

## November MCQ'S Compilation

1. Consider the following statements with respect to Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF):
  1. An ETF holds assets such as stocks, bonds, currencies, futures contracts, but no commodities such as gold bars.
  2. Unlike mutual funds, ETF prices fluctuate all day as it is bought and sold.

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. An ETF holds assets such as stocks, bonds, currencies, futures contracts, and/or commodities such as gold bars.

Statement 2 is correct. ETF share prices fluctuate all day as it is bought and sold. This is different from mutual funds that only trade once a day after the market closes.

### Exchange-traded fund (ETF):

- An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a type of investment fund and exchange-traded product, i.e. they are traded on stock exchanges.
- An ETF can own hundreds or thousands of stocks across various industries, or it could be isolated to one particular industry or sector.
- ETF reflects the composition of an Index, like BSE Sensex. Its trading value is based on the Net Asset Value (NAV) of the underlying stocks (such as shares) that it represents.
- Bond ETFs are a type of ETFs which may include government bonds, corporate bonds, and state and local bonds—called municipal bonds.
- Besides being cost efficient, ETFs offer a diversified investment portfolio to investors.

2. On the first day of the climate change conference, COP26, which of the following country has launched an online dashboard – the ‘Climate Equity Monitor’ for assessing, at the international level, equity in climate action, inequalities in emissions, energy and resource consumption across the world, and ongoing climate policies of several countries from the perspective of developing countries:

- a) Germany
- b) U.S.A
- c) India
- d) China

Ans c)

- On the first day of the climate change conference, COP26, India has launched an online dashboard- Climate Equity Monitor for assessing, at the international level, equity in climate action, inequalities in emissions, energy and resource consumption across the world, and ongoing climate policies of several countries from the perspective of developing countries.
- The ‘Climate Equity Monitor’ is aimed at monitoring the performance of Annex-I Parties under the UNFCCC (comprising developed countries) based on the foundational principles of the Climate Convention, namely equity and the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).
- The performance and policies of the Non Annex-I Parties (developing countries) will be also provided for comparison.
- The website has been conceptualised and developed by independent researchers from India — the Climate Change Group at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Department at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) Bengaluru, with other independent researchers.

3. Consider the following statements with respect to PM POSHAN Scheme:

- 1. It is a Centre-Sector scheme.
- 2. The scheme covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII.

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. This is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The scheme covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided Schools only.

About:

- The scheme has replaced the national programme for mid-day meal in schools or Mid-day Meal Scheme.
- It comes under the Ministry of Education.
- The scheme has been launched for an initial period of five years (2021-22 to 2025-26).
- The earlier name of the scheme was 'National Scheme for Mid Day Meal in Schools' popularly known as Mid Day Meal Scheme.

4. Consider the following statements with respect to Indus river dolphin:

1. It is the only freshwater dolphin in India.
2. It is classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (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 a)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Indus River Dolphin and Ganges River Dolphin are the two fresh river water dolphins found in India.
- Statement 2 is correct. It is classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

### Indus River Dolphin

- IUCN Status- Endangered
- It is locally known as the Bhulan, the Indus River dolphin now swims in the lower parts of the Indus River in Pakistan. Another small, isolated population can be found in Punjab's Harike wildlife sanctuary and in the lower Beas river.
- These dolphins rely on echolocation to navigate, communicate, and hunt prey in the muddy river waters.
- The Indus river dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019.
- “Enumeration of freshwater dolphins is being undertaken as a nationwide project of the Central Government. At the State level, the Punjab Government has taken the initiative for conservation of dolphins and its habitat,” Gitanjali Kanwar, coordinator — rivers, wetlands and water policy, WWF-India, told The Hindu. The project is to be implemented over five years.
- “Alongside research, importance will be on engaging the riparian communities by encouraging community-led biological monitoring. Villages around the hot spot sites of dolphin occurrence will be developed as models for community-led conservation.
- Extension programmes will be held to develop a group of dedicated individuals, called ‘Beas-Dolphin Mitras’ [friends and protectors] of the river Beas.
- The project also will embark on dolphin eco-tourism.

### Ganges River Dolphin

- IUCN Status- Endangered
- The Ganges river dolphin—also known as the Ganga—inhabits parts of the Ganges, Meghna, and Brahmaputra river systems in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.
- Known locally as susu, which refers to the noise the dolphin is said to make when it breathes, this swimmer is essentially blind and can detect only the direction of light.
- THREATS
- Living in one of the most densely populated parts of the world, the Ganges river dolphin faces threats from agriculture and industrial pollution and other human activity such as dam creation, irrigation projects and fishing.
- This development activity divides and isolates populations, significantly reducing its range.

5. Recently seen in news Project-15B is related to:

- a) Green city
- b) Stealth guided missile destroyers
- c) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)
- d) Telescope

Ans b)

- Under Project-15B, India is indigenously building a series of four state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyers.
- The four ships under this project are named after major cities from all four corners of the country — Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat.
- Project-15B is state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyers, comprising four ships — Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Porbandar, and all are being built by the MDL.
- Recently the first ship of the four Project-15B state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyers, Visakhapatnam, being built at the Mazgaon Docks Limited (MDL), was delivered to the Navy. Delayed by three years, the ships will be commissioned very soon.

6. With respect to recently held “Conference of Parties” of UNFCCC consider the following statements:

- 1) 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC was recently held in Madrid, Spain.
- 2) India set a target of net zero emission by 2050.

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)

- Both the statements are incorrect.
- It was 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC that was held in the Madrid, Spain. Recently concluded 26<sup>th</sup> session of the COP was held in the Glasgow, UK.



- India has a target of net zero emission by 2070 not by 2050.

7. If a traveller traverse along land route from Afghanistan to Turkey, what will be the minimum number of countries one has to pass leaving Afghanistan and Turkey?

- a) zero
- b) One
- c) Two
- d) Three

Ans (b)

- Minimum number of countries one need to move from Afghanistan to Turkey will be one.



**8.** With respect to provision for the Other Backward class (OBCs) in the Indian polity, consider the following statements

- 1) Rohini commission for subcategorization of OBCs have been constituted under Article 342.
- 2) National Commission for Backward class is a statutory body.

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)

- Both the statements are incorrect.
- Rohini commission has been constituted under article 340 of Indian constitution. Article 340 of Indian constitution talks about appointment of a Commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes. It states that President may by order appoint a Commission consisting of such persons as he thinks fit to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes within the territory of India.
- Second statement is incorrect. National commission for the Backward class is an constitutional body under article 338 B of Indian constitution.

**9.** With respect to MGNREGA scheme consider the following statements:

- 1) MGREGA provides for legal guarantee of wage employment to the adult members of rural households who are willing to do skilled manual labour subject to a maximum of 100 days per household.
- 2) The scheme is implemented by Ministry of Rural Development.

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. MGNREGA provides for 100 days of unskilled manual labour not skilled manual labour.
- Statement 2 is correct. It is implemented by Ministry of Rural development.

**10.** With respect to Gangetic Dolphin consider the following statements:

- 1) It is National aquatic animal of India.
- 2) Its IUCN status is critically endangered.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Ans (a)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Ganges river dolphin has been recognized by the government of India as its National Aquatic Animal.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Its IUCN status is “endangered”.
- Ganges river dolphin is a species of toothed whale classified in the family “Platanistidae”.
- It lives in the Ganges and related rivers of South Asia, namely in the countries of India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.
- It is also known by the name susu (popular name) and shushuk.

**11.** In the backdrop of COP-26, Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) has been recently seen in the news. The group was launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019 by the governments of:

- a) Sweden and Australia
- b) India and France
- c) Australia and France
- d) Sweden and India

Ans d)



- Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit, 2019 and is supported by the World Economic Forum.
- The group gathers countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the Paris Agreement.
- Its members subscribe to the notion that energy-intensive industry can and must progress on low-carbon pathways, aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

**12.** Which of the following countries are members of Gulf Cooperation Council:

1. Yemen
2. Bahrain
3. Kuwait
4. Oman
5. Qatar

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans b)

- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a political, economic, social, and regional organisation which was established by an agreement concluded in 1981.
- Member States of the GCC are:
  - Bahrain.
  - Kuwait.
  - Oman.
  - Qatar.
  - Saudi Arabia.
  - United Arab Emirates.
- The Secretariat is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



13. Consider the following statements with respect to International Solar Alliance (ISA):

1. It is the largest grouping of states, after the United Nations.
2. Its headquarter is in Paris.

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. It is the largest grouping of states, after the United Nations.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The ISA is headquartered in Gurugram, India.

#### International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- It is an Indian initiative that was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on November 2015 in Paris, on the side-lines of the Conference of the Parties (COP-21), with 121 solar resource-rich countries lying fully or partially between the tropic of Cancer and tropic of Capricorn as prospective members.
- The grouping aims to collectively address key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy in ISA member countries.
- All member states of the United Nations, including those lying beyond the tropics, can join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Till now, 87 countries have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA and of these 67 have deposited their instruments of ratification.

**14.** Consider the following statements with respect to Infrastructure for resilient Island States (IRIS):

1. IRIS is the first major initiative by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
2. It was launched on the side-lines of the Conference of the Parties (COP-21), 2015.

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)

- Statement 1 is correct. Infrastructure for Resilient Island States or IRIS is the first major initiative by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- IRIS seeks to operationalise the CDRI initiative.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Recently the Indian Prime Minister had launched Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) on the sidelines of the Conference of the Parties (COP-26), 2021 in Glasgow.

- It is aimed at achieving sustainable development through a systematic approach to resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

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

1. It is the premier investigating police agency in India, established on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of corruption.
2. It is a constitutional body.

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.
- 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.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. It is neither a constitutional or statutory body.
- It was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home affairs, and not by the act of Parliament.
- Though initially it was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home affairs. Later it was transferred to Dept. of Personnel, Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances, Government of India - which falls under the prime minister's office.

**16.** Recently seen in the news, White Goods refers to:

- a) appliances that are produced using green energy and were traditionally available only in white.
- b) appliances that give 100% efficiency and were traditionally available only in white.
- c) heavy consumer durables or large home appliances, which were traditionally available only in white.
- d) White light emitting appliances like fluorescent tubes and LEDs.

Ans c)

- White goods refer to heavy consumer durables or large home appliances, which were traditionally available only in white.
- The white goods industry consists of air conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers, dishwashers, and LED Lights.
- The term may also refer to white fabrics, especially linen or cotton articles such as curtains, towels, or sheets that historically used to be made of white cloth.

PLI Scheme for White Goods in India

- Recently, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights).

17. Consider the following statements with respect to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR):

1. It is a national initiative introduced by the Ministry of Environment.
2. It monitors all weather parameters like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed, and wind direction, UV radiation, and solar radiation.

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. The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) is a national initiative introduced by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) to measure the air quality of a metropolitan city, by measuring the overall pollution level and the location-specific air quality of the city.
- Statement 2 is correct. It monitors all weather parameters like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed, and wind direction, UV radiation, and solar radiation.



- The objective of the project is to increase awareness among the general public regarding the air quality in their city so that appropriate mitigation measures and systematic action can be taken up.
- The system is indigenously developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and is operationalized by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- It has a giant true color LED display that gives out a real-time air quality index on a 24x7 basis with color-coding (along with 72 hours advance forecast).
- SAFAR is an integral part of India's first Air Quality Early Warning System operational in Delhi.
- Pollutants monitored: PM2.5, PM10, Ozone, Carbon Monoxide (CO), Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), Sulfur Dioxide (SO2), Benzene, Toluene, Xylene, and Mercury.

**18.** Consider the following statements with respect to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

1. It is an independent statutory body.
2. It's chairperson can be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.

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)

- Statement 1 is correct. NHRC of India is an independent statutory body established as per provisions of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, later amended in 2006.
- It is the watchdog of human rights in the country, i.e. the rights related to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by Indian Constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.
- Statement 2 is correct. The chairperson is a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court, who is appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of:

- Prime Minister
- Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- Leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament
- Union Home Minister
- Its members hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

**19.** Often seen in news, “zero click” is related:

- a) a facility to avail all the government services through a single portal.
- b) attack used by spywares to gain control over a device without human interaction or human error.
- c) China flagship project on Artificial Intelligence.
- d) None of the above.

