maratha reservation ruling upheld the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act that inserted Articles 338B and Article 342A (with two clauses) after Article 342.

39. With respect to Competition Commission of India, consider the following statement

1. It is a statutory body responsible for regulation of competition in India.
2. It was constituted under Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans (a)

- a) Statement 1 is correct, as Competition Commission of India is the competition regulator in India.
- b) It is responsible for enforcing and promoting competition throughout India and to prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.
- c) Option 2 is incorrect because it is a statutory body of the Government of India constituted under Competition Act, 2002.
- d) Competition Act, 2002 which governs Indian competition law, had replaced the archaic Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969.

40. Recently seen in news “TROIKA process ” is related to which country

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Lebanon
- c) Yemen

d) Palestine

Ans (a)

- a) TROIKA process is “Russian meet on Afghanistan” to formulate a solution for the Afghanistan issue.
- b) It is a conference of special envoys from the U.S., China, and Pakistan, along with representatives of the Afghanistan government.
- c) Initially, India has not been invited to this Russian conference. But recently Russia has invited India for the first time to the Russia-US-China Troika Plus meet on Afghanistan that will discuss, among other issues, the role of Taliban and the future of the landlocked country.

41. Consider the following statements about “Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana”

- 1. It is a flagship scheme of the government to provide clean cooking fuels to deprived households.
- 2. Address proof is mandatory under Ujjwala 2.0 scheme, which is focused on providing relief to lakhs of migrant worker families in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Ans (a)

- a) Statement 1 is correct.
- b) In May 2016, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG), introduced the ‘Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana’ (PMUY) as a flagship scheme with an objective to make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes etc.
- c) The scheme was launched on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi.
- d) Statement 2 is incorrect. Prime Minister Narendra on Tuesday launched the second phase of the Ujjwala gas connection scheme for the poor and said that it would provide the biggest relief to lakhs of migrant worker families in the country.

- e) Under Ujjwala 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana), migrant workers would no longer have to struggle to get address proof documents to get the gas connections. Only self-declaration will be required to get the gas connection.

42. With respect to "Sea of Azov" consider the following

- 1) Sea of Azov is surrounded by Russia and China
- 2) It is connected to Caspian Sea by the narrow Strait of Kerch.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Ans (d)



- a) Both the statements are incorrect.
- b) The Sea of Azov is surrounded by Russia and Ukraine.
- c) It is a sea in Eastern Europe connected to the Black Sea by the narrow (about 4 km or 2.5 mi) Strait of Kerch.
- d) The Sea of Azov is sometimes regarded as a northern extension of the Black Sea.

- e) The sea is bounded in the northwest by Ukraine, in the southeast by Russia.
- f) The Don and Kuban are the major rivers that flow into it.

43. Match the following amendments with correct options

101 st amendment act	EWS (economically weaker section) reservation
102 nd amendment act	GST (Good and Services tax) Law
103 rd amendment act	NCBC (National Commission for Backward Classes) constitutional status

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Ans (d)

- a) None of the above statements are correctly matched.
- b) One Hundred and First Amendment Act introduced a national Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India from 1 July 2017. Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a Value added Tax (VAT) proposed to be a comprehensive indirect tax levy on manufacture, sale and consumption of goods as well as services at the national level. It replaces all indirect taxes levied on goods and services by the Indian Central and state governments.
- c) the 102nd amendment act of the Constitution of India granted constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- d) One Hundred and Third Amendment introduces 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society for admission to Central Government-run educational institutions and private educational institutions (except for minority educational institutions), and for employment in Central Government jobs. The Amendment does not make such reservations mandatory in State Government-run educational institutions or State Government jobs.

However, some states have chosen to implement the 10% reservation for economically weaker sections.

44. With respect to National Waterways in India, consider the following statements

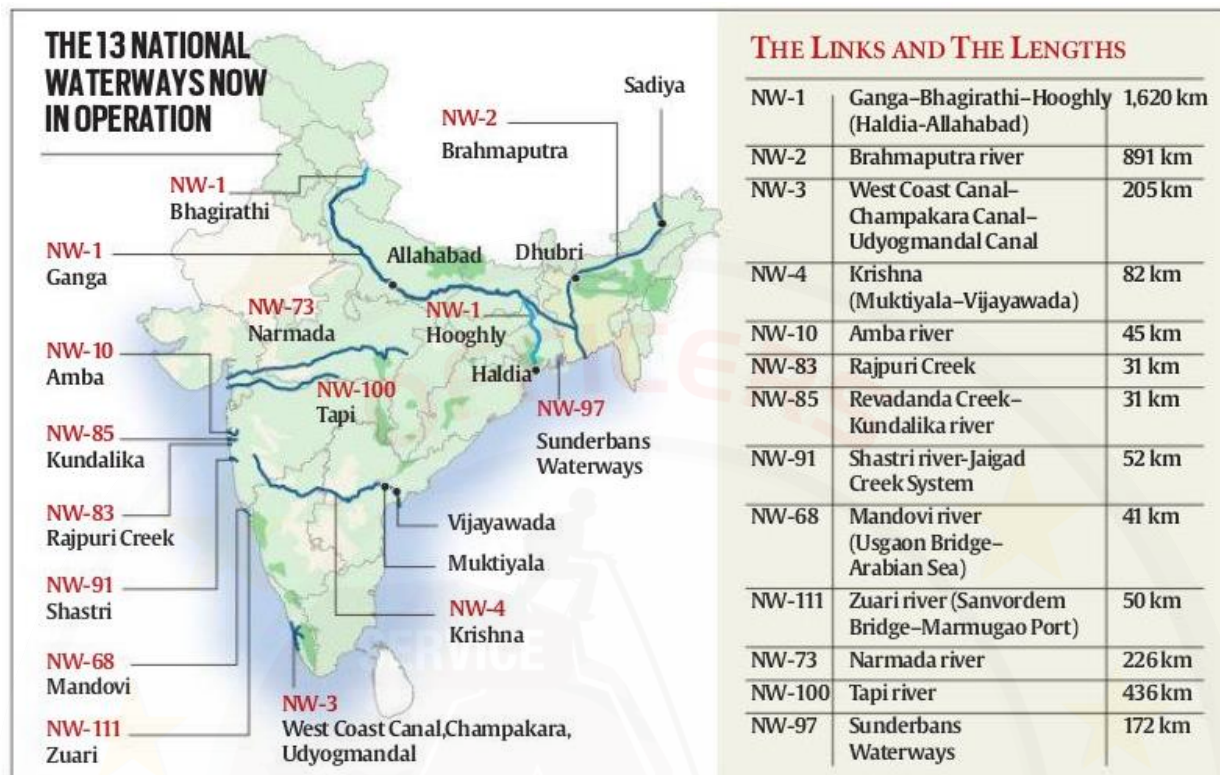
- 1) There are 111 Inland National waterways in India.
- 2) NW-2 is the longest Inland National waterways in India lying on Brahmaputra River between Sadiya to Dhubri.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Ans (a)

- a) Statement 1 is correct while statement 2 is incorrect.
- b) There are 111 officially notified Inland National Waterways (NWs) in India identified for the purposes of inland water transport, as per The National Waterways Act, 2016. Out of the 111 NWs, 106 were created in 2016.
- c) NW-1 is the longest inland national waterways in India. National Waterway 1 (NW-1) or Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River system runs from Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal via Patna and Bhagalpur in Bihar across the Ganges River. It is 1,620 km long, making it the longest waterway in India.



45. Bretton Woods Twins institution often seen in news refers to

- NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and UNSC (United Nations Security Council)
- WHO (World Health Organization) and WTO (World Trade Organization)
- World Bank and WTO (World Trade Organization)
- World Bank and IMF (International Monetary Fund)

Ans (d)

- Bretton Woods twins refers to the two multilateral organizations created at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944.
- They are the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (also known as World Bank) and the International Monetary Fund. Both twin organizations functioned to enact and maintain the Bretton Woods system of proscribed international currency exchange rates.
- The Bretton Woods Conference, officially known as the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, was a gathering of delegates from 44 nations that met from July 1 to

22, 1944 in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, to agree upon a series of new rules for the post-WWII international monetary system.

46. With respect to Judge of Supreme court of India, consider the following statements

1. Supreme Court Judges in India are appointed by the Parliament of India.
2. Judges of the Supreme court will hold their office until the age of 60 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans (d)

- Both the statements are incorrect.
- Judges of the supreme court are appointed under Article 124 of Indian constitution.
- This article state that every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty five years: Provided that in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the chief Justice, the chief Justice of India shall always be consulted.
- The same article mentions the age of retirement of judges to be 65 years.
- Context- Justice Rohinton Nariman have retired today.

47. With respect to Adjournment motion in Lok Sabha consider the following statements:

- a) An adjournment motion can raise a question of privilege.
- b) Not more than one adjournment motion shall be made at the same sitting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans (b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect while statement 2 is correct.
- The primary object of an adjournment motion is to draw the attention of the House to a recent matter of urgent public importance having serious consequences and regarding which a motion or a resolution with proper notice will be too late.
- The matter proposed to be raised should be of such a character that something very grave which affects the whole country, and its security has happened, and the House is required to pay its attention immediately by interrupting the normal business of the House.
- The right to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance shall be subject to the following restrictions, namely: —
 - not more than one such motion shall be made at the same sitting.
 - not more than one matter shall be discussed on the same motion.
 - The motion shall be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence.
 - the motion shall not raise a question of privilege.
 - the motion shall not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same session
 - the motion shall not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration.
 - In determining whether a discussion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, regard shall be had by the Speaker to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the House within a reasonable time.
 - the motion shall not deal with any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India

- The motion shall not raise any question which under the Constitution or these rules can only be raised on a distinct motion by a notice given in writing to the Secretary-General.
- Why is it in the news? LS adjourned two days ahead of schedule, sees 22% productivity

48. “Financial Stability Report” is released by which of the following?

- a) Reserve Bank of India
- b) Ministry of Finance
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Niti Aayog

Ans (a)

- Correct answer to the above question is option (a) i.e., Reserve Bank of India.
- Reserve Bank of India's Financial Stability Report is a report to gauge the health of the banking system and the likely stress situation.
- It is released twice a year.

49. Minsk group often seen in the news is seen in the context of which of the following countries

- a) Israel-Palestine dispute
- b) Afghanistan Civil war
- c) Armenia-Azerbaijan dispute
- d) Oman- Saudi Arabia Dispute

Ans (c)

- Option c is correct
- OSCE Minsk Group was created in 1992 by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).
- Minsk Group, the activities of which have become known as the Minsk Process, spearheads the OSCE's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.
- It is co-chaired by France, the Russian Federation, and the United States.

