

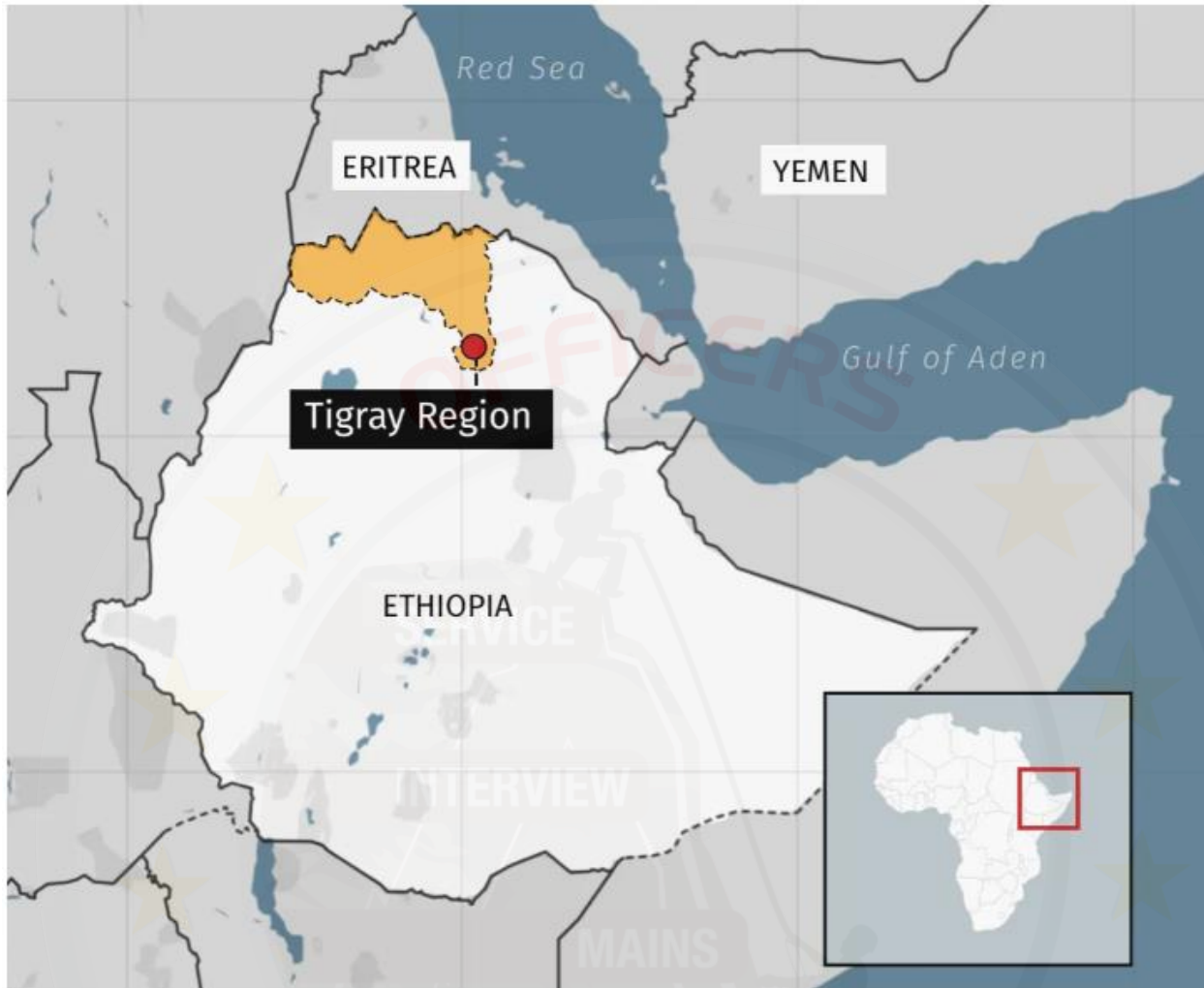
## October MCQ Compilation

1. Often seen in news, Tigray region lies in which of the following countries:

- 1.Chad
- 2.Sudan
- 3.Ethiopia
- 4.Kenya

Ans c)

- The region is often in the news due to ongoing power conflict between the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which rules the country's Tigray region.
- In recent times the region has been again in news after Ethiopia expelled seven senior UN officials for "meddling" in its internal affairs, a move that came after aid workers sounded the alarm on humanitarian access to conflict-torn Tigray.



2. Consider the following statements with respect to Belt & Road Initiative (BRI):

1. It is an ambitious project of China that focuses on connectivity and cooperation across all the continents.
2. The project involves building networks of roadways, railways, maritime ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines, and associated infrastructure projects.

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. Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) is an ambitious project that focuses on connectivity and cooperation among multiple countries spread across the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- Statement 2 is correct. The project involves building networks of roadways, railways, maritime ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines, and associated infrastructure projects.
- The project was launched in 2013 and covers two parts:
  - Silk Road Economic Belt- This is land-based and is expected to connect China with Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe.
  - 21st Century Maritime Silk Road- This is sea-based and is expected to connect China's southern coast to the Mediterranean, Africa, South-East Asia, and Central Asia.

3. Arrange the following core sectors in increasing order of their weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

1. Refinery products
2. Electricity
3. Steel
4. Coal

Which of the following sequences is correct?