Ans b)

- A zero-click attack helps spyware like Pegasus to gain control over a device without human interaction or human error.
- Pegasus is a spy tool developed by an Israeli firm, the NSO group, which is sold to the governments of many countries of the world.
- Under this an 'exploit link' is sent to a user's phone, when the user clicks on that link 'Malware' code is installed, through which the attacker takes control of the 'target' user's device.
- Most of these attacks exploit software which receive data even before it can determine whether what is coming in is trustworthy or not, like an email client.
- Zero-click attacks are hard to detect given their nature and hence even harder to prevent.
- Detection becomes even harder in encrypted environments where there is no visibility on the data packets being sent or received.
- One of the things users can do is to ensure all operating systems and software are up to date so that they would have the patches for at least vulnerabilities that have been spotted.

**20.** Consider the following statements in context of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. The Commission's mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights is a statutory body set up in 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Commission's mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- It inquires into complaints relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the Right to Education Act, 2009.
- Also, it monitors the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

**21.** Recently the Indian Prime Minister has announced the 'Panchamrit solution'. The solution aims at which of the following:

- a) Employment generation
- b) Tackling climate change
- c) Tackling Non performing assets (NPA) problem
- d) Framework to achieve India's goal to become five trillion economy

Ans b)

- Recently, the Indian Prime Minister has announced a 'Panchamrit solution' at COP-26, Glasgow.
- The solution aims at reducing India's fossil fuel dependence and carbon intensity (reduce one billion tonnes of total projected carbon emissions by 2030), and ramping up its renewable energy share to 50% by 2030.
- COP-26, Glasgow is important as it will call for practical implementation of the 2015 Paris Accord, setting the rules for the Accord.

22. Often seen in news "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)" is:

- a) global treaty that was adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to protect human health from harmful POPs suspended in the air for a long period of time.
- b) agreement on the Iranian nuclear program, signed between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany).
- c) an international treaty that aims to reduce the movement of hazardous waste between countries.
- d) global agreement on peaceful use of outer space.

Ans b)

- The Iran Nuclear Deal, formally known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program signed between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany).
- The main objective of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was to slow down Iran's nuclear program. If Iran decided to make a nuclear weapon, it would take a year for it to be complete, giving enough time for world powers to respond.
- United States intelligence estimates that, in the absence of the JCPOA or a similar agreement, Iran could produce materials for nuclear weapons in a few months. If that came to pass then the entire Middle East would be pushed into a new crisis. Iran's open hostility against Israel is well known.

- The United States announced its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the "Iran nuclear deal" or the "Iran deal", on May 8, 2018.

**23.** Consider the following statements with respect to World Trade Organisation(WTO)

1. World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
2. It replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
3. It was formed immediately after World War II to boost trade amongst nations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

- Statement 1 is correct. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business.
- Statement 2 is correct. WTO officially commenced operations on 1 January 1995, pursuant to the 1994 Marrakesh Agreement. It replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that had been established in 1948.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. WTO was established not immediately after World War-II but after end of Cold war(1 January 1995)

**24.** With respect to cropping pattern in India, consider the following crops

- 1) gram
- 2) mustard
- 3) Cotton
- 4) Jute



Which of the above crops constitute Rabi crops

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

Ans (a)

- India has three cropping seasons — rabi, kharif and zaid. Rabi crops are sown in winter from October to December and harvested in summer from April to June. Some of the important rabi crops are wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard.
- Kharif crops are grown with the onset of monsoon in different parts of the country and these are harvested in September-October. Important crops grown during this season are paddy, maize, jowar, bajra, tur (arhar), moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soybean.
- In between the rabi and the kharif seasons, there is a short season during the summer months known as the Zaid season. Some of the crops produced during 'zaid' are watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables and fodder crops.

**25. Consider the following Organisations**

1. National Investigation Agency(NIA)
2. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
3. National Commission for Backward Classes

Which of the above organisations are statutory bodies

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

Ans (a)

- National Investigation Agency(NIA) is a statutory body constituted under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is neither a statutory body nor a constitutional body. It continues to derive its powers from Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

- National Commission for Backward Classes is a constitutional body (102nd Amendment Act, 2018 under Article 338B of the Indian Constitution) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

**26.** Recently seen in news, Molnupiravir is effective against which of the following:

- a) Dengue
- b) Zika
- c) COVID-19
- d) Zika

Ans c)

Molnupiravir: New drug to treat COVID-19

- As per the recent trial of antiviral drug, Molnupiravir has reduced the chances of hospitalisation by half among COVID-19 patients with mild or moderate symptoms.

Working mechanism of molnupiravir

- The antiviral drugs work by inhibiting a process by which the virus replicates. In case of molnupiravir drug, when tested on cultured cells, it works by altering critical enzymes which are necessary for virus to start replicating the host cells of body.

**27.** Which of following metals can cause water pollution:

- 1. Mercury
- 2. Arsenic
- 3. Cadmium
- 4. Lead

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)

- Metals like lead, zinc, arsenic, copper, mercury, Chromium and cadmium in industrial waste waters adversely affect humans and other animals.
- Arsenic pollution of groundwater has been reported from West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Western U.P. Consumption of such arsenic polluted water leads to accumulation of arsenic in the body parts like blood, nails and hairs causing skin lesions, rough skin, dry and thickening of skin and ultimately skin cancer.
- Pollution of water bodies by mercury causes Minamata disease in humans and dropsy in fishes.
- Lead causes displexia, cadmium poisoning causes Itai – Itai disease etc.

**28.** Recently seen in news, Exercise Talisman Sabre is a biennial, multinational military exercise led by:

- a) India and the United States
- b) Australia and the United States
- c) India and Australia
- d) India, Australia and the United States

Ans b)

- Exercise Talisman Sabre is a biennial, multinational military exercise led by Australia and the United States, such that leadership of the exercise switches between Australia and the US every 2 years.
- The exercise focuses on crisis-action planning and contingency response, enhancing both nations' military capabilities to deal with regional contingencies and the War on Terrorism.
- Talisman Sabre 2021 was the largest bilateral combined training activity between the Australian and the USA.
  - The exercise also saw the participation of approximately 17,000 military personnel from seven nations on land, air and sea.
  - The other countries include Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and U.K.

**29.** Recently an Islamic country, where personal status laws on marriage and divorce had been based on Islamic sharia principles, has now allowed non-Muslims to marry, divorce and to get joint child custody under civil law. The step aims to enhance the position and global competitiveness of the country as one of the most attractive destinations for talent and skills.

This country is:

- a) Turkey
- b) United Arab Emirates
- c) Qatar
- d) Pakistan

Ans b)

- The United Arab Emirates has recently allowed non-Muslims to marry, divorce and get joint child custody under civil law in Abu Dhabi according to a new decree issued by its ruler.
- The law covers civil marriage, divorce, alimony, joint child custody and proof of paternity, and inheritance.
- It is the latest step in the United Arab Emirates — where personal status laws on marriage and divorce had been based on Islamic sharia principles, as in other Gulf states — to maintain its competitive edge as a regional commercial hub.
- It aims to “enhance the position and global competitiveness of the emirate as one of the most attractive destinations for talent and skills”.
- Also, the UAE had last year introduced a number of legal changes at the federal level, including decriminalising premarital sexual relations and alcohol consumption, and cancelling provisions for leniency when dealing with so-called “honour killings”.
- These reforms have been seen as a way for the Gulf state to make itself more attractive for foreign investment, tourism and long-term residency

**30.** Recently seen in news, B.1.617.2 and AY.1 refers to:

- a) frameworks to deal with climate change, adopted in COP-26
- b) new variants formed due to a mutation in the Delta strain of the virus
- c) new generation supercomputers of China
- d) proteins responsible for infection caused by SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus

Ans b)

- Delta plus (B.1.617.2.1/(AY.1) is a new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus formed due to a mutation in the Delta strain of the virus (B.1.617.2 variant).
- It is technically the next generation of SARS-COV-2.
- This mutant of Delta was first detected in Europe in March 2021.
- The Delta variant that was first detected in India (in February 2021) eventually became a huge problem for the whole world. However, the Delta Plus variant, at present, is limited to smaller areas in the country.
- People reported symptoms like headaches, sore throats, runny noses, and fever.
- The variant has acquired the spike protein mutation called K417N which is also found in the Beta variant first identified in South Africa.

31. Which of the following Indian cities have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN):

1. Bhopal
2. Chennai
3. Mumbai
4. Srinagar
5. Hyderabad

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans b)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the inclusion of Srinagar as a fitting recognition for the vibrant cultural ethos of this old city.
- Recently, UNESCO has designated Srinagar as a creative city of craft and folk arts.
- Indian cities that have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN):
- Chennai and Varanasi are included in UNESCO Cities of music.



- Jaipur is included in UNESCO city of crafts and folk arts.
- Mumbai is included in UNESCO city of film.
- Hyderabad is included in UNESCO City of gastronomy.
- With the inclusion of 49 new cities this year, total numbers of cities in this network stands at 295 from across 90 countries.
- These cities were included in the list in recognition of their commitment of placing culture & creativity at the heart of their development as well as for sharing knowledge & good practices.
- These cities have been included to the list as they invest in culture & creativity like crafts & folk art, film, design, literature, gastronomy, music and media arts, in order to advance sustainable urban development.

32. Recently seen in the news, ZyCoV-D is the first vaccine cleared by India's drug regulator for inoculation of those aged 12 and above. The vaccine belongs which of the following type of vaccine:

- a) Live-Attenuated Vaccines
- b) Inactivated vaccines
- c) Toxoid vaccines
- d) Plasmid DNA vaccine

Ans d)

'ZyCoV-D'- 'Plasmid DNA vaccine', is the first vaccine which is cleared by India's drug regulator for inoculation of those aged 12 and above.

- Plasmid DNA vaccine uses a piece of DNA encoding the antigen (part of the disease-causing pathogen that induces an immunity response from our bodies) which is inserted into a bacterial plasmid. The DNA plasmids carrying the antigen are injected into the muscle. Once the DNA gets inside our cells, they start producing antigens, which triggers an immune response.
- A plasmid is a type of DNA that is found only in bacterial cells. They are distinct from the chromosomal DNA.

- The plasmid DNA, unlike the chromosomal DNA, does not carry hereditary information, but its genes give it advantages such as pesticide- and antibiotic-resistance.

NOTE

- Inactivated vaccines are those which are produced using inactivated or killed organisms or viruses; inactivated toxins (for bacterial diseases where toxins generated by the bacteria, and not the bacteria themselves, cause illness).
- Live-Attenuated Vaccines may contain live viruses that have been weakened or altered so as not to cause illness.
- As these vaccines are so similar to the natural infection that they help prevent, they create a strong and long-lasting immune response and hence, are usually not given to people with weakened immune systems.
- Live-Attenuated Vaccines are used to protect against Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR combined vaccine), Rotavirus, Smallpox among others.
- Subunit and conjugate vaccines contain merely segments of the pathogen's very strong immune response.
- They can also be used on people with weakened immune systems and long-term health problems.
- These vaccines are used to protect against: Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b) disease, Hepatitis B, HPV (Human papillomavirus), Pneumococcal disease among others.
- Toxoid vaccines use a toxin made by the germ that causes a disease. Toxoid vaccines are used to protect against: Diphtheria, Tetanus.

**33.** Recently seen in news, the term 'Metaverse' refers to:

- a) a new substance discovered by the scientist which completely reverses the sunlight falling on it.
- b) an exoplanet discovered in the habitable zone of the sun.
- c) a term encompassing interconnected 3D virtual worlds made possible through advancements in technologies such as augmented reality (AR)/virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchains.
- d) fastest supercomputer by Japan.

Ans c)

- 'Metaverse' is a broad term encompassing interconnected 3D virtual worlds made possible through advancements in technologies such as augmented reality (AR)/virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchains, originating from Neal Stephenson's 1992 speculative science fiction novel, Snow Crash.

**34.** Often seen in news Zika virus can transmit through which of the following:

1. from mother to fetus during pregnancy
2. through sexual contact
3. transfusion of blood and blood products
4. organ transplantation

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)

- Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus.
  - The virus was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys. It was later identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- It is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes (AM), mainly Aedes aegypti.
  - This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.
- Zika virus is also transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, through sexual contact, transfusion of blood and blood products, and organ transplantation.

**35.** Recently seen in news, Web 3.0 refers to:

- a) Indian framework to speed up the 5G network infrastructure in India.
- b) next generation of Internet architecture that will supposedly be free from the control of tech giants such as Google, Facebook and Amazon.

- c) name for 3D virtual worlds made possible through advancements in technologies such as augmented reality (AR)/virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchains.
- d) None of the above.