50. Consider the following statement with respect to “Special Economic Zones” in India, which of the following are objectives of SEZ

1. generation of additional economic activity

2. promotion of exports of goods and services
3. promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources
4. creation of employment opportunities
5. development of infrastructure facilities

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans (d)

- All mentioned above are the objectives of SEZ.
- To instill confidence in investors and signal the Government's commitment to a stable SEZ policy regime and with a view to impart stability to the SEZ regime thereby generating greater economic activity and employment through the establishment of SEZs, a comprehensive draft SEZ Bill was prepared after extensive discussions with the stakeholders.
- Several meetings were held in various parts of the country both by the Minister for Commerce and Industry as well as senior officials for this purpose. The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, was passed by Parliament in May 2005 and received Presidential assent on the 23rd of June 2005.
- The draft SEZ Rules were widely discussed and put on the website of the Department of Commerce offering suggestions/comments. Around 800 suggestions were received on the draft rules.
- After extensive consultations, the SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect on 10th February 2006, providing for drastic simplification of procedures and for single window clearance on matters relating to central as well as state governments.
- The main objectives of the SEZ Act are:
 - generation of additional economic activity
 - promotion of exports of goods and services
 - promotion of investment from domestic and foreign source

- creation of employment opportunities
- development of infrastructure facilities

51. With respect to “GEOSYNCHRONOUS SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE (GSLV)” consider the following statement/statements

1. GSLV launch vehicles are two stage launch vehicles.
2. GSLV has the capability to put a heavier payload in orbit than the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect as GSLV has three stages not two stages.
- Statement 2 is correct.
- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) is a space launch vehicle designed, developed, and operated by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to launch satellites and other space objects into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbits.
- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (or GSLV) is a three-stage launcher with strap-on motors.
- First Stage: GS1
 - The first stage uses a solid rocket motor with four liquid engine strap-on motors.
- Second Stage: GS2
 - The second stage uses a liquid rocket engine which is known as Vikas engine.
- Third Stage: CUS
 - The third stage uses a Cryogenic engine, which uses liquefied oxygen and hydrogen as fuel.
 - In the initial launches, GSLV used the Russian cryogenic engine in the CUS stage.

- ISRO started a project called Cryogenic Upper Stage Project to develop India's own cryogenic engine with the aim of ending its reliance on foreign cryogenic engines.



52. With respect to Sessions of Indian Parliament. Consider the following statements

1. The Constitution provides that the Speaker shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he/she thinks fit.
2. The gap between two sessions of Parliament should not be more than three months.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

- Both the statements are incorrect.
- The President and not the speaker, is the authority to summon the House of the Parliament. The power has been mentioned in Article 85 of Indian constitution.
- Article 85 (Sessions of Parliament, prorogation, and dissolution)
 - The President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session
 - The President may from time to time
 - prorogue the Houses or either House.
 - dissolve the House of the People
- Second statement is incorrect as the duration between two sessions of the House should not be more than six months.

53. With respect to Chenab River, consider the following statements

1. River Chenab is formed by the union of two headwaters Chandra and Bhaga in Himachal Pradesh.
2. Chenab meets River Sutlej in the Indian state of Punjab.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans (a)

- Statement 1 is correct while statement 2 is incorrect.
- Chenab River is a major river that flows in India and Pakistan.
- It is formed by the union of two headwaters, Chandra and Bhaga, which rise in the upper Himalayas in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh state, India.
- It flows west through Jammu and Kashmir union territory—the Indian-administered portion of the disputed Kashmir region—between the steep cliffs of the Siwalik Range (south) and the Lesser Himalayas (north).

- Turning southwest, it continues into Pakistan, descending from the uplands into the broad alluvial lowlands of Punjab province.
- After receiving the Jhelum River near Trimmu, the Chenab empties into the Sutlej River, a tributary of the Indus River.
- Statement 2 is incorrect because Chenab meets Sutlej in Pakistan.

54. With respect to Tiger and Elephant Census in India, consider the following statements

1. Census of Tiger is conducted every four years whereas Elephant Census is done every two years
2. Camera traps are used for Tiger Census whereas Dung samples are deployed to estimate population trends in elephants.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans (b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect whereas statement 2 is correct.
- On the occasion of World Elephant Day, India announced a Common survey to count elephants and tigers in future from December.
- This will bring down the cost of conducting the census in the coming time.
- Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, which is affiliated to the Environment Ministry, has a standardized protocol in place that States then use to estimate tiger numbers. Based on sightings in camera traps and indirect estimation methods, tiger numbers are computed.
- Elephant numbers largely rely on States directly counting the number of elephants. In recent years, techniques such as analyzing dung samples have also been deployed to estimate birth rates and population trends in elephants.
- The tiger survey is usually held once in four years and elephants are counted once in five years (that's why statement 1 is incorrect)

55. Consider the following

1. Morocco
2. Italy
3. Turkey
4. Libya

Which of the above countries share their borders with the Mediterranean sea?

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

Ans (d)

- All the above options are correct.



56. With respect to “Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)” consider the following statements:

1. It provides health assurance cover of up to Rs. 5 Lakh per year per family for secondary and tertiary healthcare hospitalizations.
2. It is a center sector scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

1. statement 1 is correct while second statement is incorrect
2. statement 2 is incorrect because the above-mentioned scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme.
3. Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is the world's largest government funded healthcare program targeting more than 50 crore beneficiaries.
4. Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) will provide a cover of up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
5. Over 10.74 crore vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) will be eligible for these benefits.
6. PMJAY will provide cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.
7. PMJAY will help reduce catastrophic expenditure for hospitalizations, which impoverishes people and will help mitigate the financial risk arising out of catastrophic health episodes.
8. Entitled families will be able to use the quality health services they need without facing financial hardships.
9. When fully implemented, PMJAY will become the world's largest fully government-financed health protection scheme. It is a visionary step towards advancing the agenda of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Why in the news?

10. AB-PMJAY gave ₹2,794 cr. for COVID treatment.

57. With respect to "Vehicle-scrappage policy" in India consider the following statements

1. The policy aims to phase out old and unfit vehicles in an environment-friendly manner.
2. In the "Vehicle-scrappage policy" registration certificate for both private passenger vehicles as well as commercial vehicles is valid for 10 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans (a)

1. Statement 1 is correct while statement 2 is incorrect.
2. Statement 2 is incorrect because registration certificates for both are different.
3. Other information about the policy
 - a. Objectives of the policy are to reduce the population of old and defective vehicles, and to achieve reduction in vehicular air pollutants to fulfil India's climate commitments.
 - b. The criteria for a vehicle to be scrapped is primarily based on the fitness of vehicles through Automated Fitness Centers in case of commercial vehicles and Non-Renewal of Registration in case of private vehicles.
 - c. It is proposed that commercial vehicles be de-registered after 15 years in case of failure to get the fitness certificate. As a disincentive measure, increased fees for fitness certificate and fitness test may be applicable for commercial vehicles 15 year onwards from the date of initial registration.
 - d. It is proposed that Private Vehicles be de-registered after 20 years if found unfit or in case of a failure to renew registration certificate. As a disincentive measure, increased re-registration fees will be applicable for private vehicles 15 year onwards from the date of initial registration.
 - e. It is being proposed that all vehicles of the Central Government, State Government, Municipal Corporation, Panchayats, State Transport Undertakings, Public Sector Undertakings and autonomous bodies with the Union and State Governments may be de-registered and scrapped after 15 years from the date of registration.
 - f. The scheme shall provide strong incentives to owners of old vehicles to scrap old and unfit vehicles through registered scrapping centers, which shall provide the owners with a scrapping certificate.

58. Consider the following institutions:

1. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
2. International Seabed Authority (ISA)
3. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)

Which of the above institutions were created for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) treaty?

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

Ans(d)

All above institutions are correct.

- The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) established three institutions: the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).
- Although structure, composition, and area of competence of these institutions are quite different, they are nevertheless to be considered complementary as their task is to serve the States parties to UNCLOS in ensuring its coherent and efficient implementation, thus also securing the peaceful uses of the seas and the undisputed exploitation of maritime resources as a matter of common interest.

59. Which of the following straits connects south China Sea and East China Sea

- a) Strait of Malacca
- b) Taiwan strait
- c) Sunda strait
- d) Luzon Strait

Ans b)



- The Strait of Malacca connects the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea.
- The Strait of Sunda connects the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra.
- The Luzon Strait is the strait between Taiwan and Luzon island of the Philippines.

60. Consider the following statement with respect to the “MGNREGA Scheme” in India?

1. Scheme provides at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Labour.

Which of the above statements with respect to above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans (a)

- Statements 1 in the above statement is correct while statement 2 is incorrect.
- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005’ which provides at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- The demand for work itself is influenced by various factors such as rain-fall pattern, availability of alternative and remunerative employment opportunities outside MGNREGA and prevailing unskilled wage rates.
- Statement 2 is incorrect because the scheme is implemented by Ministry of Rural Development

61. With respect to Rajya Sabha of India, consider the following statements:

1. Government of India Act, 1935 provided for creation of a council of state.
2. Third Schedule of the Constitution contains provisions as to the allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in the Council of States.

Which of the statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 both
- d) neither 1 nor 2

Ans (d)

Option 1 and 2 both are incorrect

- Statement 1 is incorrect because the origin of the second Chamber can be traced to the Montague-Chelmsford Report of 1918. The Government of India Act, 1919 provided for the creation of a 'Council of State' as a second chamber of the then legislature with a restricted franchise which actually came into existence in 1921.
- Statement 2 is incorrect because it is mentioned in Fourth schedule not third.
- The third Schedule contains the Forms of Oaths or Affirmations.
- The Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in Rajya Sabha. The allocation of seats is made on the basis of the population of each State.

62. With respect to Disaster Management Act, 2005 consider the following statements:

1. The Act was enacted to provide for effective management of disasters and for matters connected with it.
2. Cabinet Committee on Political affairs was the body created for the implementation of the act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 both
- d) neither 1 nor 2

Ans (a)

- Statement 1 is correct
- The Disaster Management Act, 2005, was passed by the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament of India on 28 November, and the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament, on 12 December 2005. It received the assent of The President of India on 23 December 2005.
- The Act extends to the whole of India and provided for the effective management of disasters and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- Statement 2 is incorrect

- The Act calls for the establishment of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and not Cabinet Committee on Political affairs.
- The NDMA may have no more than nine members including a Vice-Chairperson. The authority is headed by the Prime Minister of India.
- The tenure of the members of the NDMA shall be five years.
- It is responsible for "laying down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management" and to ensure "timely and effective response to disaster".
- Under section 6 of the Act it is also responsible for laying down guidelines to be followed by the State Authorities in drawing up the State Plans.

63. Consider the following states

1. Assam
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Mizoram
4. Manipur
5. Tripura

Which of the above states share border with Nagaland

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

Ans (b)

- Nagaland is bounded by the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast, Manipur in the south, and Assam in the west and northwest and the country of Myanmar (Burma) in the east.

64. Consider the following tiger reserves:

- 1) Dampa Tiger reserve
- 2) Buxa Tiger reserve
- 3) Pakhui Tiger reserve

Which of the above tiger reserve/reserves lie in the state of Arunachal Pradesh?

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

Ans b)

- Dampa tiger reserve is in Mizoram and Buxa tiger reserve West Bengal

65. Global Hunger report often seen in news is released by:

- a) UN World Food programme
- b) The Small Planet Institute
- c) Action against Hunger
- d) Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide

Ans (d)

- Created in 2006, the GHI was initially published by the US-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Germany-based Welthungerhilfe. In 2007, the Irish NGO Concern Worldwide also became a co-publisher.

66. Recently seen in news, consider the following statements with reference to Pegasus:

1. It is malicious software developed by a Israeli firm and is classified as ransomware.
2. The infections can be achieved through so-called “zero-click” attacks, which do not require any interaction from the phone’s owner in order to succeed.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans b)

Statement 1 is incorrect as Pegasus is the spyware and not a ransomware, developed by Israel-based security company, NSO Group Technologies.

What is spyware?

- Spyware is defined as malicious software designed to enter your computer device, gather data about you, and forward it to a third-party without your consent.
- Spyware can also refer to legitimate software that monitors your data for commercial purposes like advertising.
- Statement 2 is correct.
- Pegasus is meant to infiltrate smartphones silently and work on three things- collect historic data on devices, continuously monitor activity and transmit this data to a third party.
- Pegasus infections can be achieved through “zero-click” attacks, which do not require any interaction from the phone’s owner in order to succeed.
- Once installed, Pegasus can send the target’s contacts, calendar events, phone calls and messages on communication apps like WhatsApp and Telegram to the spyware’s controller.
- It could steal messages from even services that offer encryption because it was taking the messages before the encryption process. The controller can also turn the phone into a spying device by switching on its camera or microphone.
- Other than Android and iOS systems, Pegasus can also penetrate Symbian and BlackBerry based devices.
- In all forms of installations, the spyware completes the process in the background, completely out of the user’s notice. This, combined with the fact that Pegasus doesn’t require the user’s

- attention is one of the reasons why the spyware is so dangerous and popular amongst security contractors.
- Further, Pegasus doesn't transmit data when a smartphone is on roaming unless it's on WiFi. This is of course done to hide its tracks, since users might notice high data usage bills while roaming.
- Instead, the spyware collects and stores data on your phone in an encrypted buffer, waiting to transmit it once you're out of roaming. It does the same when the phone doesn't have an active Internet connection or is at under 5% battery.
- There's no real way to avoid a Pegasus attack other than the regular best practices. Security Experts have repeatedly advised against downloading suspicious files, clicking on unknown links etc and those remain the best way to fight this malware.

67. With reference to Leader of Opposition, consider the following statements:

1. The Leader of Opposition is a constitutional office.
2. Only a party which has 10% of the strength of the house, can claim the post of leader of opposition.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

- Statement 1 is incorrect, as the leader of the opposition in the houses of Indian parliament is a statutory post.
- The statutory recognition to the post of leader of opposition was accorded through the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
- According to the Act, "Leader of the Opposition", in relation to either House of Parliament, means that member of the Council of States or the House of the People, as the case may be, who is, for the time being, the Leader in that House of the party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised as such by the Chairman of the Council of States or the Speaker of the House of the People, as the case may be.

- Statement 2 is incorrect as the act defines the leader of opposition of each house simply as the leader in that House of the party in opposition to the government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised, as such, by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

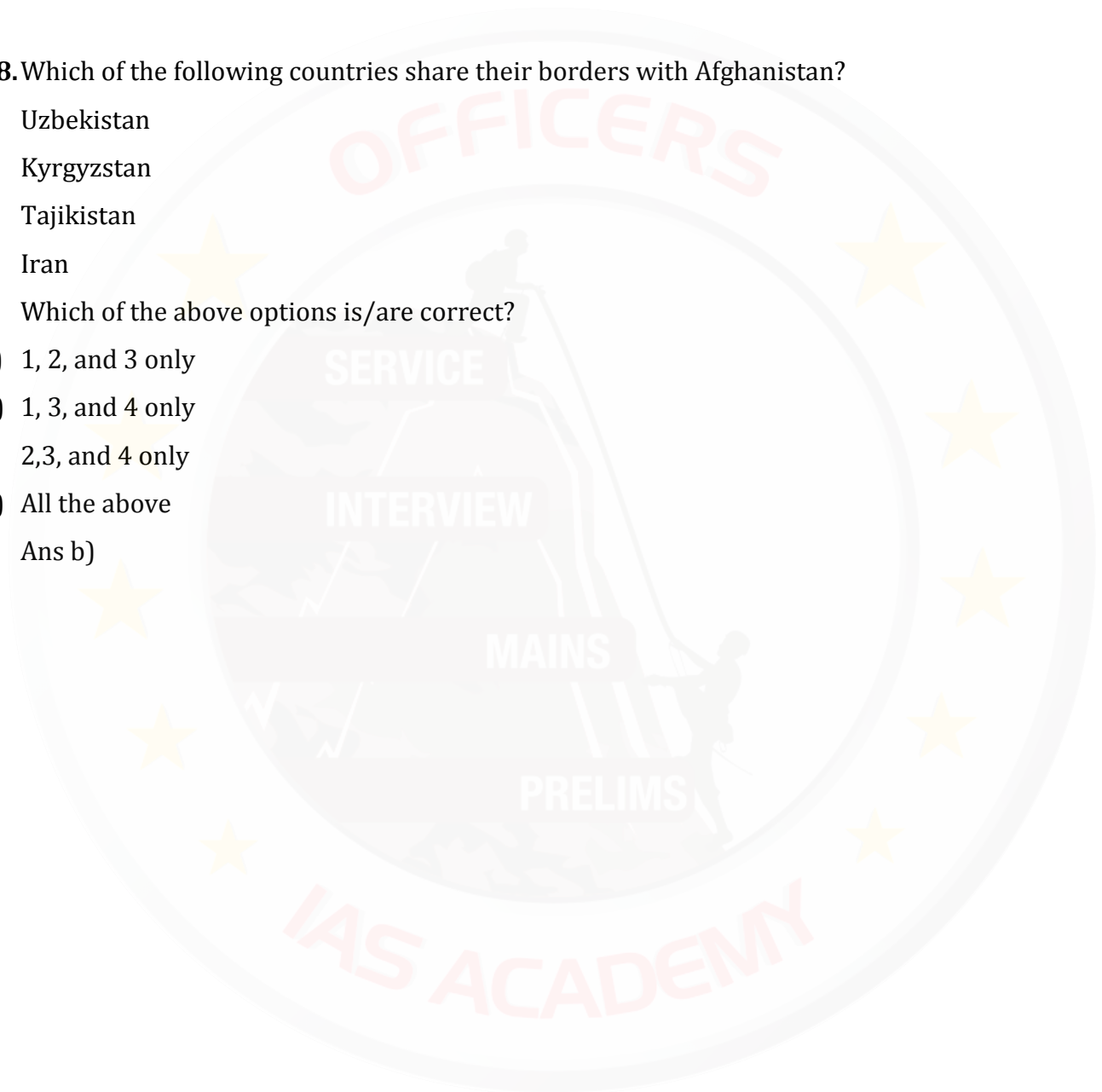
68. Which of the following countries share their borders with Afghanistan?

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

Which of the above options is/are correct?

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

Ans b)





69. With reference to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, consider the following statements:

1. It is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
2. It was created in 1988 by the Conservation International and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

- Statement 1 is correct as IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.

- Statement 2 is incorrect, as it was created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),
- The objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.
- IPCC reports are also a key input into international climate change negotiations.
- The IPCC is an organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO. It currently has 195 members.
- Thousands of people from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC.
- An open and transparent review by experts and governments around the world is an essential part of the IPCC process, to ensure an objective and complete assessment and to reflect a diverse range of views and expertise.
- Through its assessments, the IPCC identifies the strength of scientific agreement in different areas and indicates where further research is needed. The IPCC does not conduct its own research.

70. With reference to Wholesale Price Index (WPI), consider the following statements:

1. It is the price of a representative basket of wholesale goods, published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. In April 2014, the RBI had adopted the WPI as its key measure of inflation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

- Statement 1 is incorrect, as it is published by the Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Some countries (like the Philippines) use WPI changes as a central measure of inflation. But in April 2014, the RBI had adopted the CPI as its key measure of inflation.
- The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is the price of a representative basket of wholesale goods.

- The Wholesale Price Index focuses on the price of goods traded between corporations, rather than the goods bought by consumers, which is measured by the Consumer Price Index.
- The purpose of the WPI is to monitor price movements that reflect supply and demand in industry, manufacturing and construction. This helps in analyzing both macroeconomic and microeconomic conditions.
- The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.

71. Which of the following statements best describes the term “value of equilibrium climate sensitivity”? It is the

- a) measure of how a specified increase in carbon dioxide concentration translates into long-term surface temperature rise.
- b) measure of how a specified increase in all greenhouse gases concentration translates into long-term surface temperature rise.
- c) measure of how a specified decrease in the ozone layer concentration translates into long-term surface temperature rise.
- d) None of the above

Ans a)

- Value of equilibrium climate sensitivity is the measure of how a specified increase in carbon dioxide concentration translates into long-term surface temperature rise.
- Recently the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has released a report titled ‘Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis’. The report is a contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), by (IPCC), Working Group I.
- In its finding, the report has stated that- the value of equilibrium climate sensitivity is now pinned down to the range of 2.5°C to 4.0°C, with a best estimate of 3°C, compared to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) range of 1.5°C to 4.5°C.

Other findings of the Report are:

- A significant section of the report reinforces what is already well known, but with updated numbers, higher accuracy and specific regional assessments, including South Asia.
- Global surface temperature is now higher by 1.07°C since the pre-industrial era.

- The impact of climate change on the atmosphere, oceans and land is unmistakably of human origin and this impact is picking up pace.
- There is no part of the inhabited world that is now untouched by the impact of global warming. Carbon dioxide is the dominant source of warming.
- Aerosols contribute to reducing the impact of warming by other greenhouse gases, by almost a third.
- Methane reduction, while needed overall, is particularly significant only as the drastic reduction of aerosols actually leads to an increase in warming.
- The report expectedly projects an increase in climate extremes due to global warming, with heat waves, extreme rainfall events and occurrence of extreme sea levels all expected to intensify and be more frequent.
- A major finding of the report is that air pollution reduction and steep climate change mitigation are not complementary goals but require independent efforts over the short and medium term.