Ans b)

- Web 3.0 is the name given to the next generation of Internet architecture that will supposedly be free from the centralisation that is a part of today's Web 2.0 Internet systems, which are largely controlled by tech giants such as Google, Facebook and Amazon.
- Web 3.0 proponents advocate the use of technologies such as blockchains and tokens to create a decentralised Internet for online interaction and online payments, and a hypothetical metaverse run on these platforms.

**36.** Which of the following regulates Foreign Contribution Regulation Act in India:

- a) Ministry of Finance
- b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- c) Ministry of External affairs
- d) Prime Minister Office

Ans b)

- Foreign Contribution Regulation Act is regulated by the Department of Internal Security, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010

- Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under FCRA act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.
- Under the Act, organisations are required to register themselves every five years.

**37.** Consider the following statements with respect to Attorney General (AG) of India:

1. He is a part of the Union Executive.
2. His term is fixed for five by the Constitution.
3. He must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans b)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Attorney General (AG) of India is a part of the Union Executive.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Term of his office is not fixed by the Constitution. He holds office during the pleasure of the President (may be removed by the President at any time).
- Statement 3 is correct. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court, i.e. he must be a citizen of India and must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President.
- Article 76 of the Constitution provides for the office of AG of India.
- AG is the highest law officer in the country.

AG is appointed by the President on the advice of the government.

**38.** Recently, UNESCO has designated Srinagar as a creative city, taking the total number of Indian cities that have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) to six. UCCN includes creative cities in the fields of which of the following:

1. folk art
2. film
3. literature
4. gastronomy
5. music

Which of the following options above are correct:

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

Ans d)

- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) Creative City of Network involves seven creative fields- Media arts, crafts and folk art, film, literature, gastronomy, design, and music.
- Recently, UNESCO has designated Srinagar as a creative city of craft and folk arts.
- Indian cities that have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN):
- Chennai and Varanasi are included in UNESCO Cities of music.
- Jaipur is included in UNESCO city of crafts and folk arts.
- Mumbai is included in UNESCO city of film.
- Hyderabad is included in UNESCO City of gastronomy.
- With the inclusion of 49 new cities this year, total numbers of cities in this network stands at 295 from across 90 countries.
- These cities were included in the list in recognition of their commitment of placing culture & creativity at the heart of their development as well as for sharing knowledge & good practices.

**39.** Often seen in news, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is a disease caused by:

- a) Bacteria
- b) Protozoan
- c) Virus
- d) All of the above

Ans c)

- Japanese encephalitis is a disease caused by a flavi virus that affects the membranes around the brain.



- Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is also a major cause of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in India.
- The disease is transmitted to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes of the Culex species.
- Migratory birds along with pigs in the community also play an important role in the transmission of JE from one area to other areas.
- There is no antiviral treatment available for patients with JE.
- Vaccine is available against JE.

**40.** Recently seen in news, Rule Curve specifies:

- a) a number of vaccinations that need to be done in a specified number of populations to flatten the curve of COVID-19.
- b) a number of national parties over regional parties to maintain healthy democracy.
- c) the storage or empty space to be maintained in a reservoir during different times of the year.
- d) the amount of Carbon dioxide that needs to be offset to reach pre-industrial level.

Ans c)

- A rule curve or rule level specifies the storage or empty space to be maintained in a reservoir during different times of the year.
- It decides the fluctuating storage levels in a reservoir.
- The gate opening schedule of a dam is based on the rule curve.
- It is part of the “core safety” mechanism in a dam.
- The term has been in news in the context of ageing Mullaperiyar Dam.

**41.** Recently at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 climate summit in Glasgow, India has pledged to:

- a) reach gross zero carbon emissions by 2070
- b) reach net zero carbon emissions by 2070
- c) reach gross zero for all the greenhouse gases emission by 2070
- d) reach net zero for all the greenhouse gases emission by 2070

Ans b)

- In the recently held Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 climate summit in Glasgow, India has pledged to cut its carbon emissions to net zero by 2070 (and not to gross zero), i.e India aims to attain carbon neutrality by 2070.
- In this context, Net Zero refers to the state in which a country's total carbon emissions are offset by absorptions of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, like that done by trees and forests, and physical removal of carbon dioxide through futuristic technologies.
- Along with India, China has announced plans for carbon neutrality by 2060, while the US and EU aim to hit net zero by 2050.

**42.** Consider the following statements with respect to Fishing Cat:

1. It is nocturnal.
2. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List.

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)

- Statement 1 is correct. The fishing cat is nocturnal (active at night)
- Statement 2 is incorrect. It is listed as 'Endangered' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List.
- Fishing cats spend most of their lives in areas of dense vegetation close to water bodies and are excellent swimmers.
- Apart from fish, it also preys on frogs, crustaceans, snakes, birds, and scavenges on carcasses of larger animals.
- In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats.

**43.** Consider the following statements with respect to Kalari:

1. It is an Indian martial art that originated in Karnataka.
2. Apart from strikes, kicks, grappling, preset forms, weaponry, it also includes healing methods.

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. Kalaripayattu, also known as Kalari, is an Indian martial art and fighting style that originated in Kerala.
  - It is considered to be among the oldest martial arts still in existence, with its origin dating back to at least the 3rd century BC.
- Statement 2 is correct. This art includes strikes, kicks, grappling, preset forms, weaponry and healing methods.
  - Practitioners of Kalaripayattu also possess intricate knowledge of pressure points on the human body and healing techniques that incorporate the knowledge of Ayurveda and Yoga.

**44.** Consider the following statements with respect to MPLAD Scheme:

1. The Scheme comes under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development and Planning.
2. Under this scheme, each MP is entitled to spend Rs 25 crore annually.

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)

- The MPLAD scheme was formulated in 1993 to enable Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend development works in their constituencies with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt need.
- Statement 1 is incorrect. Initially, the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme was under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development and Planning. In October, 1994, the scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Under the scheme, each MP has the choice to suggest to the District Collector for works to the tune of Rs.5 Crores per annum to be taken up in his/her constituency.
- The Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament can recommend works in one or more districts in the State from where he/she has been elected.
- The Nominated Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select any one or more Districts from any one State in the Country for implementation of their choice of work under the scheme.
- Recently the scheme has been restored by the cabinet after the Covid break.

**45.** Consider the following statements with respect to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010:

1. The act is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
2. It does not allow acceptance of any foreign contributions by an individual without permission of MHA.
3. Under the Act, organisations are required to register themselves every year.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans c)

- Statement 1 is correct. Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Individuals are permitted to accept foreign contributions without permission of MHA. However, the monetary limit for acceptance of such foreign contributions shall be less than Rs. 25,000.
- The Act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Under the Act, organisations are required to register themselves every five years.

46. Consider the following statements with respect to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY):

1. Its nodal Ministry is the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. The scheme aimed at providing each person covered under the National Food Security Act 2013 with an additional 5 kg grains (wheat or rice) for free-of-cost, in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrain already provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

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. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) is operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Statement 2 is correct. Under this scheme, each person covered under the National Food Security Act 2013 is provided with an additional 5 kg grains (wheat or rice) for free-of-cost, in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrain already provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

- The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana was started as part of the Centre's initial COVID-19 relief package, in March 2020, when the first lockdown was announced.
- The scheme only provided grains for those families who held ration cards.
- The scheme recently has been in the news after the Centre had decided to stop it.

**47.** Consider the following statements with respect to Excise Duty:

1. Excise Duty is a type of tax charged on goods produced within the country only.
2. The end user of the goods is liable to pay Excise Duty.

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. Excise duty is a form of tax imposed on goods for their production, licensing and sale.
- It is the opposite of Customs duty in the sense that it applies to goods manufactured domestically in the country, while Customs is levied on those coming from outside of the country.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The manufacturer or the producer of goods is liable to pay Excise Duty.

NOTE:

- The GST introduction in July 2017 subsumed many types of excise duty.
- Today, excise duty applies only on petroleum and liquor.
- States levy taxes on alcohol according to the same practice as was prevalent before the rollout of GST, while taxes on petroleum products are levied by both the Centre and the states.
- The Centre levies excise duty, states levy value-added tax (VAT).



**48.** As per Indian constitution, parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by:

1. Those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament
2. Members of the committees of both the houses
3. Attorney General of India
4. Those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the committees of House of Parliament
5. President

Which of the above are correct:

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

Ans d)

- Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members.
- The Constitution also extends the parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees. These include the Attorney General of India and Union ministers.
- The parliamentary privileges do not extend to the President who is also an integral part of the Parliament.
- Article 361 of the Constitution provides for privileges for the President.
- Article 105 of the Constitution expressly mentions two privileges, that is, freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings.
- Apart from the privileges as specified in the Constitution, the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, provides for freedom from arrest and detention of members under civil process during the continuance of the meeting of the House or of a committee thereof and forty days before its commencement and forty days after its conclusion.

**49.** Recently seen in news, the country of Poland shares its border with which of the following countries:

1. Denmark
2. Russia
3. Belarus
4. Sweden

Which of the following options above are correct:

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

Ans c)

- The country have been in news after thousands of migrants have flocked to Belarus' border with Poland, hoping to get to Western Europe, and many of them are now stranded at the frontier, setting up makeshift camps as Polish security forces watch them from behind a razor-wire fence and prevent them from entering the country.



**50.** Recently seen in news Infrastructure for Resilient Island State (IRIS) is an initiative to boost the infrastructure in small island countries. It was launched by at the COP26 meeting held in Glasgow, 2021 by:

- a) France
- b) Australia
- c) India
- d) United Kingdom

Ans c)

- Infrastructure for Resilient Island State (IRIS) is an initiative to boost the infrastructure in small island countries. It was launched by the Indian Prime Minister at the COP26 meeting held in Glasgow in November 2021.
- IRIS is the first major initiative by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

- IRIS seeks to operationalise the CDRI initiative.
- It is aimed at achieving sustainable development through a systematic approach to resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

**51.** The National Achievement Survey is related to:

- For assessing the impact of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- For assessing the competencies developed by school education.
- For assessing the Indian Economy and using this data to draft the policy to achieve India's target of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy.
- For assessing the Covid-19 Vaccination campaign.

Ans b)

- National Achievement Survey (NAS) is a representative large-scale survey of student's learning.
- It is undertaken by the Ministry of Education.
- It provides a system level reflection on the effectiveness of school education.
- Its findings help in comparing performance across populations to find desirable direction for improvements.
- Recently, the National Achievement Survey test was conducted after four years, in a bid to assess the competencies of children in Class 3, 5 and 8.
- This will help to assess the learning interruptions and new learnings during the COVID pandemic and help to take remedial measures.
- The survey test was conducted in language, mathematics and environmental studies in Classes 3 and 5 and language, mathematics, science, and social science in Class 8.
- The survey was expected to cover 38 lakh students in 1.23 lakh schools in 733 districts in all States and Union Territories.
- The sampled schools include State and Union Government-run schools as well as private and aided schools.
- The test paper was provided in a multiple choice format in 22 different languages.

- The test was developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which will also analyse the results, while the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) conducted the test.

**52.** Recently, the Prime Minister has unveiled a 12-foot statue of Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), where he took samadhi at the age of 33. Consider the following statements with respect to Adi Shankaracharya:

1. He was a devotee of lord Vishveshwara.
2. He was opposed to Buddhist philosophers.
3. He propounded the Doctrine of Vishishtadvaita.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

- Statement 1 is correct. He was a devotee of Shiva/Vishveshwara.
- Statement 2 is correct. He was opposed to Buddhist philosophers.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. He propounded the Doctrine of Advaita (Monism), which considers Ātman as self-existent awareness, limitless and non-dual.
- Doctrine of Vishishtadvaita (modified monism) was propounded by Ramanujacharya.
- As per the Doctrine of Vishishtadvaita- the ultimate reality is Brahman and that the soul and matter are his qualities. Even after merging with Brahman, the Atman remains distinct.

Note:

- Adi Shankara, born 11th May 788 AD, at Kaladi near Kochi, Kerala. Took Samadhi at the age of 33, at Kedar tirth.
- His major works are:
  - Brahma Sutra Bhasya (Bhashya or commentary on the Brahma Sutra).
  - Bhaja Govindam Stotra.
  - Nirvana Shatakam.

- Prakaran Granths.
- He was responsible for reviving Hinduism in India to a great extent when Buddhism was gaining popularity.
- He established four Mathas in the four corners of India at Sringeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath– for propagation of Sanathana Dharma.

53. Choose the incorrect statement with respect to recently seen Norovirus:

- a) It is very contagious.
- b) It causes vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain and nausea.
- c) The virus can be treated with specific medicines
- d) Infection with one type of virus may not protect from other types, thus this virus can be contracted multiple times.