72. Consider the following statements in the context of Syria

1. It is a landlocked country.
2. It has a coastline on the Red sea.
3. It has a coastline on the Mediterranean sea.
4. It shares its border with Iran.

Which of the above options is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect, 3 is correct. Syria has its coastline on the Mediterranean sea.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Syria is bounded by Turkey to the north, by Iraq to the east and southeast, by Jordan to the south, and by Lebanon and Israel to the southwest.



73. Consider the following information about the National Investigation Agency (NIA):

1. The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India, which was passed after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
2. The act applies to the persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against Indian citizens or affecting the interest of India.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans d)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India, which was passed after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
- Statement 2 is correct. The act applies to the persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against Indian citizens or affecting the interest of India.
- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is India's counter-terrorist task force. The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
- The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008, which was passed after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
- The NIA (Amendment) Bill 2019, passed by the parliament on 17 July 2019, gave more teeth to the investigating powers of the NIA:
 - It empowered the NIA to probe terror attacks targeting Indians and Indian interests abroad. Now, the NIA Act also applies to persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against Indian citizens or affecting the interest of India.
 - It empowered the central government, with respect to a scheduled offence committed outside India, to direct the NIA to register the case and take up investigation as if such offence had taken place in India.
 - The amendment also inserted certain new offences in the Schedule of the NIA Act. Consequently, the NIA is also empowered to probe the offences relating to human trafficking, counterfeit currency or bank notes, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism and explosive substances.

74. Consider the following statements:

1. Einstein propounded the general theory of relativity for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1922.
2. The theory states that- instead of being an invisible force that attracts objects to one another, gravity is a curving or warping of space. The more massive an object, the more it warps the space around it.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans b)

- Einstein propounded the general theory of relativity, according to which- instead of being an invisible force that attracts objects to one another, gravity is a curving or warping of space. The more massive an object, the more it warps the space around it.
- Einstein did receive the 1921 Prize in 1922, it was not for his theories of relativity but for “his services to Theoretical Physics, and especially for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect”.
- The photoelectric effect is the emission of electrons when electromagnetic radiation, such as light, hits a material. Electrons emitted in this manner are called photoelectrons.

75. With respect to the “Indian star tortoise” consider the following statements:

1. It is endemic to India.
2. It has been classified as critically endangered under IUCN.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Indian star tortoises are found across the Indian subcontinent, in the Central and Southern parts of India, in West Pakistan and in Sri Lanka.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. IUCN Status of Indian star tortoise is Vulnerable
- Recently forest officials have arrested three persons for alleged smuggling of a star tortoise, an endangered species that has been listed in the Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1974.

76. Recently cabinet has approved implementation of National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) . Consider the following statements in the context of this mission:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme with a special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
2. Under it for the first time, the Government of India will give a price assurance to the oil palm farmers.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans a)

Statement 1 is incorrect.

1. The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval to launch a new Mission on Oil palm to be known as the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
2. Due to the heavy dependence on imports for edible oils, it is important to make efforts for increasing the domestic production of edible oils in which increasing area and productivity of oil palm plays an important part.
3. A financial outlay of Rs.11,040 crore has been made for the scheme, and this includes the viability gap funding also.

4. Under this scheme, it is proposed to cover an additional area of 6.5 lakh hectare (ha.) for oil palm till the year 2025-26 and thereby reaching the target of 10 lakh hectares ultimately. The production of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) is expected to go upto 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26 and upto 28 lakh tonnes by 2029-30.
5. The scheme will immensely benefit the oil palm farmers, increase capital investment, create employment generation, shall reduce the import dependence and also increase the income of the farmers.
6. Since, around 98% of CPO is being imported, it is proposed to launch the Scheme to further increase the area and production of CPO in the country.
7. The proposed scheme will subsume the current National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm programme.
8. Statement 2 is correct.
9. There are two major focus areas of the Scheme:
 - a. For the first time, the Government of India will give a price assurance to the oil palm farmers for the Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) from which oil is extracted by the industry. This will be known as the Viability Price (VP).
 - b. The second major focus of the scheme is to substantially increase the assistance of inputs/interventions.

77. Consider the following statements in the context of Judges of supreme court:

1. In judicial appointments of Supreme court judges, it is obligatory for the President to take into account the opinion of the Chief Justice of India.
2. The Government of India has no role in the appointments of SC judges.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

1. Statement 1 is correct. Article 124(2) of the Indian Constitution provides that the every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and

seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty five years.

- a. Which the chief Justice of India shall always be consulted.
2. Statement 2 is incorrect. For the appointment of judges of the SC, other than CJI, the proposal for the appointment is initiated by the CJI.
 - a. The CJI consults with all of the collegium members, along with the senior-most judge of the court hailing from the High Court to which the recommended person belongs.
 - b. The recommendation is then forwarded to the Law Minister, who in turn forwards it to the Prime Minister to advise the President.

78. Consider the following statements in the context of National Livestock Mission (NLM):

1. The government of India had recently announced the National Livestock Mission (NLM) to support farmers in producing fodder for livestock.
2. The scheme will cover everything relevant to improvement of livestock productivity and support projects and initiatives required for that purpose.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The National Livestock Mission (NLM) commenced from 2014-15. Recently the Mission has been revised to fill the gaps scheme in its initial version.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Mission will cover everything relevant to improvement of livestock productivity and support projects and initiatives required for that purpose.

National Livestock Mission (NLM)

- The Mission is designed to cover all the activities required to ensure quantitative and qualitative improvement in livestock production systems and capacity building of all stakeholders.

- The Mission will cover everything relevant to improvement of livestock productivity and support projects and initiatives required for that purpose.
- The mission is formulated with the objective of sustainable development of the livestock sector, focusing on improving availability of quality feed and fodder.
- It is implemented throughout the country.

Drawbacks in the original scheme:

When the NLM was launched in 2014, it focused on supporting farmers in producing fodder from non-forest wasteland/grassland, and cultivation of coarse grains.

- However, this model could not sustain fodder availability due to lack of backward and forward linkages in the value chain.
- Considering the drawbacks of NLM, the Mission has been revised to make the programme focus primarily on assistance towards seed production and the development of feed and fodder entrepreneurs.
- The government has recently announced the sub-mission under NLM i.e. Sub-Mission on Fodder and Feed.
- It now provides for 50% direct capital subsidy to the beneficiaries under the feed and fodder entrepreneurship programme and 100% subsidy on fodder seed production to identified beneficiaries.

Sub-Mission on Fodder and Feed

- The Sub-Mission intends to create a network of entrepreneurs who will make silage (the hub) and sell them directly to the farmers (the spoke).
- Silage is a type of fodder made from green foliage crops which have been preserved by acidification, achieved through fermentation.
- Private entrepreneurs, self-help groups, farmer producer organisations, dairy cooperative societies, and Section 8 companies (NGOs) can avail themselves of the benefits under this scheme.
- The scheme will also provide 50% capital subsidy up to ₹50 lakh towards project cost to the beneficiary for infrastructure development and for procuring machinery for value addition in feed such as hay/silage/total mixed ration.
- The scheme can be used for covering the cost of infrastructure/machinery such as bailing units, harvester, chaff cutter, sheds, etc.

79. Which of the following countries are member of G-7 group:

1. Canada
2. Italy
3. Germany
4. China
5. Russia

Which of the above options is/are correct?

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

Ans c)

The Group of 7 (G7) is an informal group of seven countries — the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom, the heads of which hold an annual summit with the European Union and other invitees.

1. Together the member countries represent 40% of global GDP and 10% of the world's population.
2. Unlike other bodies such as NATO, the G7 has no legal existence, permanent secretariat or official members. It also has no binding impact on policy and all decisions and commitments made at G7 meetings need to be ratified independently by governing bodies of member states.
3. The G7 draws its roots from a meeting between the current G7 members, excluding Canada, that took place in 1975. At the time, the global economy was in a state of recession due to the OPEC oil embargo. As the energy crisis was escalating, US Treasury Secretary George Schultz decided that it would be beneficial for the large players on the world stage to coordinate with each other on macroeconomic initiatives.
4. After this first summit, the countries agreed to meet annually and a year later, Canada was invited into the group which marked the official formation of the G7 as we know it.
5. The President of the European Commission was asked to join the meetings in 1977 and following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and a subsequent thaw in relations between the East and West, Russia was also invited to join the group in 1998.

6. Thereafter the group was named the G8 until 2014, when Russia was expelled for its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

80. Consider the following statements in the context of recently notified Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021:

1. The rules have been notified by the Ministry of urban development.
2. The rules prohibit all plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential by 2022.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans c)

1. Statement 1 is incorrect. In line with the clarion call given by Prime Minister to phase out single use plastic by 2022, keeping in view the adverse impacts of littered plastic on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021.
2. Statement 2 is incorrect. The rules prohibit identified single use plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential by 2022.
 - a. The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022.
3. In order to stop littering due to light weight plastic carry bags, with effect from 30th September, 2021, the thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased from fifty microns to seventy five microns and to one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022.
 - a. This will also allow reuse of plastic carry due to increase in thickness.
4. The plastic packaging waste, which is not covered under the phase out of identified single use plastic items, shall be collected and managed in an environmentally sustainable way through the Extended Producer Responsibility of the Producer, importer and Brand owner (PIBO), as per Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

5. For effective implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility the Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility being brought out have been given legal force through Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021.

81. With reference to recently launched Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC) 5.0, consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. It is a reflection of the Government's resolve of creating an 'Atma Nirbhar' defence sector.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans a)

1. Statement 1 is incorrect.
2. Recently, Raksha Mantri had launched Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC) 5.0 under Innovations for Defence Excellence - Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO).
3. "Defence India Startup Challenge and Open Challenges provide many opportunities to our youth and entrepreneurs. They give a new direction to defence innovation and capabilities by highlighting the potential of India's science, technology and research",
 - a. Thirty five Problem Statements – 13 from the Services and 22 from Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) – were unveiled under DISC 5.0. These are in areas such as Situational awareness, Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence, Aircraft-trainer, Non-lethal devices, 5G network, Under-water domain awareness, Drone SWARMS and Data Capturing.
 - b. The Problem Statements, designed to ensure military advantage in the foreseeable future, are the highest among the other four editions, so far.
4. Statement 2 is correct.
5. DISC 5.0 is a reflection of the Government's resolve of creating an 'Atma Nirbhar' defence sector.

6. The challenge underlines the importance of creating a strong, modern & well-equipped military and an equally capable & self-reliant defence industry, given the rapidly changing geo-political and security scenario in the world.
7. To realise this vision, iDEX is playing a crucial role by providing a platform wherein the Government, Services, think tanks, industry, startups and innovators can work together to help the defence & aerospace sectors reach full potential.
8. Note: The iDEX initiative was launched by the Prime Minister in April 2018 to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation & technology development in defence and aerospace sectors.

82. Consider the following statements in the context of “Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC-2011)”:

1. It was the first-ever caste-based census and paperless census of independent India.
2. It enumerated data on all the castes residing in India.
3. It was conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans c)

- Statement 1 is correct.
- SECC-2011 was the first paperless census in India which was conducted on handheld electronic devices.
- Also, it was the first-ever caste-based census since the 1931 census of India.
- Statement 2 is incorrect.
- In Census, only the castes and tribes which are specifically notified as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 (as amended from time to time) are enumerated.
- Statement 3 is incorrect.

- SECC 2011 has three census components which were conducted by three separate authorities but under the overall coordination of the Department of Rural Development in the Government of India.
- Census in Rural Areas has been conducted by the Department of Rural Development (DoRD).
- Census in Urban areas is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA).
- Caste Census is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs: Registrar General of India (RGI) and Census Commissioner of India.

Note:

The usual census is different from SECC for following reasons:

1. The Census provides a portrait of the Indian population, while the SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.
2. The Census falls under the Census Act of 1948, hence, all data under Census are considered confidential, whereas SECC does not fall under Census Act of 1948.
- a. Hence, all the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to households.

83. Consider the following statements in the context of Moplah Rebellion, also known as the Moplah Riots:

1. It was a series of riots by the Mappila Hindus of Kerala in the 19th and early 20th centuries.
2. It was started against the Muslim landlords in Malabar.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans c)

1. Statement 1 is incorrect.
2. The Moplah Rebellion of 1921 was the culmination of a series of riots by mappila muslims of Kerala in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

3. Statement 2 is incorrect. The riots were started against the British and the Hindu landlords in Malabar, Northern Kerala.
4. It was an armed revolt.
5. It was led under the leadership of Variyamkunnath Kunjahammed Haji.

84. Consider the following statements in context of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

1. The establishment of CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of corruption.
2. It functions under Ministry of Home affairs
3. It is a statutory body.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Ans c)

1. Statement 1 is correct.
2. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating police agency in India. Its establishment was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of corruption.
3. Statement 2 is incorrect. Though initially it was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home affairs. Later it was transferred to Deptt. of Personnel, Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances, Government of India - which falls under the prime minister's office.
4. Statement 3 is incorrect. It is not a statutory body.
 - a. It was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home affairs, and not by the act of Parliament.

85. Consider the following statements in context of The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:

1. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 deals with sexual offences against persons below 18 years of age, who are deemed as children.
2. The act empowers only the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights for monitoring the implementation of the provisions of this Act.
3. The Act for the first time, defines “penetrative sexual assault”, “sexual assault” and “sexual harassment”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans b)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 deals with sexual offences against persons below 18 years of age, who are deemed as children. The act comes under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Section 44 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 empowers the NCPCR and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights for monitoring the implementation of the provisions of this Act in such manner as may be prescribed.
- Statement 3 is correct. The Act for the first time, defines “penetrative sexual assault”, “sexual assault” and “sexual harassment”.
- The offence is considered grave if it is committed by a police officer, public servant, any member of the staff at a remand home, protection or observation home, jail, hospital or educational institution, or by a member of the armed or security forces.
- The Act is a comprehensive law to provide for the protection of children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interests of the child at every stage of the judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through appointment of Special Public Prosecutors and designated Special Courts.

86. Persian Gulf is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Oman
2. Iraq
3. United Arab Emirates
4. Iran
5. Yemen

Which of the above options is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

The border of Persian Gulf is shared by eight countries namely, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.



87. Recently seen in news, place named Kinnaur is in which of the following state:

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Punjab

Ans c)

- The place has been in news recently, where at least nine people died while three were injured in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district on Sunday after a bridge collapsed as a result of boulders rolling down a hill due to a landslide.

What is a landslide?

- A landslide is defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope. These are a type of "mass wasting," which denotes any down-slope movement of soil and rock under the direct influence of gravity.
- The term "landslide" encompasses five modes of slope movement: falls, topples, slides, spreads, and flows.
- These are further subdivided by the type of geologic material (bedrock, debris, or earth).
- Debris flows (commonly referred to as mudflows or mudslides) and rock falls are examples of common landslide types.

What causes one?

- Almost every landslide has multiple causes.
- Slope movement occurs when forces acting down-slope (mainly due to gravity) exceed the strength of the earth materials that compose the slope.
- Causes include factors that increase the effects of down-slope forces and factors that contribute to low or reduced strength.
- Landslides can be initiated in slopes already on the verge of movement by rainfall, snowmelt, changes in water level, stream erosion, changes in groundwater, earthquakes, volcanic activity, disturbance by human activities, or any combination of these factors.
- Earthquake shaking and other factors can also induce landslides underwater. These landslides are called submarine landslides.
- Submarine landslides sometimes cause tsunamis that damage coastal areas.

88. Recently the Indian Prime Minister has launched new projects at the historic Somnath temple. Consider following statements in context to the temple:

1. Somnath temple stands at the shore of the Arabian ocean in Gujarat State.
2. The temple is dedicated to lord Vishnu.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans b)

1. Statement 1 is correct. Somnath temple stands at the shore of the Arabian ocean on the western corner of the Indian subcontinent in Gujarat State.
2. This pilgrimage is one of the oldest and finds its reference in the ancient texts like Skanda Purana, Shreemad Bhagavat, Shiv Puran etc. This signifies the ancient value of this Tirthdham.
3. Statement 2 is incorrect. Somnath is one of the 12 holy Shiva Jyotirlings. This is the first among the twelve holy Shiva Jyotirlings.

Note:

4. The temple was razed and plundered as many as seventeen times in the past and resurrected every time with greater glory.
5. In AD 1026, Mahmud of Ghazni first looted the temple, and then came Afzal Khan, the commander of Ala-ud-din Khilji and later Aurangzeb.
6. The present temple is built in the Chalukyan style of temple architecture

89. Consider the following statements in context of 'water plus' city of India:

1. Bhopal has been declared as the first 'water plus' city of India.
2. The cities are certified as water plus by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, under the Swachh Survekshan Survey.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

1. Statement 1 is incorrect. Indore has been declared as the first 'water plus' city of India.
2. Statement 2 is incorrect. The cities are certified as water plus by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA), under the Swachh Survekshan Survey, 2021.
 - a. The certifications ranged from ODF (Open Defecation Free), ODF+, ODF++ and Water+, of which the city had already achieved ODF++ status.
3. For this certification, the city has to be assessed through third party inspections against nine indicators, respectively with regard to safe discharge of sewage, safe cleaning practices, mechanical equipment support, treatment capacities, reuse of treated water, maintenance of drains, cost recovery, grievance redress mechanism, and establishment of sanitation authority and response units.

90. Recently seen in news, the Abraham Accord is between which countries:

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Kuwait
3. Israel
4. Bahrain
5. United Arab Emirates

Which of the above options is/are correct?

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

d) 3, 4 and 5 only

Ans d)

- The Abraham Accord between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain is mediated by the USA.
- It is the first Arab-Israeli peace deal in 26 years.

The Abraham Accords

The Abraham Accords are a joint statement between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States, reached on August 13, 2020.

- Subsequently, the term was used to refer collectively to agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (the Israel–United Arab Emirates normalization agreement) and Bahrain, respectively (the Bahrain–Israel normalization agreement).
- The statement marked the first public normalization of relations between an Arab country and Israel since that of Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.
- The original Abraham Accords were signed by the Emirati Foreign Minister, the Bahraini Foreign Minister, Israeli Prime Minister, and U.S. President on September 15, 2020, at the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, D.C.
- The accords are named after Abraham to emphasize the shared origin of belief between Judaism and Islam, both of which are Abrahamic religions that strictly espouse the monotheistic worship of the God of Abraham.

91. World Press Freedom Index” is released by:

- a) World Bank
- b) United Nations
- c) Reporters Sans Frontieres
- d) World Economic Forum

Ans c)

- “World Press Freedom Index” is released by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders.
- Based in Paris, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is an independent NGO with consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF).

- It is the world's biggest NGO specializing in the defense of media freedom, which we regard as the basic human right to be informed and to inform others.

92. Consider the following statements in context of Gaza:

1. It is a self-governing Palestinian territory on the western coast of the Mediterranean Sea.
2. It borders Israel and the Mediterranean Sea only.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans c)

- The Gaza Strip or simply Gaza, is a self-governing Palestinian territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea.
- Along with Israel and the Mediterranean Sea, it also borders Egypt.

Note:

1. Gaza and the West Bank are claimed by the de jure sovereign State of Palestine.
2. It fell under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, but the strip has, since the Battle of Gaza in June 2007, been governed by Hamas, a Palestinian fundamentalist militant Islamic organization, which came to power in the last-held elections in 2006.
3. It has been placed under an Israeli and US-led international economic and political boycott from that time onwards.



4.

93. Consider the following statements in context of “Exercise Malabar”:

1. The naval exercise consists of the United States, Japan, India and Australia.

2. It takes place annually alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans c)

1. Statement 1 is correct. It is an annual naval exercise between the navies of the USA, India, Japan, and Australia.
2. Originally begun in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the United States, the exercise was expanded in 2007 with the participation of Japan, Singapore and Australia. Japan became a permanent partner in 2015. Australia participated in the exercise again in 2020, marking the second time that the Quad will be jointly participating in a military exercise.
3. Statement 2 is correct. It is held alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
4. The annual Malabar exercises includes diverse activities, ranging from fighter combat operations from aircraft carriers through maritime interdiction operations, anti-submarine warfare, diving salvage operations, amphibious operations, counter-piracy operations, cross-deck helicopter landings and anti-air warfare operations.

94. Recently seen in news, Kamov Ka-226 is a:

- a) Assault rifle
- b) utility helicopter
- c) missile
- d) submarine

Ans b)

1. The Kamov Ka-226 is a small, twin-engine Russian utility helicopter.
2. The Ka-226 features an interchangeable mission pod, rather than a conventional cabin, allowing the use of various accommodation or equipment configurations.
3. The first batch of Kamov military helicopters, to be manufactured in India under an Indo-Russia joint venture, is expected to be rolled out by 2025

95. Consider the following statements in context of “Jan Shikshan Sansthan”:

1. The Scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) formerly known as Shramik Vidyapeeth, is a unique creation of the Government of India and has been implemented through NGOs in the country since 1967.
2. The scheme comes under the Ministry of Education.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

Statement 1 is correct. The Scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) formerly known as Shramik Vidyapeeth was a unique creation of the Government of India and has been implemented through NGOs in the country since 1967.