Ans c)

- Option c) is incorrect. Since, there is no specific medicine for this virus, experts suggest drinking plenty of liquids to replace the fluids lost from diarrhoea and vomiting so as to prevent dehydration.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Norovirus is very contagious, as the people suffering from norovirus disease can shed billions of virus particles.
- Norovirus, an animal-borne disease transmitted through direct contact with an infected person. It can also be contracted by consuming contaminated water and food and also touching contaminated surfaces with one's hands and then putting them in the mouth unwashed.
- Symptoms of norovirus are vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain and nausea. This virus can cause inflammation of intestines or the stomach and it is termed as acute gastroenteritis. Other symptoms of this virus are headache, fever and body aches.
- As there are various types of noroviruses hence, infection with one type may not protect other types so it can be contracted multiple times.
- The disease can be prevented by practicing hand hygiene.



- Recently the disease was reported in as many as 13 students of a veterinary college in Pookode near Vythiri in Wayanad district, Kerala.

54. While in the wake of rapid climate change many countries are pledging carbon neutrality targets, but there are countries that have already achieved carbon neutrality and are actually carbon negative. Which of the following countries in present, are carbon negative:

1. Madagascar
2. Denmark
3. Surinam
4. Bhutan

Which of the following options above are correct:

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

Ans c)

- As far as early achievers go, Bhutan and Suriname are the only two countries that have achieved carbon neutrality and are actually carbon negative (removing more carbon than they emit).
- In the recently held Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 climate summit in Glasgow, India has also pledged to cut its carbon emissions to net zero by 2070 (and not to gross zero), i.e India aims to attain carbon neutrality by 2070.

In this context, Carbon neutrality refers to the state in which a country's total carbon emissions are offset by absorptions of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, like that done by trees and forests, and physical removal of carbon dioxide through futuristic technologies.

**55.** Consider the following statements about Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM):

1. CAQM is an overarching body that takes decisions and issues orders for protecting and improving the air quality in all over India.
2. Only the National Green Tribunal will have the power to hear cases involving the CAQM, and not the civil courts.

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)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The air quality around Delhi-NCR has been monitored and managed by multiple bodies like: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the state pollution control boards, the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) of NCR, and the various state governments concerned, before the CAQM was established.
- But now CAQM is an overarching body that will take decisions and issue orders for protecting and improving the air quality in Delhi and NCR ( not all over India).
- Thus, the Commission has been given overarching powers in achieving its mandate. It is a powerful body whose rulings will override anything contained in any other law.
- Statement 2 is correct. Only the National Green Tribunal will have the power to hear cases involving the CAQM, and not the civil courts.

Note:

- The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is a statutory body formed under the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, Act 2021.
- The CAQM has replaced the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) which was appointed by the SC and had been active for 22 years.
- The Commission aims at better coordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in NCR and adjoining areas.

**56.** Consider the following statements with respect to the Bharat Interface for Money-Unified Payments Interface (BHIM-UPI):

1. BHIM is a platform whereas UPI is a separate mobile wallet.
2. UPI is developed by RBI.

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)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. UPI is a platform whereas BHIM is a separate mobile wallet app like Paytm, PhonePe, etc.
- Such that if a person has bank accounts with the different banks then the person will have to use different UPI apps and VPA (Virtual Payment Address).
- On the other hand, BHIM is a unified payment app based on UPI which can be synced to any of the UPI enabled bank accounts.
- BHIM apps enable direct transactions between bank accounts and no charge is associated with the transfer.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. UPI is developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and is controlled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and IBA (Indian Bank Association).

**57.** Recently seen in the news in context of the state of Arunachal Pradesh, Kaiser-i-Hind is a:

- a) species of Orchid plant
- b) species of Snake
- c) species of Butterfly
- d) species of Bird

Ans c)

- Recently, the State Cabinet headed by the Chief Minister approved the large, brightly coloured Kaiser-i-Hind as the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.

- Kaiser-i-Hind (*Teinopalpus imperialis*) literally means Emperor of India.
- This butterfly with a 90-120 mm wingspan is found in six States along the eastern Himalayas at elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in well-wooded terrain.
- The butterfly also flutters in Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and southern China.
- Kaiser-i-Hind is protected under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as it is hunted for supply to butterfly collectors.

**58.** Consider the following statements in context of the Enforcement Directorate (ED):

1. It was established under the Ministry of Home affairs.
2. ED has power to attach the assets of the culprits found guilty of violation of FEMA, but it cannot process cases of fugitive/s from India.

Which of the following statements are incorrect :

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

Ans c)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) was established under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. ED has the power to attach the assets of the culprits found guilty of violation of FEMA.
- “Attachment of the assets” means prohibition of transfer, conversion, disposition or movement of property by an order issued under Chapter III of the Money Laundering Act.
- Also, it can initiate cases of fugitive/s from India under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.
- The Directorate General of Economic Enforcement (Enforcement Directorate) is a law enforcement and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.
- It was formed with the purpose of handling Exchange Control Law violations under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.

- Other major functions of Enforcement Directorate (ED):
- Investigating violations of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) laws and provisions.
- Designated ED Officials adjudicate FEMA violations.
- Investigating offences of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) laws and provisions.

**59.** Often seen in news Article 222 is related to:

- All- India-Service
- Transfer of a Judges from one High Court to any other High Court
- Imposition of President's Rule in states
- Executive Power of the union.

Ans b)

- Article 222 of the Constitution makes provision for the transfer of a Judge (including Chief Justice) from one High Court to any other High Court.
- The initiation of the proposal for the transfer of a Judge should be made by the Chief Justice of India whose opinion in this regard is determinative.
- Article 312- All- India-Service.
- Article 356- Imposition of President's Rule in states
- Article 53- Executive Power of the union.

**60.** Often seen in news Pakhui Tiger Reserve is situated in which of the following state:

- Manipur
- Meghalaya
- Uttarakhand
- Arunachal Pradesh

Ans d)

- Pakke Tiger Reserve, also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve, is a Project Tiger reserve in the Pakke Kessang district of Arunachal Pradesh in northeastern India.
- It falls within the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot.

- It is bounded by Bhareli or Kameng River in the west and north, and by Pakke River in the east.
- It is surrounded by contiguous forests on most sides. To the east lies Papum Reserve Forest. Towards the south and south-east, the sanctuary adjoins reserve forests and Assam's Nameri National Park. To the west, it is bounded by Doimara Reserve Forest and to the north by Shergaon Forest Division.
- The main perennial streams in the area are the Nameri, Khari and Upper Dikorai. West of Kameng River are Sessa Orchid Sanctuary and Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Pakke is known for its amazing sightings of four resident hornbill species

**61.** The constitution of India provides power of Judicial Review to which of the following courts:

1. Supreme court
2. High court
3. District courts
4. Session courts

Which of the above are correct:

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

Ans b)

- Power of judicial review can be exercised by both the Supreme Court and High Courts:
  - Under Article 226 a person can approach the High Court for violation of any fundamental right or for any legal right.
  - Also, under Article 32 a person can move to the Supreme Court for any violation of the fundamental right or for a question of law.
  - But the final power to interpret the constitution lies with the apex court i.e Supreme Court.
  - The Supreme Court is the highest court of the land and its decisions are binding all over the country.



- Power of Judicial Review – This power of the Supreme Court and High Court includes the power to examine the constitutionality of legislative and executive orders of both central and state governments.
- Judicial reviews are a challenge to the way in which a decision has been made, rather than the rights and wrongs of the conclusion reached.
- It is to be noted that the word judicial review is nowhere mentioned in our constitution but Article 13 and 226 explicitly provide the High Court with this power.

**62.** Consider the following statements with respect to “Compressed Natural Gas” (CNG) and “Liquefied Petroleum Gas” (LPG) :

1. CNG is primarily made up of Methane, while LPG is primarily made up of propane.
2. LPG produces relatively lower quantities of greenhouse gases in comparison with CNG.

Which of the following statements are correct :

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

Ans a)

- Statement 1 is correct. Both CNG and LPG are fossil fuels but the primary difference between the two lies in the components that make up these fuels.
- While CNG is primarily made up of Methane, LPG is primarily made up of propane.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. CNG produces relatively lower quantities of greenhouse gases in comparison with LPG.
- However, LPG has a much greater calorific value when compared to CNG.
- The primary source of obtaining CNG is from oil wells, bed methane wells, coal wells and even natural gas wells, while LPG is obtained from the process of extracting natural gas from reservoirs.
- CNG primary use is as an alternative for fuel in automobiles, while LPG has various uses such as heating and cooking in homes. LPG also has industrial and agricultural uses.
- CNG is relatively cheaper than LPG.

**63.** Consider the following statements in context of Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWLS):

1. It is situated in the state of Telangana.
2. Godavari Mangroves at the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWLS) are touted to be the second largest mangroves in India.

Which of the following statements are incorrect :

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

Ans a)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary and estuary situated in Andhra Pradesh.
- Statement 2 is correct. Godavari Mangroves at the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWLS) are touted to be the second largest mangroves in India.
- The largest mangrove forest in the world is Sundarbans, West Bengal.
- The sanctuary is a part of the Godavari estuary.
- It has extensive mangrove and dry deciduous tropical forest.
- It is home to the critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long-billed vulture.

**64.** Often seen in news, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. It aims at:

1. Generate, manage and disseminate new knowledge.
2. Increase focus on research on the health problems of the vulnerable, the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society.
3. Encourage innovations and translation related to diagnostics, treatment, methods/ vaccines for prevention.
4. Inculcate a culture of research in academia especially medical colleges and other health research institutions by strengthening infrastructure and human resources.

Which of the above statements are correct:

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

Ans d)

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world.

#### Vision

- Translating Research into Action for Improving the Health of the Population.

#### Mission

- Generate, manage and disseminate new knowledge.
- Increase focus on research on the health problems of the vulnerable, the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society.
- Harness and encourage the use of modern biology tools in addressing health concerns of the country.
- Encourage innovations and translation related to diagnostics, treatment, methods/ vaccines for prevention.
- Inculcate a culture of research in academia especially medical colleges and other health research institutions by strengthening infrastructure and human resources.

**65.** It requires a hot and humid climate with temperatures ranging between 15°C and 28 °C and rainfall from 150 to 250 cm. Frost, snowfall, high temperature above 30°C and strong sun shine is not good for crops and is generally grown under shady trees. Stagnant water is harmful and the crop is grown on hill slopes at elevations from 600 to 1,600 metres above sea level. Well drained, loams containing a good deal of humus and minerals like iron and calcium are ideal for its cultivation.

This crop is:

- a) Tea
- b) Coffee
- c) Rubber
- d) Arecanut

Ans b)

- Coffee plants require a hot and humid climate with temperatures ranging between 15°C and 28 °C and rainfall from 150 to 250 cm.
- Frost, snowfall, high temperature above 30°C and strong sun shine is not good for coffee crops and is generally grown under shady trees.
- Dry weather is necessary at the time of ripening of the berries.
- Stagnant water is harmful and the crop is grown on hill slopes at elevations from 600 to 1,600 metres above sea level.
- Well drained, loams containing a good deal of humus and minerals like iron and calcium are ideal for coffee cultivation.
- In India, coffee is cultivated in about 4.54 lakh hectares by 3.66 lakh coffee farmers of which 98% are small farmers. The cultivation is mainly done in the Southern States of India:
  - Karnataka – 54%
  - Kerala – 19%
  - Tamil Nadu – 8%
  - It is also grown in non-traditional areas like Andhra Pradesh and Odisha (17.2%) and North East States (1.8%).
- India is the only country in the world where the entire coffee cultivation is grown under shade, hand-picked and sun dried.

Note:

- India's arabica coffee production will drop by 30% and robusta by 20% this harvest season ending January on account of excessive rainfall, plant damage, bean splitting and berry dropping, as per data provided by the planters' community.

**66.** Pochampally village in Telangana is set to be named as one of the best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). Pochampally will get best Tourism Village tag for which of the following:

- a) temple architecture
- b) natural richness
- c) handlooms
- d) sweet

Ans c)

- Pochampally village in Telangana is set to be named as one of the best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) for its centre of ikat handlooms.
- The Tourism Villages is a global initiative to highlight villages where tourism preserves cultures and traditions, celebrates diversity, provides opportunities and safeguards biodiversity, according to UNWTO.
- Pochampally about 50 km from Hyderabad is an artisanal village known for its exceptional ikat weaves and textures.
- Visitors throng the village to see the weavers at work on their handlooms, creating fabric with complex geometric designs and colours.

Pochampally Ikat

- Pochampally Ikat is a saree made in Bhoodan Pochampally in Nalgonda district, Telangana State, India.
- Its uniqueness lies in the transfer of intricate design and colouring onto warp and weft threads first and then weave them together globally known as double ikat textiles.
- Pochampally received Intellectual Property Rights Protection or Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2005.

**67.** Consider the following statements with respect to “National Register of Citizens”:

1. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a register of all Indian citizens whose creation is mandated by the 2003 amendment of the Citizenship Act, 1955.
2. At present only Assam has such a register and to conduct this exercise in the whole of India, new rules or laws will be needed.

Which of the following statements are correct :

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

Ans a)

- Statement 1 is correct. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a register of all Indian citizens whose creation is mandated by the 2003 amendment of the Citizenship Act, 1955.
  - Its purpose is to document all the legal citizens of India so that the illegal immigrants can be identified and deported.
  - It has been implemented for the state of Assam starting in 2013–2014. The Government of India plans to implement it for the rest of the country in 2021.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. According to the Citizenship Rules, 2003, the central government can issue an order to prepare the National Population Register (NPR) and create the NRC based on the data gathered in it.
  - No new rules or laws are needed to conduct this exercise in the whole of India.

National Population Register

- The National Population Register (NPR) is a list of all the people residing in India and includes both the citizens and the non-citizens.

**68.** Consider the following statements in context of Suez Canal:

1. It connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
2. The canal separates the African continent from Europe.

Which of the following statements 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 Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway running north to south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt, to connect the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The canal separates the African continent from Asia.
- It provides the shortest maritime route between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans.
- It is one of the world's most heavily used shipping lanes, carrying over 12% of world trade by volume.
- It provides a crucial link for oil, natural gas and cargo being shipped from East to West.
- Recently the canal had been in the news after a large cargo ship named 'Ever Given' got stuck near the southern end of the Suez Canal due to a mishap caused by bad weather.



**69.** Consider the following statements with respect to Competition Commission of India (CCI):

1. It is a statutory body of the Government of India.
2. The Commission consists of one Chairperson and six members, who shall be appointed by the Central Government.
3. A foreign company seeking entry into India through an acquisition or merger will not necessarily have to abide by the country's competition laws.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 2 and 3 only

Ans b)

- Statement 1 is correct. Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002, it was duly constituted in March 2009.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Commission consists of one Chairperson and six Members as per the Competition Act who shall be appointed by the Central Government.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. A foreign company seeking entry into India through an acquisition or merger has to abide by the country's competition laws.
- The commission is a quasi-judicial body which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases.
- Functions and Role of CCI
  - To eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.
  - To give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.

**70.** Recently seen in the news, the term "Dhow" refers to:

- a) Traditional sailing vessels used in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean region
- b) Traditional water harvesting system of Bihar
- c) Chess game played during Mughal era
- d) Flower festival of Manipur

Ans a)

- Dhow is the generic name of a number of traditional sailing vessels with one or more masts with settee or sometimes lateen sails, used in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean region.

- Recently the term has been in news as the Dhow will be showcased among the exhibits at Qatar during the FIFA World Cup next year. For this a special dhow is being built in a village in Kerala.
- Recreating the vessels used by Arab traders about 800 years ago when they sailed to Kerala, the dhow being made at Chaliyam in Kozhikode will not have a single nail or metal piece. Instead, traditional coir ropes will hold together the teak pieces.

**71.** Consider the following statements about the Banking Ombudsman Scheme.

1. It is an expeditious forum to bank customers for resolution of complaints relating to certain services rendered by banks.
2. All Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks are covered under the Scheme.
3. One can approach the Ombudsman directly even without approaching the bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Banking Ombudsman Scheme is an expeditious and inexpensive forum to bank customers for resolution of complaints relating to certain services rendered by banks.
- Statement 2 is correct: All Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks are covered under the Scheme.
- Customers can approach Ombudsman for complaints relating to deficiency in banking services like
  - Non-payment or inordinate delay in the payment or collection of cheques, drafts, bills etc.
  - Non-acceptance, without sufficient cause, of small denomination notes or coins tendered for any purpose, and for charging of commission in respect thereof;

- Refusal to open deposit accounts without any valid reason for refusal;
- Levying of charges without adequate prior notice to the customer;
- One's complaint will not be considered if he/she has not approached his bank for redressal of his grievance first. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.
- One can file a complaint before the Banking Ombudsman if the reply is not received from the bank within a period of one month after the bank concerned has received one's complaint, or the bank rejects the complaint, or if the complainant is not satisfied with the reply given by the bank.
- To strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism for customers, RBI has tightened rules concerning the banking ombudsman scheme and issued revised directions in the form of 'Internal Ombudsman Scheme, 2018'.
- The IOS 2018 mandates Banks with more than 10 branches to have an Internal Ombudsman to review complaints that were partially or wholly rejected by the respective banks.
- It aimed to ensure that the complaints of the customers are redressed at the level of the bank itself so as to minimize the need for the customers to approach other fora for redressal.
- In 2018, the RBI also introduced an NBFC Ombudsman scheme to redress complaints with regard to NBFCs.

*Why in the News?*

- The Reserve Bank of India has directed deposit-taking NBFCs with more than 10 branches and non-deposit-taking NBFCs with an asset size of a minimum of 5 thousand Crore rupees to appoint an internal ombudsman within 6 months.
- It will be an apex of their internal grievance redress mechanism.
- All complaints that are partly or wholly rejected by the NBFC will be reviewed by the Internal Ombudsman before the final decision of the NBFC is conveyed to the complainant. The Internal Ombudsman will not entertain any complaints directly from the public.

**72.**With reference to the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), consider the following statements.

1. NITI Aayog anchors the programme with support from Central Ministries and the State Governments.

2. The Ministry of Home Affairs has been tasked with the monitoring of Aspirational districts programme in 35 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Launched in January 2018, the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) is one of the largest experiments on outcomes-focused governance in the world.
- Spread across 117 of India's socio-economically challenged districts, the ADP is Niti Aayog's flagship initiative to improve health, nutrition, education, and economic outcomes.

Core Strategy

- The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a spirit of mass Movement.
- With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.

Selection of districts

- 115 districts were identified under the programme using a composite index of key data sets that included deprivation enumerated under the Socio-Economic Caste Census, key health and education sector performance and state of basic infrastructure.

Institutional framework

- Statement 1 is correct: NITI Aayog anchors the programme with support from Central Ministries and the State Governments.
- Statement 2 is correct: While NITI Aayog is steering the initiative in 30 districts, various central ministries oversee 50 districts besides the Ministry of Home Affairs, which focuses on 35 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts.



- Officers at the level of Joint Secretary / Additional Secretary have been nominated to become the 'Central Prabhari Officers' of each district.
- States have appointed state-nodal and Prabhari officers.
- An Empowered Committee under the Convenorship of the CEO, NITI Aayog will help in the convergence of various government schemes and streamlining of efforts.

#### Focus Areas

- To enable optimum utilization of their potential, this program focuses closely on improving people's ability to participate fully in the vibrant economy.
- Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are this programme's core areas of focus.

#### Baseline Ranking

- The objective of the program is to monitor the real-time progress of aspirational districts based on 49 indicators (81 data-points) from the 5 identified thematic areas.
- Districts are aspiring to first catch-up with the best district within their State, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive & cooperative federalism.

#### Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet has given nod to provide 4G mobile services in over 7,000 villages of 44 aspirational districts across Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Odisha. The mobile towers connectivity will be provided in Left Wing Extremist areas.
- The project would be funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

**73.** Consider the following statements about Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)

- 1) IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system being developed by India.
- 2) It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India only.
- 3) All the satellites in IRNSS are located in the geostationary orbit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



c) 1 and 2 only

d) 1,2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation

Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS): NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)

- Statement 1 is correct: IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system being developed by India
- Statement 2 is incorrect: It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, which is its primary service area.
- An Extended Service Area lies between primary service area and area enclosed by the rectangle from Latitude 30 deg south to 50 deg North, Longitude 30 deg East to 130 deg East
- IRNSS will provide two types of services, namely Standard Positioning Service (SPS) which is provided to all the users and Restricted Service (RS), which is an encrypted service provided only to the authorised users.
- The IRNSS System is expected to provide a position accuracy of better than 20 m in the primary service area.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: IRNSS is a constellation of seven satellites in space. Out of these, three are located in the geostationary orbit over the Indian Ocean and the other four in geosynchronous orbits, with the desired inclination and equatorial crossings in two different planes.

Geosynchronous Orbit

- About 35,786 kilometers above the Earth's surface, satellites are in geostationary orbit. At any inclination, a geosynchronous orbit synchronizes with the rotation of the Earth. More specifically, the time it takes for the Earth to rotate on its axis is 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4.09 seconds, which is the same as a satellite in a geosynchronous orbit

Geostationary Orbits

- While geosynchronous satellites can have any inclination, the key difference to geostationary orbit is the fact that they lie on the same plane as the equator.

- Geostationary orbits fall in the same category as geosynchronous orbits, but it's parked over the equator. This one special quality makes it unique from geosynchronous orbits.

Some applications of IRNSS are

- Terrestrial, Aerial and Marine Navigation
- Disaster Management
- Vehicle tracking and fleet management
- Integration with mobile phones
- Precise Timing
- Mapping and Geodetic data capture
- Terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travellers
- Visual and voice navigation for drivers

*Why in the News?*

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu suggested to ISRO to give a thrust to the indigenously-developed regional navigation satellite system, NavIC for global use.
- He urged ISRO to actively pursue the expansion of the NavIC system in terms of areas covered, services offered and its effective utilization to meet the national requirements.

**74.** Consider the following statements about Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).

1. The objective of establishing EMPS is to provide quality middle and high-level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas.
2. The government aims to establish EMRS in every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons.
3. EMRS are set up in States/UTs with grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The scheme of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) was introduced in the year 1997-98 with an objective to provide quality middle and high-level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and get jobs in government and public and private sectors.
- The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-round development of the students. Each school has a capacity of 480 students, catering to students from Class VI to XII.
- Statement 2 is correct: It has been decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an EMRS.
- Statement 3 is correct: EMRS are set up in States/UTs with grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India.
- The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

*Why in News?*

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for construction of 50 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools in 27 districts.

75. It was founded in 1966 with the primary mission of fostering growth and cooperation among countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines. At present, it comprises 68 members (including India)- of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside. It was modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.

The above description refers to which of the following?

- a) Asian Development Bank
- b) New Development Bank
- c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- d) International Monetary Fund

Answer: A

Explanation

### About ADB

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was founded in 1966 with the primary mission of fostering growth and cooperation among countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- At present, ADB comprises 68 members (including India)- of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- The ADB was modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.
- The two largest shareholders of the ADB are the US and Japan.
- ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

### Objectives

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

### Why in the News?

- The Union Government and Asian Development Bank has signed a 61-million dollar loan to improve livability, harness technology and promote new developments to accommodate the expanding population in Agartala city in Tripura.

**76.** Consider the following statements with respect to “Kutiyattam”:

1. Kutiyattam is one of the oldest traditional theatre forms of Kerala.
2. It is traditionally performed in theatres called Kuttampalams, which are located in the Hindu temples.
3. It is performed only by a community of male actors.

Which of the following statements are correct :

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

- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of above

Ans a)

- Statement 1 is correct. Kutiyattam is one of the oldest traditional theatre forms of Kerala and is based on Sanskrit theatre traditions.
- The word “kuti” in Malayalam language primarily means “combined” or “together”, and “attam” means “acting”: therefore, the word “kutiyattam” means “combined acting”.
- Statement 2 is correct. It is traditionally performed in theatres called Kuttampalams, which are located in the Hindu temples.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Kutiyattam is performed by a community of male actors called Chakyars and female performers called Nangiars, assisted by drummers called Nambiaris.
- Kutiyattam has been declared as among the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

77. It is a blend of dance, music and acting and dramatizes stories, which are mostly adapted from the Indian epics. Heavy make-up and stunning costumes are used. The dancers enact the roles of the stories with particular make-up and costume, the vocalists narrate the legend and the percussionists play the musical instruments. Different facial colours indicate different mental stages & character, e.g. green- nobility, black- wicked, red patches- combining royalty & evil.

Above describes which of the following classical dance:

- a) Bharatnatyam
- b) Manipuri
- c) Kuchipudi
- d) Kathakali

Ans d)

The given description is for Kathakali.