- The scheme was renamed as Jan Shikshan Sansthan in 2000.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The JSS scheme was transferred from the Ministry of Education (erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development) to the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in July, 2018.
- At present, 233 JSSs in 25 States and 3 Union Territories are functional. The annual coverage of the beneficiaries is around 4 lakh, out of which 85% are women.
- Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme is implemented through NGOs with 100% grants from the Government of India.
- Jan Shikshan Sansthans are registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It aims to provide vocational training to non-literates, neo-literates as well as school drop-outs in rural regions by identifying skills that have a relevant market in that region.
- The objective of JSS is to uplift this rural population economically by imparting essential skills training, thereby enabling local trades to grow and creating new opportunities for the natives of the region.
- The priority groups are women, SC, ST, minorities and other backward sections of the society.

Recently the scheme has been in news, as it has brought high-speed internet to some of the remotest tribal hamlets deep inside the Nilambur jungle, Kerala.

96. Recently seen in news “Panjshir Valley” is situated in:

- a) Tajikistan
- b) China
- c) Syria
- d) Afghanistan

Ans d)

1. The Panjshir Valley is a valley in north-central Afghanistan, 150 kilometres north of Kabul, near the Hindu Kush mountain range.
2. It is divided by the Panjshir River.
3. The valley is home to more than 100,000 people, including Afghanistan's largest concentration of ethnic Tajiks.
4. Recently the Taliban has sent hundreds of its fighters to the Panjshir Valley, one of the few parts of Afghanistan not yet controlled by the group.

97. As per the amended provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, fixation of FRP of sugarcane should take into consideration which of the following factors:

1. return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities
2. availability of sugar to consumers at a fair price
3. recovery of sugar from sugarcane
4. reasonable margins for the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

- With the amendment of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 on 22.10.2009, the concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced with the 'Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)' of sugarcane.
- The cane price announced by the Central Government is decided on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in consultation with the State Governments and after taking feedback from associations of the sugar industry.

Option d) is correct. The amended provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 provides for fixation of FRP of sugarcane having regard to the following factors:-

- a) cost of production of sugarcane;
 - b) return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities;
 - c) availability of sugar to consumers at a fair price;
 - d) price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers;
 - e) recovery of sugar from sugarcane;
 - f) the realization made from sale of by-products viz. molasses, bagasse and press mud or their imputed value;
 - g) reasonable margins for the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits.
1. Under the FRP system, the farmers are not required to wait till the end of the season or for any announcement of the profits by sugar mills or the Government.

The new system also assures margins on account of profit and risk to farmers, irrespective of the fact whether sugar mills generate profit or not and is not dependent on the performance of any individual sugar mill.

98. Consider the following statements in context to Corbett Tiger Reserve:

1. It is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
2. It was the first area to come under the Project Tiger initiative in 1973.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 both
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans a)

1. Statement 1 is incorrect. It is located in Nainital district of Uttarakhand.
 2. Statement 2 is correct. It was the first area to come under the Project Tiger initiative in 1973.
- a. Jim Corbett National Park is a part of the larger Corbett Tiger Reserve and is the oldest national park in India.
 - b. The national park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger.
 - c. It is later named after Jim Corbett who played a key role in its establishment.
 - d. The major rivers flowing through the Corbett National Park are- Ramganga, Sonanadi, Mandal, Palain and Kosi.

99. Tauktae and Yaas, Recently seen in news are:

- a) Cyclone
- b) tiger reserves
- c) festival of manipur
- d) none of the above

Ans a)

1. Tauktae and Yaas are two severe cyclones which battered India earlier this year.
2. Cyclone Tauktae affected weather and caused rain across the western coast for a week. Post landfall over Gujarat, it continued to bring wet weather over west and north India, including Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.
3. Whie Cyclone Yaas over the Bay of Bengal brought rainfall mainly over Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar for about three days.

100. Consider the following statements in context of Mullaperiyar Dam:

1. The dam is built at the confluence of Mullayar and Periyar rivers.
2. The dam is located in Kerala and is also operated and maintained by the state of Kerala.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

- Statement 1 is correct. The dam is built at the confluence of Mullayar and Periyar rivers.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The dam is located in Kerala on the river Periyar, but is operated and maintained by the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu.

Note:

- Mullaperiyar Dam, is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in the Indian state of Kerala.
- It is located 881 m (2,890 ft) above mean sea level, on the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats in Thekkady, Idukki District of Kerala, India.
- The Periyar National Park in Thekkady is located around the dam's reservoir.
- Although the Periyar River has a total catchment area of 5398 km² with 114 km² downstream from the dam in Tamil Nadu, the catchment area of the Mullaperiyar Dam itself lies entirely in Kerala and thus not an inter-State river.

101. which of the following countries have direct access to Arctic resources:

1. Denmark
2. Finland
3. Sweden
4. the United States

Which of the following options above are correct

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

Ans d)

1. There are eight countries that have direct access to the Arctic resources, i.e., Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States.



102. The World Economic Outlook report is published by:

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank

- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Ans c)

1. The World Economic Outlook (WEO) report is published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. The report analyzes key parts of the IMF's surveillance of economic developments and policies in its member countries.

Note:

3. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 190 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.
4. Other than World Economic Outlook, IMF also publishes Global Financial Stability Report

103. Consider the following statements with respect to pricing policy in India:

1. Prices of sugar are market driven & depend on demand & supply of sugar.
2. There is no provision for Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar by the government of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

1. Statement 1 is correct. Prices of sugar are market driven & depend on demand & supply of sugar.
 2. Statement 2 is incorrect. With a view to protect the interests of farmers, the concept of Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar has been introduced in 2018, so that industry may get at least the minimum cost of production of sugar, so as to enable them to clear cane price dues of farmers.
- a. MSP of sugar has been fixed taking into account the components of Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane and minimum conversion cost of the most efficient mills.

3. In exercise of the powers conferred by the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Government has notified Sugar Price (Control) Order, 2018.
4. Under the provisions of said order, the Government has fixed Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar.

104. Consider the following statements in context of “S-400 Triumf”:

1. The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range air-to-air missile defence system.
2. India is the first foreign buyer of the system to make a government-to-government deal with Russia.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans c)

1. Statement 1 is incorrect. The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system.
 - a. The 'Triumf' interceptor-based missile system can destroy incoming hostile aircraft, missiles and even drones at ranges of up to 400 km.
2. Statement 2 is incorrect. China was the first foreign buyer to make a government-to-government deal with Russia in 2014, while Saudi Arabia, Turkey, India and Belarus have all acquired, or expressed interest, in the system since.
 - a. India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, in October 2018.

105. With respects to lakes in India, consider the following statements

1. Wular lake is a freshwater lake fed by River Jhelum.

2. Kolleru lake which is situated in Andhra Pradesh is a brackish lake.
3. Pulicat lake is a brackish lake situated at the border of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

3. Statement 1 is correct.
4. Wular Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Asia. It is sited in Bandipora district in Jammu and Kashmir, India.
5. The lake basin was formed as a result of tectonic activity and is fed by the Jhelum River.
6. The lake is one of the Indian wetlands designated as a Ramsar site. However it faces environmental threats including the conversion of large parts of the lake's catchment areas into agriculture land, pollution from fertilizers and animal wastes, hunting of waterfowl and migratory birds, and weed infestation in the lake itself.
7. Statement 2 is incorrect.
8. Kolleru Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in India located in the state of Andhra Pradesh and forms the largest shallow freshwater lake in Asia.
9. It is located between Krishna and Godavari deltas.
10. The lake was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in November 1999 under India's Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, and designated a wetland of international importance in November 2002 under the international Ramsar Convention.
11. Statement 3 is incorrect.
12. Pulicat Lagoon is the second largest brackish water lagoon in India, after Chilika Lake.
13. It is located on the border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

106. In which case, the supreme court of india for the first time introduced the concept of “Creamy layer”?

- a) M. Nagaraj Case
- b) Indra Sawhney case
- c) Jarnail Singh v L.N. Gupta case
- d) None of the above

Ans: C

In Indra Sawhney (1992):

- The Supreme Court introduced the concept of ‘creamy layer’ — a term describing the well-off among the Backward Classes — and declared that this section should be denied reservation benefits; the original idea of including groups based on social backwardness was matched by a parallel exercise to exclude the more advanced among them.
- However SC excluded application of the creamy layer concept on SCs/STs, thus making it only applicable on OBCs.

In M. Nagaraj Case (2006):

- SC reversed the stance it took in the Indra Sawhney case, by applying the creamy layer concept on SC/ST reservation in promotions.
- Though SC upheld the constitutional validity of all constitutional amendments enabling reservation of SC/ST communities in promotions, but made certain directives for the states:
 - State is not bound to make reservations for SC/ST in the matter of promotions.
 - If a State wants to provide reservation to the SC/ST communities in promotions:
 - It has to collect quantifiable data showing backwardness of the class.
 - Show inadequacy of representation of that class in public employment in addition to compliance of Article 335.
 - State needs to ensure that its reservation provision does not lead to excessiveness-breaching the ceiling-limit of 50%, or destroying the creamy layer principle.

In Jarnail Singh v L.N. Gupta (2018) case:

1. SC altered its decision in M. Nagaraj Case (2006), by saying that states will not be required to present quantifiable data of backwardness of SC/ST communities.

107. Which of the following cabinet committees are chaired by the Prime Minister?

1. Cabinet Committee on Accommodation.
2. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
3. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.
4. Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs.

Which of the following options above is/are correct:

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

Ans: C

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs are chaired by the Prime Minister.
- Cabinet Committee on Accommodation, Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs are headed by the Home Minister.

Note:

- All committees except Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs are headed by the Prime Minister.

Cabinet Committees:

1. These committees are extra-constitutional in emergence, i.e., they are not mentioned in the Constitution.
2. They are constituted by the Prime Minister.
3. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment, as the executive in India works under the Government of India Transaction of Business Rules, 1961.
4. Role of Cabinet Committees:
 - a. They lessen the enormous workload of the Cabinet.
 - b. They facilitate an in-depth examination of policy issues and effective coordination.
 - c. They not only resolve issues and frame proposals for the Cabinet's consideration, but also take decisions.

108. Recently seen in news, the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) is published by:

- a) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- b) World Economic forum
- c) World Bank
- d) United Nations

Ans: A

- Recently the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has released a report titled 'Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis'. The report is a contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), by (IPCC), Working Group I.
- In its finding, the report has stated that- the value of equilibrium climate sensitivity is now pinned down to the range of 2.5°C to 4.0°C, with a best estimate of 3°C, compared to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) range of 1.5°C to 4.5°C.