- It is a classical dance of Kerala.
- Kathakali is a blend of dance, music and acting and dramatizes stories, which are mostly adapted from the Indian epics.

- Heavy make-up and stunning costumes (elaborate masks, huge skirts and big head-dresses) are used.
- The dancers enact the roles (kings, gods, demons etc.) of the stories with particular make-up and costume, the vocalists narrate the legend and the percussionists play the musical instruments.
- Different facial colours indicate different mental stages & character, e.g. green – nobility, black – wicked, red patches – combining royalty & evil.
- Hand gestures, facial expressions and eye movements are important.
- Chakiarkoothu, Koodiyattam, Krishnattam and Ramanattam are few of the ritual performing arts of Kerala which have had a direct influence on Kathakali in its form and technique.

**78.** Often seen in news, Article 19(1)(a) of Indian constitution includes which of the following:

1. It provides every person with the right to freedom of speech and expression.
2. The right includes not only word of mouth, but also speech by way of writings, pictures, movies, banners, etc.
3. The right to speech also includes the right not to speak.
4. Participation in sports is a form of freedom of speech, hence falls under the ambit of this article.

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 b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. According to Article 19(1)(a), every citizen (not every person) shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression.
- Statement 2 is correct. This includes not only word of mouth, but also speech by way of writings, pictures, movies, banners, etc.
- Statement 3 is correct. The right to speech also includes the right not to speak.



- This right also includes the right to access information. It is according to this interpretation that the Right to Information (RTI) is a fundamental right.
- Statement 4 is correct. The Supreme Court of India has held that participation in sports is an expression of one's self and hence, is a form of freedom of speech.
- Other than this, in 2004, the Supreme Court also held that hoisting the national flag is also a form of this freedom.
- Further freedom of the press is an inferred freedom under this Article.

**79.** Which of the following countries are member of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):

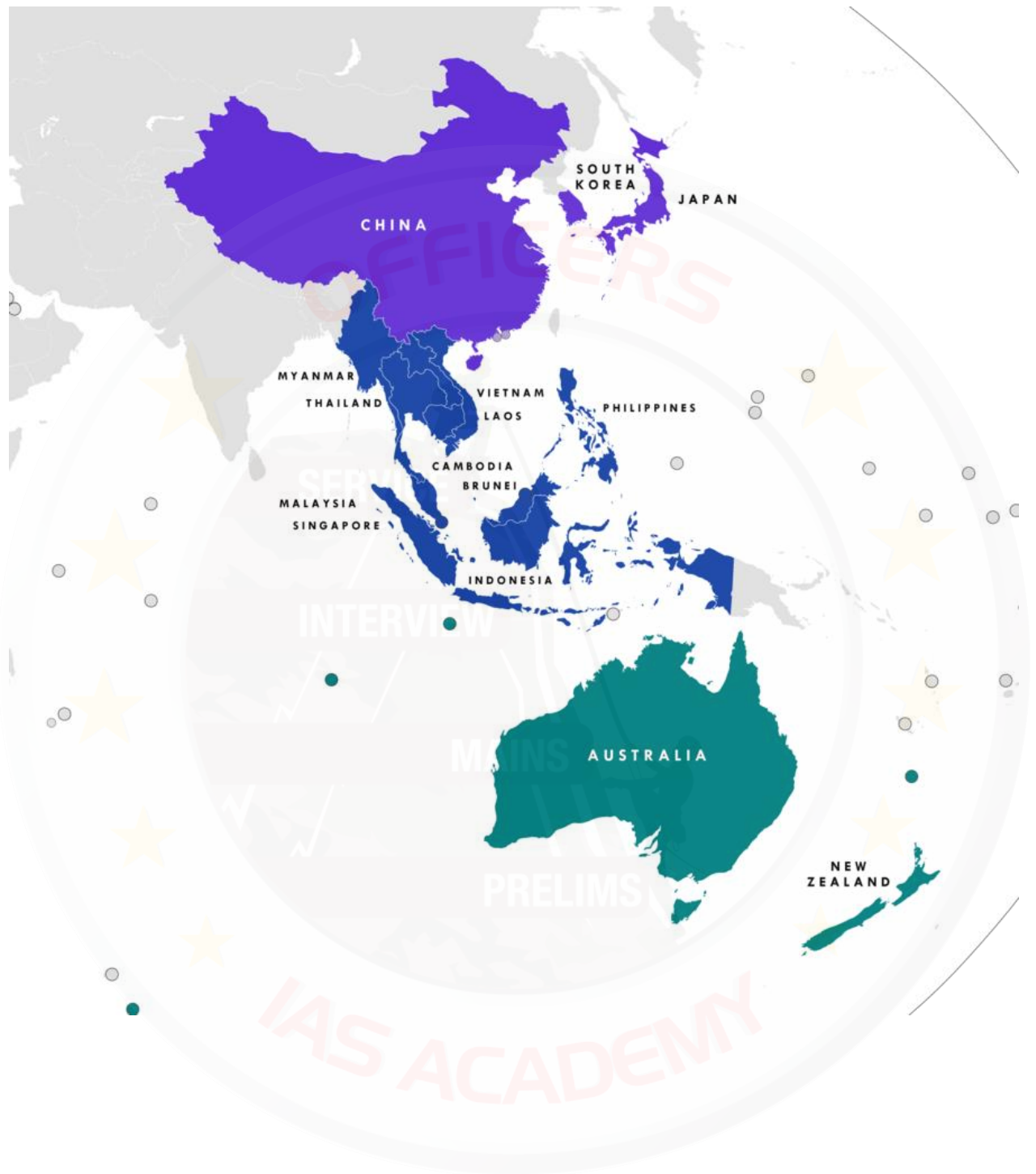
1. New Zealand
2. Laos
3. South Korea
4. Australia
5. India

Which of the above options above are correct:

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

Ans a)

- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a free trade agreement among the Asia-Pacific nations of Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- The 15 member countries account for about 30% of the world's population (2.2 billion people), 30% of global GDP (\$26.2 trillion), and 53% of the world's exports as of 2020, making it the largest trade bloc in history.
- It is the first free trade agreement among East Asian China, Japan, and South Korea, three of the four largest economies in Asia.



**80.** Often seen in a news, “Green hydrogen” refers to the hydrogen produced:

- a) from natural gas, where the emissions are captured using carbon capture and storage.
- b) produced from natural gas where the associated emissions are released to the air.
- c) produced by electrolysis of water using energies from sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, or geothermal heat.
- d) None of the above

Ans c)

- Hydrogen is one of the most abundant elements on earth for a cleaner alternative fuel option.  
Type of hydrogen depend up on the process of its formation:
  - Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis of water using renewable energy (like Solar, Wind) and has a lower carbon footprint.
  - Brown hydrogen is produced using coal where the emissions are released to the air.
  - Grey hydrogen is produced from natural gas where the associated emissions are released to the air.
  - Blue hydrogen is produced from natural gas, where the emissions are captured using carbon capture and storage.

**81.** Consider the following statements with respect to “Amazon Rainforests”:

1. It is a moist broadleaf tropical rainforest in the Amazon biome.
2. These forests occupy the drainage basin of the Amazon River and its tributaries in North America.

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 2 is incorrect. The Amazon rainforest, alternatively, the Amazon jungle or Amazonia, is a moist broadleaf tropical rainforest in the Amazon biome that covers most of the Amazon basin of South America.
- This region includes territory belonging to nine nations and 3,344 formally acknowledged indigenous territories.
- The majority of the forest is contained within Brazil, with 60% of the rainforest, followed by Peru with 13%, Colombia with 10%, and with minor amounts in Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, and Venezuela.
- Four nations have "Amazonas" as the name of one of their first-level administrative regions, and France uses the name "Guiana Amazonian Park" for its rainforest protected area.
- The Amazon represents over half of the planet's remaining rainforests and comprises the largest and most biodiverse tract of tropical rainforest in the world, with an estimated 390 billion individual trees divided into 16,000 species.

**82.** Consider the following statements with respect to "Sarfaesi Act":

1. RBI utilizes Sarfaesi Act as an effective tool for Non Performing Assets.
2. The act is effective only against secured loans.

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. Banks (RBI) utilize Sarfaesi Act as an effective tool for bad loans (Non Performing Asset) recovery.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Sarfaesi Act is effective only against secured loans where banks can enforce the underlying security.
- Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Sarfaesi) Act of 2002, promotes the setting up of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)

and asset securitization companies (SCs) to deal with NPAs accumulated with the banks and financial institutions.

- The Act provides three alternative methods for recovery of non-performing assets, namely:
  - Securitisation
  - Asset Reconstruction
  - Enforcement of Security without the intervention of the Court

Objectives of the Sarfaesi Act:

- It provides the legal framework for securitization activities in India.
- It gives the procedures for the transfer of NPAs to asset reconstruction companies for the reconstruction of the assets.
- It enforces the security interest without the Court's intervention.
- It gives powers to banks and financial institutions to take over the immovable property that is pledged to enforce the recovery of debt.

**83.** Which of the following is also known as the Indi's August Movement or August Kranti:

- a) Civil Disobedience Movement
- b) Bardoli Satyagraha Movement
- c) Quit India Movement
- d) Rowlatt Satyagraha Movement

Ans c)

- Quit India Movement is also known as India's August Movement or August Kranti.
- It was officially launched by the Indian National Congress (INC) led by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942.
- The immediate cause for the movement was the collapse of Cripps Mission.
- The movement gave the slogans 'Quit India' or 'Bharat Chodo', while Gandhiji gave the slogan to the people – 'Do or die'.

**84.** The Preamble of Indian constitution gives information about which of the following:

1. Source of the Constitution
2. Nature of Indian State
3. Statement of its objectives
4. Date of its adoption
5. History of the Preamble to Indian Constitution

Which of the above 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)

- A preamble is an introductory statement in a document that explains the document's philosophy and objectives. In a Constitution, it presents the intention of its framers, the history behind its creation, and the core values and principles of the nation.

The Preamble of Indian constitution gives information about:

- Source of the Constitution
- Nature of Indian State
- Statement of its objectives
- Date of its adoption
- History of the Preamble to Indian Constitution

**85.** Consider the following statements with respect to "National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)":

1. The NCLAT was constituted under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
2. NCLAT is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against orders passed by the Competition Commission 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 b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT).
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- Statement 2 is correct. NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) – as per the amendment brought to Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 by Section 172 of the Finance Act, 2017.
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against the orders of the National Financial Reporting Authority – as per the amendment brought to Section 410 (a) of the Companies Act, 2013 by Section 83 of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2017.

**86.** Which of the following subjects comes under Concurrent List:

1. Education
2. Public order
3. Forests
4. Police

Which of the following are correct ?

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

Ans c)

- 42nd amendment Act 1976 shifted below mentioned five subjects from State list to Concurrent List:
  - Education
  - Forests
  - Protection of wild animals and birds
  - Weights and measures and
  - Administration of justice, constitution and organisation of all courts except the Supreme Court and the High Courts
- While subjects like: Public order, Police, Public health and sanitation, Hospitals and dispensaries, Betting and gambling comes under state list.

**87.** Recently seen in news, the country of Lithuania shares its border with which of the following water body:

- a) North Sea
- b) Baltic Sea
- c) Mediterranean Sea
- d) Black Sea

Ans b)

- Baltic states, the northeastern region of Europe, includes the countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea.



**88.** Often seen in news, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is situated in:

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Jharkhand

Ans c)

- Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is located in Chandrapur district in Maharashtra.
- It is one of India's 50 "Project Tiger" reserves and Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park.
- Vegetation type of the reserve: Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Teak Forests.
- The first Tiger Reserve established in the State is Melghat Tiger Reserve (1973-74).

**89.** Consider the following statements with respect to “United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)”:

1. It divides marine areas into five main zones.
2. It is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans c)

- UNCLOS is also known as the Law of the Sea Convention or the Law of the Sea Treaty that defines the rights and responsibilities of nations towards the use of the world's oceans.
- Statement 1 is correct. It divides marine areas into five main zones namely- Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.
- Statement 2 is correct. It is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces. It provides a different legal status to different maritime zones.



- It not only zones coastal states' offshore areas but also provides specific guidance for states' rights and responsibilities in the five concentric zones.

**90.** Consider the following statements with respect to “Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)”:

1. It is an annual survey that aims to provide reliable estimates of children's enrolment and basic learning levels for each district and state in India.
2. It is the largest citizen-led survey in India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans c)

- Statement 1 is correct. ASER is an annual survey that aims to provide reliable estimates of children's enrolment and basic learning levels for each district and state in India.
- Statement 2 is correct. It is the largest citizen-led survey in India.
- It is also the only annual source of information on children's learning outcomes available in India today.
- Unlike most other large-scale learning assessments, ASER is a household-based rather than school-based survey.
- This design enables all children to be included – those who have never been to school or have dropped out, as well as those who are in government schools, private schools, religious schools or anywhere else.
- Information on schooling status is collected for all children living in sampled households who are in the age group 3-16.
- Children in the age group 5-16 are tested in basic reading and basic arithmetic.
- The survey itself is coordinated by ASER Centre and facilitated by the Pratham network.

**91.** Consider the following statements with respect to fertilisers in India:

1. Out of total fertiliser consumption in India, Urea consumption alone stands for more than 50%.
2. The Centre pays subsidies to both urea and non - urea fertiliser manufacturers on the basis of cost of production at each plant and the units are required to sell the fertiliser at the government-set Maximum Retail Price (MRP).

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Ans b)

- Statement 1 is correct. India's fertiliser consumption in FY20 was about 61 million tonnes — of which 55% was urea—and is estimated to have increased by 5 million tonnes in FY21.
- Since non-urea varieties cost higher, many farmers prefer to use more urea than actually needed.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Only Urea based fertilisers are subsidised by the government, while the MRPs of non-urea fertilisers are decontrolled or fixed by the companies.
- The Centre pays subsidies on urea to fertiliser manufacturers on the basis of cost of production at each plant and the units are required to sell the fertiliser at the government-set Maximum Retail Price (MRP).

**92.** Other than cost of cultivation, Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) considers which of the following factors while recommending the MSP for a commodity:

1. domestic and global market price trends
2. parity vis-à-vis other crops
3. environment factor (soil and water use)
4. terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors
5. inflation

Which of the following options above are correct:



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

Ans d)

- The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.
- It is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- The CACP considers various factors while recommending the MSP for a commodity:
  - cost of cultivation
  - domestic and global market price trends
  - parity vis-à-vis other crops
  - environment (soil and water use)
  - terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors.
  - implications for consumers (inflation)
- Note:
- The Minimum Support Price(MSP) is the rate at which the government purchases crops from farmers, and is based on a calculation of at least one-and-a-half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers.

**93.** Recently seen in news, consider the following about Mullaperiyar Dam:

1. It is located on the Nilgiri Hills of the Western Ghats.
2. The Periyar National Park is located around this dam's reservoir.

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. Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry gravity dam, located at 881 m above mean sea level, on the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats in Thekkady, Idukki District of Kerala, India.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Periyar National Park in Thekkady is located around the dam's reservoir.
- The dam is built at the confluence of Mullayar and Periyar rivers.
- The dam is located in Kerala on the river Periyar, but is operated and maintained by the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu
- In a UN report published in 2021, the dam was identified as one among the world's big dams which needs to be decommissioned for being situated in a seismically active area with significant structural flaws and poses risk to 3.5 million people if the 100+ years old dam were to fail.
- Note:
- Although the Periyar River has a total catchment area of 5398 km<sup>2</sup> with 114 km<sup>2</sup> 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.

**94.** Which of the following state share their border with the state of Tripura:

1. Manipur
2. Assam
3. Meghalaya
4. Mizoram

Which of the above option is/are correct:

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

Ans c)

- Tripura is a state in North-East India. It shares borders with Bangladesh, Mizoram and Assam.

- Tripura is surrounded by Bangladesh on its north, south and west.



**95.** Often seen in news, B. N. Srikrishna Committee is related to:

- a) Crime against women
- b) Police reforms
- c) Data Protection
- d) Malnutrition

Ans c)

B. N. Srikrishna Committee is related to Data Protection.

- In August 2017, the Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY) constituted an Expert Committee to study and identify key data protection issues and recommend methods to address them.
- The ten-member committee was headed by Supreme Court Judge (retired) Justice B N Srikrishna and included members from government, academia, and industries.
- The committee also had the mandate to propose a draft bill for data protection.
- The Committee released its Report and proposed Personal Data Protection Bill 2018 (India) in July, 2018.

**96.** Often seen in news, the Arab Spring was a series of which of the following:

- a) anti-government protests
- b) uprisings
- c) armed rebellions
- d) All of the above

Ans d)

- The Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions that spread across much of the Arab world in the early 2010s.
- It began in response to corruption and economic stagnation and was influenced by the Tunisian Revolution. From Tunisia, the protests then spread to five other countries: Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain, where either the ruler was deposed or major uprisings and social violence occurred including riots, civil wars, or insurgencies.
- Also demonstrations took place in countries like Morocco, Iraq, Algeria, Iran's Khuzestan, Lebanon, Jordan, Oman, Sudan, and Kuwait.

- There were also minor protests in Djibouti, the Palestinian National Authority, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, and Morocco's occupied Western Sahara.

**97.** Consider the following statements with respect to Food Corporation of India (FCI):

1. It is a nodal central agency of Government of India which undertakes procurement of all commodities under Minimum Support Price.
2. It comes under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Which of the statements given above 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. FCI is the nodal central agency of Government of India, along with other State Agencies undertaking only procurement of wheat and paddy under price support scheme.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. It comes under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- The Food Corporation of India was setup under the Food Corporations Act 1964 , in order to fulfill following objectives of the Food Policy:
  - Effective price support operations for safeguarding the interests of the farmers.
  - Distribution of foodgrains throughout the country for a public distribution system.
  - Maintaining satisfactory level of operational and buffer stocks of foodgrains to ensure National Food Security
- Since its inception, FCI has played a significant role in India's success in transforming the crisis management oriented food security into a stable security system.

**98.** Consider the following with respect to Susu:

1. Susu is another name for Ganges river dolphins.
2. It is found only in the Ganga river system.

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 Ganges river dolphin are known locally as susu, which refers to the noise the dolphin is said to make when it breathes; this swimmer is essentially blind and can detect only the direction of light.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Ganges river dolphin—also known as the Ganga—inhabits parts of the Ganges, Meghna, and Brahmaputra river systems in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

- IUCN Status- Endangered

#### THREATS

- Living in one of the most densely populated parts of the world, the Ganges river dolphin faces threats from agriculture and industrial pollution and other human activity such as dam creation, irrigation projects and fishing.
- This development activity divides and isolates populations, significantly reducing its range.

**99.** Recently seen in news Vanniyars are one of the largest and most consolidated backward communities in which of the following state:

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Odisha
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Jharkhand

Ans c)



- Vanniyars are one of the largest and most consolidated backward communities in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- The community in the past had raised massive protests in the mid-1980s demanding 20% reservation in the state, and 2% in central services.
- Their movement was backed by the Justice Party as well as the Self-Respect Movement.
- Recently the Vaniyar community has been in the news after the 'Jai Bhim' movie controversy.

**100.** Consider the following statements with respect to Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO):

1. FAO is one of the six main organs of the United Nations (UN).
2. It publishes the State of the World's Forests Report.

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. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- The United Nations (UN) has six main organs.
  - Five of them — the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and the Secretariat — are based at UN Headquarters in New York.
  - The sixth, the International Court of Justice, is located at The Hague in the Netherlands.
- Statement 2 is correct. The FAO brings out a number of publications/reports, some of which are, the State of the World, the Global Report on Food Crises, the State of Food and Agriculture, the State of the World's Forests, etc.

**101.** Rising global lithium demand and surging prices have drawn increased interest in the so-called 'lithium triangle'. Which of the following countries constitutes this triangle:

1. Venezuela
2. Ecuador
3. Chile
4. Bolivia
5. Argentina

Which of the above are correct:

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

Ans d)

- Often seen in news 'lithium triangle' constitutes parts of:
  - Argentina
  - Bolivia
  - Chile

# The Lithium Triangle



**102.** Consider the following statements with respect to Equalization Levy:

1. Equalization Levy is an indirect tax, which is withheld at the time of payment by the service recipient.
2. It is levied on the income accruing to foreign e-commerce companies from India.

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)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Equalization Levy is a direct tax (not indirect), which is withheld at the time of payment by the service recipient.
- Statement 2 is correct. Equalization Levy was introduced in India in 2016, with the intention of taxing the digital transactions i.e. the income accruing to foreign e-commerce companies from India.
- The following services are currently covered under the Equalization Levy:
  - Online advertisement;
  - Any provision for digital advertising space or facilities/ service for the purpose of online advertisement;

**103.** Which of the following are Federal feature of Indian Constitution:

1. Division of powers between various levels
2. Rigidity of constitution
3. Single citizenship
4. Integrated judiciary

Which of the following options above are correct:

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

Ans c)

- Federalism is a system of government in which powers have been divided between the centre and its constituent parts such as states or provinces.
- Features of the Federal System of India:
  - Dual government polity
  - Division of powers between various levels
  - Rigidity of constitution
  - Independence judiciary
  - Dual citizenship
  - Bicameralism
- While Integrated judiciary is the unitary feature.

**104.** Consider the following statements, with respect to National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):

1. It targets 45-50% reduction of air pollution by 2024.
2. It uses 2015 as its Base Year.

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)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. National Clean Air Campaign (NCAP) of India, targets 20-30% reduction in particulate concentration by 2024.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. It seeks to cut the concentration of coarse (particulate matter of diameter 10 micrometer or less, or PM10) and fine particles (particulate matter of diameter 2.5 micrometer or less, or PM2.5) by at least 20% in the next five years, with 2017 as the base year for comparison.
- It is India's flagship program for better air quality in 132 cities.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2019.

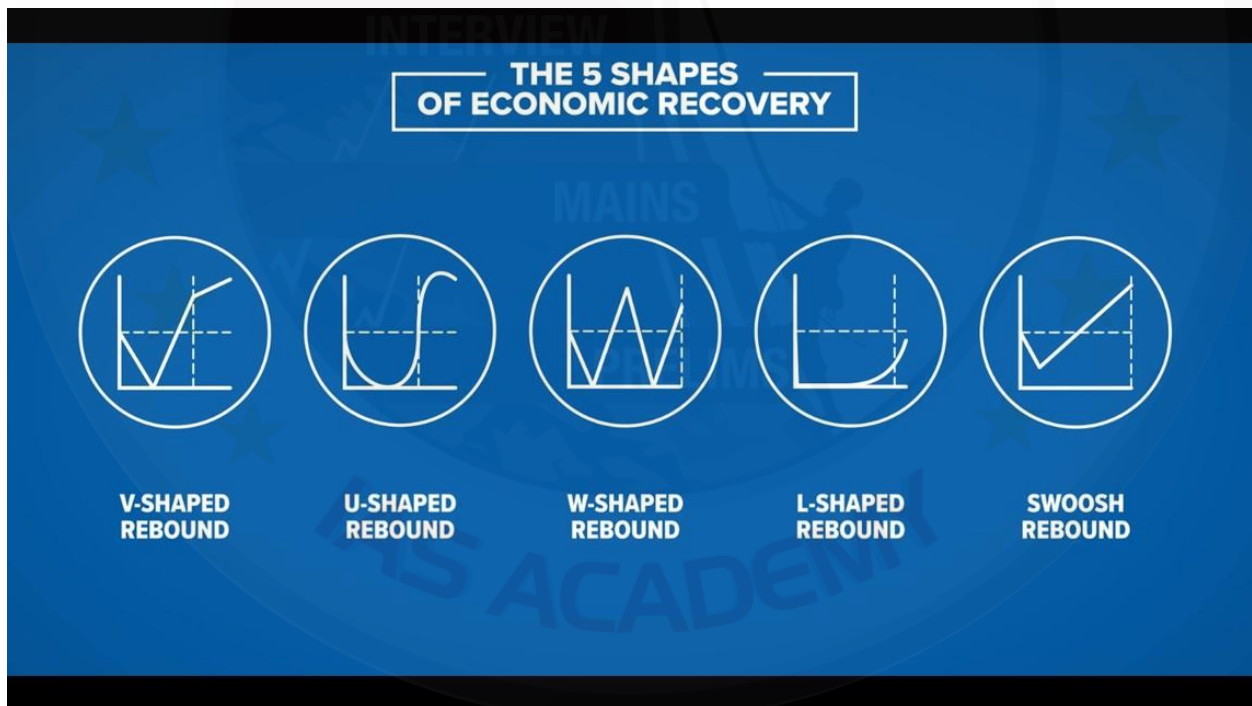
- It is the first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target.