Other findings of the Report are:

1. A significant section of the report reinforces what is already well known, but with updated numbers, higher accuracy and specific regional assessments, including South Asia.
2. Global surface temperature is now higher by 1.07°C since the pre-industrial era.
3. The impact of climate change on the atmosphere, oceans and land is unmistakably of human origin and this impact is picking up pace.
4. There is no part of the inhabited world that is now untouched by the impact of global warming. Carbon dioxide is the dominant source of warming.
5. Aerosols contribute to reducing the impact of warming by other greenhouse gases, by almost a third.
6. Methane reduction, while needed overall, is particularly significant only as the drastic reduction of aerosols actually leads to an increase in warming.
7. The report expectedly projects an increase in climate extremes due to global warming, with heat waves, extreme rainfall events and occurrence of extreme sea levels all expected to intensify and be more frequent.

8. A major finding of the report is that air pollution reduction and steep climate change mitigation are not complementary goals but require independent efforts over the short and medium term.

109. Recently seen in news, “campaign for one million soak pits” was launched by which of the following ministry:

- a) Ministry of Jalshakti
- b) Ministry of Rural development
- c) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- d) Ministry of Finance

Ans :

The Jal Shakti Ministry has launched a campaign to create a million soak pits in villages across the country over the next 100 days.

- 1. The campaign has been initiated to help manage grey water and prevent the clogging of water bodies.
- 2. The Central government does not have any comprehensive estimate of the total number of soak pits needed countrywide, the States have been asked to develop their own targets.

110. Which of the following are the functions of Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

- 1. issuer of Currency
- 2. regulator and supervisor of the Financial System.
- 3. developmental role
- 4. banker to the Government

Which of the following statements above is/are correct:

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

Ans:D

All of the statements are correct.

1. Issuer of Currency: Issues and exchanges or destroys currency and coins not fit for circulation. Thus, it regulates adequate quantities of supplies of currency notes and coins and in good quality in the public.
2. Regulator and Supervisor of the Financial System: It prescribes broad parameters of banking operations within which the country's banking and financial system functions.
3. Thus, maintains public confidence in the system, protects depositors' interest and provides cost-effective banking services to the public.
4. Developmental Role: It performs a wide range of promotional functions to support national objectives such as making institutional arrangements for rural or agricultural finance, small-scale industrial units, priority lending etc.
5. Banker to the Government: It is entrusted with central government's money, remittances, exchange and manages its public debt as well. Also, it performs merchant banking functions for the central and the state governments.
6. Beside these functions it also take functions such as: Financial Inclusion, Manages the Foreign Exchange reserves of India, Banker to banks

111. Consider the following statements in context to Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI):

1. It is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016.
2. It is under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

1. Statement 1 is correct. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016") by the Government of India.

2. Statement 2 is incorrect. It is under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
3. UIDAI was created to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India.
4. Under the Aadhaar Act 2016, UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle, developing the policy, procedure, and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals and perform authentication and the security of identity information and authentication records of individuals.

112. Recently seen in news "Chagos islands" is in which ocean:

- a) Pacific Ocean
- b) Indian Ocean
- c) Atlantic Ocean
- d) Arctic Ocean

Ans b)

The Chagos Archipelago or Chagos Islands is a group of seven atolls comprising more than 60 islands in the Indian Ocean about 500 kilometres south of the Maldives archipelago.

Background:

1. The Chagos was home to the Chagossians, a Bourbonnais Creole-speaking people, until the United Kingdom evicted them between 1967 and 1973 to allow the United States to build a military base on Diego Garcia.
 - a. Diego Garcia is the largest and lies in the southeast part of the Archipelago.
2. Since 1971, only the atoll of Diego Garcia has been inhabited, and only by military and civilian contracted personnel. Since being expelled, the Chagossian have been prevented from returning to the islands.
3. When Mauritius was a French colony, the Chagos Islands were administered as a dependency of Mauritius. With the Treaty of Paris of 1814, France ceded Mauritius and its dependencies to the United Kingdom.
4. In 1965, the United Kingdom separated the administration of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius to form the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).

5. Mauritius gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1968, and has since claimed the Chagos Archipelago, still administered by the British, as Mauritian territory.
6. In 2019, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that the UK's occupation of the Chagos Islands, including Diego Garcia, is unlawful, and that the United Kingdom is legally obliged to hand them back to Mauritius "as rapidly as possible."
7. Subsequently, the United Nations General Assembly approved a resolution exhorting the United Kingdom to hand the territory over to Mauritius.
8. In 2021, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea confirmed that the United Kingdom has "no sovereignty over the Chagos Islands" and that the islands should be handed back to Mauritius.
9. Recently the United postal union (UPU) banned British stamps to be used in BIOT.

113. Consider the following statements in context to Sambhar Lake:

1. The Sambhar Lake is India's largest inland freshwater lake.
2. It is located in the state of Rajasthan.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans a)

1. Statement 1 is incorrect. The Sambhar Salt Lake, India's largest inland salt lake. The lake is an extensive saline wetland.
2. Statement 2 is correct. It is located 80 km southwest of the city of Jaipur and 64 km northeast of Ajmer, Rajasthan.
3. The lake is elliptically shaped with a length of approximately 35.5 km and a breadth varying between 3 km and 11 km.
4. The lake straddles Nagaur and Jaipur districts and borders on the Ajmer district.
5. It is surrounded by the Aravali hills on all sides.
6. The water is fed into the lake from streams from the rivers Mendha, Runpangarh, Khandel, and Karian.

114. Consider the following statements in context to 'Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund):

1. The Minister of Finance is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund.
2. The fund consists of both voluntary contributions from individuals/organizations and budgetary support.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans c)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. 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.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals/organizations and does not get any budgetary support.

NOTE:

1. The fund was created 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.
2. PM CARES Fund has been registered as a Public Charitable Trust.
3. Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
4. Donations to PM CARES Fund will also qualify to be counted as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013
5. PM CARES Fund has also got exemption under the FCRA and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened.

- a. This enables PM CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.
6. This is consistent with respect to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). PMNRF has also received foreign contributions as a public trust since 2011.

115. consider the following statements in context of 'SUJALAM' Campaign recently seen in news:

1. The campaign has been launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. It is to create more and more Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans c)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a '100 days campaign' named SUJALAM to create more and more Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level.
- The three focus areas of the campaign are- construction of 1 million soak pits; retrofitting of toilets and access to toilets for new households.
- It will boost the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin phase -2 activities by means of community participation. It will also increase awareness regarding ODF-plus activities.

NOTE:

1. The Swachh Bharat Mission's first phase was to achieve open defecation free (ODF) status by constructing a toilet in every rural household and persuading all villagers to use it. The second phase, termed ODF+ aims to sustain and extend these sanitation gains by focussing on solid and liquid waste management.

116. Recently seen in news Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in which state:

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Bihar
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Assam

Ans d)

1. Dipor Bil, also spelt Deepor Beel, is located in Assam.
2. It is a permanent freshwater lake, in a former channel of the Brahmaputra River, to the south of the main river.
3. It is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Assam and the State's only Ramsar Site, besides being an Important Bird Area.

117. With reference to Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), consider the following statements:

1. It is an apex-level statutory body.
2. It is headed by the governor of RBI.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans c)

1. Statement 1 is incorrect. Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is an apex-level body constituted by the government of India and is not a statutory body.
2. The idea to create such a super regulatory body was first mooted by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.
3. It is an autonomous body dealing with macro prudential and financial regularities in the entire financial sector of India.
4. It envisages to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism of maintaining financial stability, financial sector development, inter-regulatory coordination along with monitoring

macro-prudential regulation of the economy. No funds are separately allocated to the council for undertaking its activities.

5. Statement 2 is incorrect. Composition of the council:

- a. Chairperson: The Union Finance Minister of India
- b. Members: Governor Reserve Bank of India (RBI),
- c. Finance Secretary and/ or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA),
- d. Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS),
- e. Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs,
- f. Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology,
- g. Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance,
- h. Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI),
- i. Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA),
- j. Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA),
- k. Chairman, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

118. With reference to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), consider the following statements:

1. In India, the concept of CSR is governed by the Companies Act, 2013.
2. The Act encourages companies to spend 2% of their average net profit in the previous three years on CSR activities.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans c)

1. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a type of business self-regulation with the aim of being socially accountable.
2. Statement 1 is correct. In India, the concept of CSR is governed by the Companies Act, 2013.
3. Statement 2 is correct. The Act encourages companies to spend 2% of their average net profit in the previous three years on CSR activities.

119. With reference to AstroSat, consider the following statements:

1. AstroSat is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission.
2. It was launched recently from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota by ISRO.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

1. Statement 1 is correct. AstroSat is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission.
2. Statement 2 is incorrect. It was launched by the Indian launch vehicle PSLV from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on September 28, 2015 by ISRO. The minimum useful life of the AstroSat mission is expected to be 5 years.
3. It aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously.
4. One of the unique features of the AstroSat mission is that it enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.
5. The scientific objectives of AstroSat mission are:
 - a. To understand high energy processes in binary star systems containing neutron stars and black holes;
 - b. Estimate magnetic fields of neutron stars;
 - c. Study star birth regions and high energy processes in star systems lying beyond our galaxy;
 - d. Detect new briefly bright X-ray sources in the sky;
 - e. Perform a limited deep field survey of the Universe in the Ultraviolet region.
6. Recently it has been in news as the researchers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, have observed three supermassive black holes from three galaxies merging to form a triple active galactic nucleus, using data from India's only astronomy space mission, Astrosat.

120. According to the constitution of India, parliament has the power to legislate for Delhi on any matter in the State List and the Concurrent List but the executive power in relation to Delhi except which of the following:

1. Public orders
2. Finance
3. Police
4. Land

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans c)

1. The Parliament can legislate for Delhi on any matter in the State List and the Concurrent List but the executive power in relation to Delhi except the 'Police', 'Land' and 'Public Orders' vests only in the state government headed by the Chief Minister.
2. The 69th amendment to the Constitution of India inserted Article 239AA, which declared the Union Territory of Delhi to be administered by a L-G who works on aid and advice of the elected legislative assembly.
3. However, the 'aid and advice' clause pertains only to matters on which the elected Assembly has powers under the State and Concurrent Lists, but with the exception of public order, police, and land.

121. Recently the Government has announced an ambitious programme of asset monetisation. Under asset monetisation the government:

- a) gives up control of its assets for a specified period of time in exchange for a lump sum payment.
- b) gives up control of its under utilised assets only, for a specified period of time in exchange for a lump sum payment.
- c) sales its assets in exchange for a lump sum payment.

d) sales its under utilised assets only, in exchange for a lump sum payment.