**105.** Often seen in news, Z-shaped recovery, V-shaped recovery, U-shaped recovery, elongated U-shaped recovery, W-shaped recovery, L-shaped recovery and K-shaped recovery, are used to denote Recovery of:

- Recovery in Covid-19 cases
- Recovery in Exports
- Recovery in forest land areas
- Recovery in Economy

Ans d)

- Economic recovery can take many forms, which is depicted using alphabetic notations.
- For example, a Z-shaped recovery, V-shaped recovery, U-shaped recovery, elongated U-shaped recovery, W-shaped recovery, L-shaped recovery and K-shaped recovery.





**106.** Often seen in news, the Yamuna river does not flows in which of the following states:

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Haryana
- d) None of the above

Ans d)

- The river Yamuna, a major tributary of river Ganges, originates from the Yamunotri glacier near Bandarpooch peaks in the Mussoorie range of the lower Himalayas in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.
- It meets the Ganges at the Sangam (where Kumbh mela is held) in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.
- Important Tributaries of Yamuna: Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken.

**107.** Consider the following statements with respect to Group of Seven (G7):

1. All the G7 countries are a part of G20.
2. The G7 does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters.

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 c)

- Statement 1 is correct. All the G7 countries including India are a part of G20.
- Statement 2 is correct. The G7 does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters.
- G-7 is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975.
- The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- The G7 countries are the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.
- The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.

**108.** Which of the following publishes the Global State of Democracy (GSD) Report:

- a) United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
- b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- c) World Bank
- d) None of the above

Ans d)

- The Global State of Democracy Report is released by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International-IDEA).
- The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that works to support and strengthen democratic institutions and processes around the world, to develop sustainable, effective and legitimate democracies.
- The organization is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden.  
International IDEA is an official United Nations Observer.

**109.** It is one of the two classical dance forms that originated in Kerala. It is based on Natya Shastra's lasya style. It has delicate movements and more feminine facial expressions. The movements are gentle and glide-like. They do not have terse rhythmic steps. More emphasis is on the facial expressions and hand gestures. It is traditionally performed only by women.

The above description is about which of the following classical dance:

- a) Bharatnatyam
- b) Kathakali
- c) Mohiniyattam
- d) Kuchipudi

Ans c)

The given description is about Mohiniyattam.

- Mohiniyattam is one of the two classical dance forms that originated in Kerala, the other one being Kathakali.

- Mohiniyattam gets its name from the word 'Mohini', the feminine form of Lord Vishnu; the word means 'dance of Mohini'.
- It is based on Natya Shastra's lasya style and has delicate movements and more feminine facial expressions.
- The movements are gentle and glide-like. They do not have terse rhythmic steps.
- More emphasis is on the facial expressions and hand gestures.
- It is traditionally performed only by women.
- Kathakali, on the other hand, was confined to men.

**110.** Consider the following statements, with respect to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

1. It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
2. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent organ of SCO.

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)

- Statement 1 is correct. It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation, created in 2001.
- It is seen as a counterweight to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- The SCO currently comprises eight Member States- China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- The SCO Secretariat is in Beijing.

**111.** Consider the following statements with respect to the Recently released finding of the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5):

1. The sex ratio has improved in the country such that sex ratio of the total population has reached to 1020 in NFHS-5 as opposed to 995 in NFHS 4.
2. India has reached a total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.0.

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)

- Recently released National Family and Health Survey (NFHS)-5 is the most comprehensive survey on socio-economic and health indicators in the country.
- The previous four rounds of the NFHS were conducted in 1992-93, 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2015-16.

Highlights of the Report:

- Statement 1 is correct. Women outnumber men, fertility has decreased, and India is getting older: There were 1,020 women for 1000 men in the country in 2019-2021.
  - This is the highest sex ratio for any NFHS survey as well as since the first modern synchronous census conducted in 1881.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has also come down below the threshold at which the population is expected to replace itself from one generation to next. TFR was 2 in 2019-2021, just below the replacement fertility rate of 2.1.
- Also, children's nutrition improved but at a slower pace.
  - The share of stunted (low height for age), wasted (low weight for height), and underweight (low weight for age) children have all come down since the last NFHS conducted in 2015-16.
  - However, the share of severely wasted children has not, nor has the share of overweight (high weight for height) or anaemic children.

- Although India might have achieved food security, 60% of Indians cannot afford nutritious diets.
- Use of contraceptives has increased from 53.5% to 66.7% in NFHS-5.
- Institutional births have increased from 78.9% to 88.6%.

**112.** Consider the following statements with respect to the EXIM Bank:

1. It is partially owned by the Govt. of India entity.
2. It extends Line of Credit (LoC) to overseas financial institutions, regional development banks, sovereign governments and other entities abroad.
3. It is regulated by the Govt. of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Ans b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Export-Import Bank of India is a wholly owned Govt. of India entity established in 1982.
- Its main aim is financing, facilitating and promoting foreign trade in India.
- Statement 2 is correct. The EXIM Bank extends Line of Credit (LoC) to overseas financial institutions, regional development banks, sovereign governments and other entities abroad.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

**113.** Recently seen in news, National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is published by which of the following:

- a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- c) Reserve Bank of India
- d) NITI Aayog

Ans d)

- National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is released by Government think-tank NITI Aayog.

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- This baseline report of India's first-ever national MPI measure is based on the reference period of 2015-16 of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)- 4.
- It uses the globally accepted and robust methodology developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- It captures multiple and simultaneous deprivations faced by households.

Parameters used

- The NMPI is calculated using 12 indicators — nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, antenatal care, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets and bank account, They have been grouped under three dimensions namely, health, education and standard of living.

**114.** Often seen in news, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) was constituted under which of the following act :

- a) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- b) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- d) Central Pollution Control Board Act, 1988

Ans a)

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), statutory organisation, was constituted in September, 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Principal Functions of the CPCB are:



- to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution,
- to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.

**115.** Recently seen in news, Omicron is name given to:

- a) humanoid by China
- b) Variant of COVID-19
- c) superconductor discovered by NASA
- d) None of the above

Ans b)

- B.1.1.529 declared as COVID-19 'variant of concern', is renamed Omicron.
- The World Health Organization on November 26 declared the recently-discovered B.1.1.529 strain of COVID-19, first detected in southern Africa, to be a variant of concern and renamed it Omicron.
- The classification puts Omicron into the most-troubling category of COVID-19 variants, along with the globally-dominant Delta.

**116.** Recently seen in news, SaaS, IaaS, PaaS are:

- a) Anti Smog Gun machine
- b) Models of cloud computing services
- c) Series of Supercomputers
- d) Green Crackers

Ans b)

- Cloud computing is the on-demand availability of computer system resources, especially data storage and computing power, without direct active management by the user. Large clouds often have functions distributed over multiple locations, each location being a data center.
- There are various Service Models of cloud computing.
- Software as a Service (SaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) are the primary service models offered by cloud computing technology.

- Besides, there are also other service models like Data as a Service (DaaS), Identity and Policy Management as a Service (IPMaaS), Network as a Service (NaaS), Video as a Service (VaaS) or Hardware as a service (HaaS) amongst others.

**117.** Consider the following statements with respect to Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG):

1. The NSG was formed in the wake of the nuclear tests conducted by India in 1974.
2. There are a total of 48 countries that are members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and India is one of them.

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)

- Statement 1 is correct. The NSG was formed in the wake of the nuclear tests conducted by India in May 1974 which proved that certain non-weapons nuclear technology could be used to develop nuclear weapons.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. There are a total of 48 countries that are members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). India is not one of them.
- The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a transnational body composed of nuclear supplier countries that aim to control the proliferation of nuclear weapons by curbing the export of nuclear weapons development materials and related technology.

#### Functions

- It seeks to improve the existing safeguards on existing nuclear materials.
- The NSG guidelines require that importing states provide assurances to NSG members that proposed deals will not contribute to the creation of nuclear weapons.

**118.** Often seen in news, Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program between which of the following countries:

1. China
2. India
3. United Kingdom
4. United States
5. Germany

Which of the following above options are correct:

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

Ans b)

- The Iran Nuclear Deal, formally known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program signed between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany).
- But the United States announced its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the "Iran nuclear deal" or the "Iran deal", on May 8, 2018.
- The main objective of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was to slow down Iran's nuclear program. If Iran decided to make a nuclear weapon, it would take a year for it to be complete, giving enough time for world powers to respond.

**119.** Consider the following statements with respect to Methane Gas:

1. It is the simplest hydrocarbon.
2. It is a more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon.

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)

- Statement 1 is correct. Methane is the simplest hydrocarbon, consisting of one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms (CH<sub>4</sub>).
- Statement 1 is correct. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. It is 84 times more potent than carbon.
- But it does not last as long in the atmosphere before it breaks down.
- Thus making it a critical target for reducing global warming more quickly while simultaneously working to reduce other greenhouse gases.
- It is flammable, and is used as a fuel worldwide.
- It is responsible for creating ground-level ozone, a dangerous air pollutant.
- Approximately 40% of methane emitted is from natural sources and about 60% comes from human-influenced sources, including livestock farming, rice agriculture, biomass burning and so forth.

**120.** Consider the following statements with respect to International Solar Alliance (ISA):

1. Only those countries lying between the tropics can join the ISA.
2. It is an Indian initiative that was launched on the side-lines of the Conference of the Parties (COP-21)

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 a)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. All member states of the United Nations, including those lying beyond the tropics, can join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Till now, 87 countries have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA and of these 67 have deposited their instruments of ratification.

- Statement 2 is correct. It is an Indian initiative that was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on November 2015 in Paris, on the side-lines of the Conference of the Parties (COP-21), with 121 solar resource-rich countries lying fully or partially between the tropic of Cancer and tropic of Capricorn as prospective members.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The grouping aims to collectively address key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy in ISA member countries.
- It is the largest grouping of states, after the United Nations.
- The ISA is headquartered in Gurugram, India.

**121.** Consider the following statements with respect to National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. It is a “Not for Profit” Company with an intention to provide infrastructure to the entire Banking system in India for physical as well as electronic payment and settlement systems.

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)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- It is a “Not for Profit” Company under the provisions of Section 25 of Companies Act 1956 (now Section 8 of Companies Act 2013), with an intention to provide infrastructure to the entire Banking system in India for physical as well as electronic payment and settlement systems.

**122.** Consider the following statements with respect to National Family Health Survey (NFHS):

1. The survey is conducted under the stewardship of the Ministry of statistics and programme implementation, Government of India.
2. The survey seeks to provide essential data on health and family welfare needed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for policy and programme purposes,
3. The survey also provides information on important emerging health and family welfare issues.

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

Ans b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. National Family Health Survey (NFHS) are conducted under the stewardship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, with the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, serving as the nodal agency.
- The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.
- Three rounds of the survey have been conducted since the first survey in 1992-93.
- The survey provides state and national information for India on fertility, infant and child mortality, the practice of family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health, nutrition, anaemia, utilization and quality of health and family planning services.
- Statement 2 and 3 both are incorrect. Each successive round of the NFHS has had two specific goals:
  - a) to provide essential data on health and family welfare needed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for policy and programme purposes,
  - b) to provide information on important emerging health and family welfare issues.



**123.** Which of the following agreement recognizes that there is an urgent need to address the impact of invasive species:

- a) Nagoya Protocol
- b) Stockholm convention
- c) Cartagena Protocol
- d) Minamata Convention

Ans c)

- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.
- CBD recognizes that there is an urgent need to address the impact of invasive species.
- It states that “Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species”.

Note:

- A species is termed invasive if it's previously absent in that ecosystem and has been introduced in that area from outside mostly by human intervention.
- A common trait is the presence of some trait absent in local fauna or flora which enables it to have a competitive edge over the native species.
- Cane Toad, European Starling, Kudzu Asian long-horned beetle, Small Indian mongoose, Northern Pacific seastar, Water hyacinth are some of the examples of invasive species.

**124.** It is the second biggest river in peninsular India. It originates near Mahabaleshwar (Satara) in Maharashtra. It runs from four states of India. Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha etc. are some of its main tributaries. This river is:

- a) Mahanadi

- b) Godavari
- c) Krishna
- d) Kaveri

Ans c)

- The Krishna River is the second biggest river in peninsular India after Godavari River.
- It originates near Mahabaleshwar (Satara) in Maharashtra.
- It runs from four states Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before it empties into the Bay of Bengal.
- Tributaries: Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.

**125.** Recently seen in news Yelagiri hills are situated in which of the following state:

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Tripura
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Karnataka

Ans c)

- Yelagiri hills are situated in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
- Yelagiri is fast emerging as a popular tourist destination due its eye-catching orchards, rose gardens, and a lush green valley.