Ans a)

- Under asset monetisation, the Government gives up control of its assets, such as roads, coal mines — for a specified period of time in exchange for a lump sum payment.
- At the end of the period, the assets return to the Government.
- Unlike in privatisation, no sale of government assets is involved.
- Thus, by monetising assets it has already built, the Government can earn revenues to build more infrastructure.

Note:

- Recently the Government has announced an ambitious programme of asset monetisation.
- Under this programme, it hopes to earn ₹6 trillion in revenues over a four-year period.
- Asset monetisation will happen mainly in three sectors: roads, railways and power.
- Other assets to be monetised include: airports, ports, telecom, stadiums and power transmission.

FOCUS OF THE PROGRAMME

1. Two important statements have been made about the asset monetisation programme.
 - a. One, the focus will be on under-utilised assets.
 - b. Two, monetisation will happen through public-private partnerships (PPP) and Investment Trusts.

122. With reference to oil palm tree, consider the following statements:

- a) It is grown only in the tropics.
- b) It is a very productive crop and offers a far greater yield at a lower cost of production than other vegetable oils.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans c)

1. Statement 1 is correct. It is grown only in the tropics. Its plantations are spread across Asia, Africa and Latin America.
2. Statement 2 is correct. Palm oil is a very productive crop. It offers a far greater yield at a lower cost of production than other vegetable oils.
3. The oil palm tree produces high-quality oil used primarily for cooking in developing countries. It is also used in food products, detergents, cosmetics and, to a small extent, biofuel. Therefore global production of and demand for palm oil is increasing rapidly.
4. But such consumption comes at the expense of tropical forests—which form critical habitats for many endangered species and a lifeline for some human communities.

123. Which one of the following is the best description for InvITs:

- a) These are collective investment vehicles similar to a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of money from individuals only in infrastructure projects.
- b) These are collective investment vehicles similar to a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of money from institutional investors only in infrastructure projects.
- c) These are collective investment vehicles similar to a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of money from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects.
- d) None of the above

Ans c)

- InvITs are collective investment vehicles similar to a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of money from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects to earn a small portion of the income as return.
- InvITs enable developers of infrastructure assets to monetise their assets by pooling multiple assets under a single entity (trust structure).
- In India, InvITs are governed by SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2016.
- InvITs are fast becoming a preferred route for private equity investors to hold operating infrastructure assets and for infrastructure developers to monetize their investments in these projects.

124. Arrange the following countries from south to north:

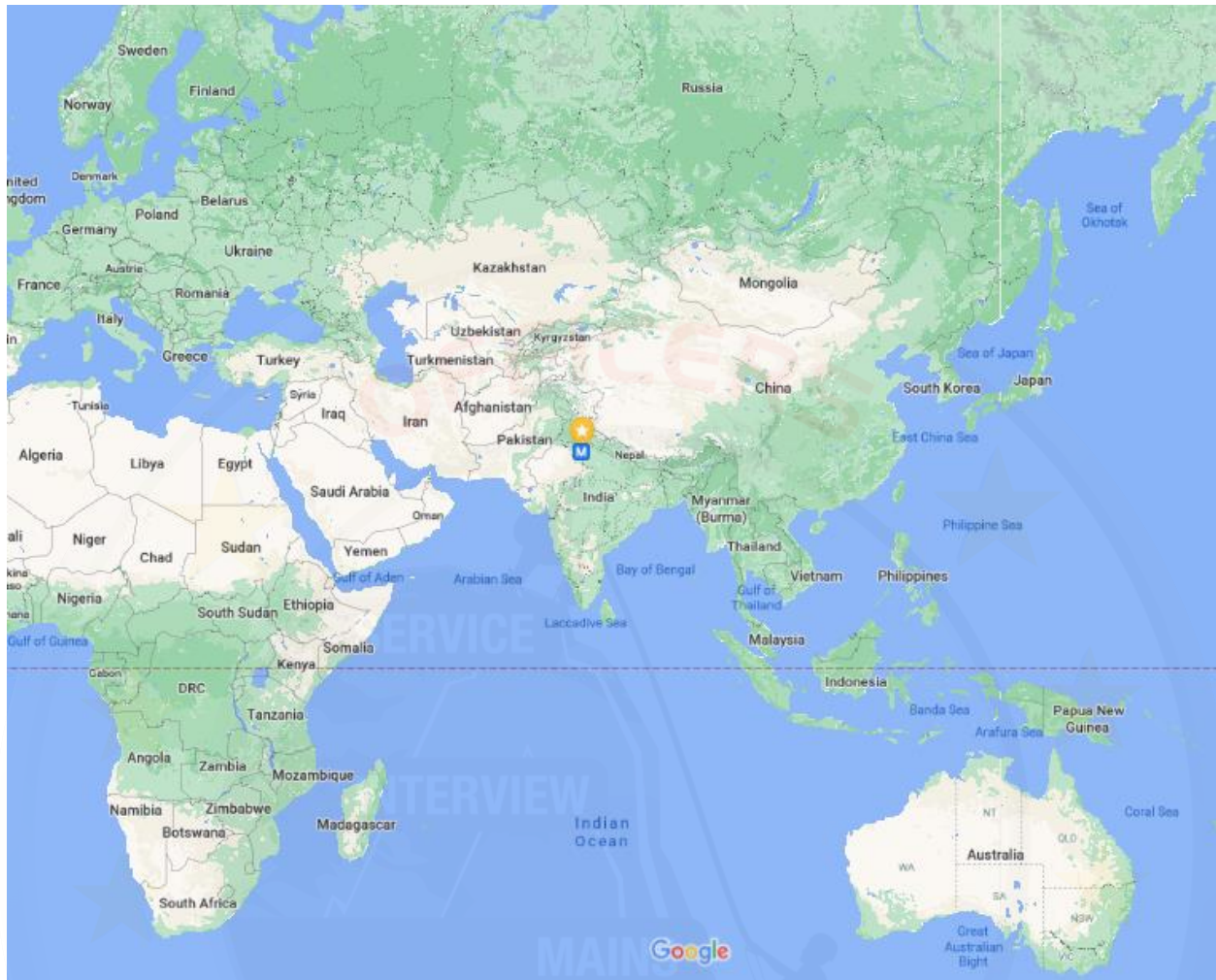
1. kazakhstan
2. Turkey
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Oman

Choose the correct option:

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

Ans a)





125. Consider the following:

Tropical Cyclone - Region

1. Typhoons - Australia
2. Hurricanes - Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
3. Willy-willies - China Sea
4. Tropical Cyclones - Indian Ocean.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 4 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 3 and 4 only

Ans b)

- Tropical cyclones are given many names in different regions of the world. They are known as:
 - Typhoons in the China Sea and Pacific Ocean
 - Hurricanes in the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
 - Tornados in the Guinea lands of West Africa and southern USA.
 - Willy-willies in north-western Australia
 - Tropical Cyclones in the Indian Ocean

NOTE:

1. Tropical cyclone is an intense circular storm that originates over warm tropical oceans and is characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds, and heavy rain.
2. They form near the equator and gain their energy from the heat that is released when water vapour condenses into rain.
3. In the southern hemisphere storms rotate clockwise and anticlockwise in the northern hemisphere.

126. With reference to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a specialised agency of the United Nations.
Its headquarter is in Vienna, Australia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans d)

1. Statement 1 is incorrect. The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field.

2. It is an independent international organization that reports annually to the United Nation General Assembly and United Nation Security Council.
3. Statement 2 is incorrect. Its headquarter is in Vienna, Austria and not Australia.
4. The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
5. Widely known as the world's "Atoms for Peace and Development" organization within the United Nations family, the IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear field.
6. The IAEA was created in 1957 in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the discoveries and diverse uses of nuclear technology.

127. With reference to "Hurricane", consider the following statements:

1. It is a type of tropical cyclone.
2. It can form in both water and land.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

1. Statement 1 is correct. Hurricane is a type of Tropical cyclone.
2. Statement 2 is incorrect. It uses warm, moist air as fuel, and therefore forms over warm Equatorial water, hence cannot form on land unlike Extra-tropical cyclones.
3. Tropical cyclones are given different names in different regions of the world. These are known as:
 - a. Typhoons in the China Sea and Pacific Ocean
 - b. Hurricanes in the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
 - c. Tornados in the Guinea lands of West Africa and southern USA.
 - d. Willy-willies in north-western Australia

e. Tropical Cyclones in the Indian Ocean.

128. Consider the following statements with reference to “Lead”, recently seen in news:

1. Lead (Pb) is a non-metal which has been used by humans for centuries now.
2. There is now no country in the world that uses leaded petrol for cars and lorries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans b)

1. Statement 1 is incorrect. Lead (Pb) is a metal which has been used by humans for centuries dating back to 7000 BC.
2. It is a toxic fuel that contaminates air, soil and water.
3. It can cause heart disease, cancer and stroke, and has been linked to problems with brain development in children.
4. Statement 2 is correct. The UN Environment Programme has recently announced that- there is now no country in the world that uses leaded petrol for cars and lorries,

129. With reference to “electronic visa (e-visa) facility”, consider the following statements:

1. e-visa facility was introduced for the first time during the start of covid- 19 pandemic.
2. The Ministry of External Affairs is the nodal ministry that issues visas to foreigners.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans c)

1. Statement 1 is incorrect. The e-visa system was introduced by the government in 2014.

2. Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has restored the electronic visa (e-visa) facility for foreigners from 156 countries, who intend to visit India for the purposes of business, conferences, and for medical reasons, including in the case of medical attendants.
3. At present, China, the UK, Canada, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia are excluded from the current restoration
4. Under the arrangement, a foreigner can apply online four days prior to travel.
5. Entry through e-visas is allowed only at 28 designated international airports and 5 major seaports in India.
6. Statement 2 is incorrect. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry that issues visas to foreigners.

130. Consider the following with reference to “Central Information Commission”:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It consists of one chief information commissioner and not more than five information commissioners who are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a Prime Minister headed committee.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans b)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Central Information Commission is a statutory body.
- It was constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities.
- The Commission has certain powers and functions mentioned in sections 18, 19, 20 and 25 of the RTI Act, 2005. These broadly relate to adjudication in
 - second appeal for giving information,
 - direction for record keeping,
 - suo motu disclosures receiving and enquiring into a complaint on inability to file RTI

- imposition of penalties and Monitoring and Reporting including preparation of an Annual Report.
- 1. Statement 2 is incorrect: The commission includes one chief information commissioner and not more than ten information commissioners who are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- 2. The decisions of the Commission are final and binding.