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

Ans a)

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index which shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a stipulated period of time.
- The IIP index is computed and published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on a monthly basis.

Eight Core Sectors:

- These comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

- The eight core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.

4. It was primarily a temple or village performance wherein the dancers narrated stories from ancient scriptures. It began evolving into a distinct mode of dance in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries with the spread of the bhakti movement. Usually a solo performance, the dancer often pauses to recite verses followed by their execution through movement. The focus is more on footwork; the movements are skillfully controlled and performed straight legged by dancers wearing ankle-bells.

The above describe which of the following Indian classical dance:

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

Ans c)

- The given description is about Kathak.
- This dance was primarily a temple or village performance wherein the dancers narrated stories from ancient scriptures.
- It began evolving into a distinct mode of dance in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries with the spread of the bhakti movement.
- The legends of Radha-Krishna were enacted in folk plays called rasa lila, which combined folk dance with the basic gestures of the kathak story-tellers.
- Under the Mughal emperors and their nobles, Kathak was performed in the court, where it acquired its present features and developed into a form of dance with a distinctive style.
- In this dance, which is usually a solo performance, the dancer often pauses to recite verses followed by their execution through movement.
- The focus is more on footwork; the movements are skillfully controlled and performed straight legged by dancers wearing ankle-bells.
- Kathak is the only form of classical dance wedded to Hindustani or the North Indian music. Some prominent dancers of this dance include Birju Maharaj, Sitara Devi.

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

1. The scheme has replaced the existing national programme for mid-day meal in schools or Mid-day Meal Scheme.
2. It comes under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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 scheme has replaced the national programme for mid-day meal in schools or Mid-day Meal Scheme.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. It comes under the Ministry of Education.

About:

- The scheme has been launched for an initial period of five years (2021-22 to 2025-26).
- This is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided Schools.
- The earlier name of the scheme was 'National Scheme for Mid Day Meal in Schools' popularly known as Mid Day Meal Scheme.

6. Often seen in news, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is located in state of:

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

Ans c)

- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is located in the **Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu state at the tri-junction of three states namely- Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.**
- It is **part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** along with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the West, Bandipur National Park (Karnataka) in the North, Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley in the South.

- The **Moyar river flows downstream into the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** and is the natural line of division between Mudumalai and Bandipur Sanctuary.
- **Sathyamangalam, Kalakkad, Mudunthurai and Anamalai** are the other tiger reserves in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- Recently the reserve has been in news due to an order to hunt the tiger, T23, passed by the Tamil Nadu Chief Wildlife Warden after the animal killed one more person in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR).

7. Consider the following statements with respect to Goods and Services Tax Council (GST Council):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It is considered as a federal body where both the centre and the states get due representation.

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.** It is a constitutional body under Article 279A.
- **Article 279A was added to the Constitution by One Hundred and First Amendment Act, 2016.**
- **Statement 2 is correct.** It is considered as a federal body where both the centre and the states get due representation.
- It is **chaired by the Union Finance Minister** and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.
- It makes **recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.**

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0:

1. SBM-U 2.0 envisions making all cities 'Garbage Free'.
2. The mission also aims to ensure grey and black water management in all cities other than those covered under AMRUT.

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 the Indian Prime Minister has launched **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0** and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0.
- **Both statements 1 and 2 are correct.** SBM-U 2.0 envisions to make:
  - all cities 'Garbage Free'
  - ensure grey and black water management in all cities other than those covered under AMRUT
  - make all urban local bodies as ODF+ and those with a population of less than 1 lakh as ODF++, thereby achieving the vision of safe sanitation in urban areas.
- The Mission will focus on source segregation of solid waste, utilizing the principles of 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), scientific processing of all types of municipal solid waste and remediation of legacy dumpsites for effective solid waste management.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0):

1. AMRUT 2.0 aims to provide 100% coverage of water supply to all households in all urban local bodies.
2. AMRUT 2.0 will adopt the principles of circular economy.

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)**

**Both statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

- AMRUT 2.0 aims to provide **100% coverage of water supply to all households** in around 4,700 urban local bodies and **100% coverage of sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities** by providing around 2.64 crore sewer/ septage connections.
- AMRUT 2.0 will **adopt the principles of circular economy** and promote conservation and rejuvenation of surface and groundwater bodies.
- The Mission **will promote data led governance in water management** and Technology Sub-Mission to leverage latest global technologies and skills.
- **'Pey Jal Survekshan'** will be conducted to promote progressive competition among cities.

**10. Consider the following statements with respect to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB):**

- 1. 'Crime in India' is the annual report by NCRB.**
- 2. NCRB comes under the Ministry of Law and Justice.**

**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.** NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country- **'Crime in India'**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** NCRB comes under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to function as a **repository of information on crime and criminals** so as to assist the investigators in **linking crime to the perpetrators**.
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the **National Police Commission (1977-1981)** and the **Ministry of Home Affairs Task Force (1985)**.



**11. Recently seen in news, “Kudavolai” was a unique feature of which of the following dynasty:**

- a) Pallavas
- b) Rashtrakutas
- c) Cholas
- d) Chera

**Ans c)**

- **Uttaramerur inscriptions (Tamil Nadu), talk about the Kudavolai system.**
- This system was a very notable and **unique feature of the village administration of the Cholas.**
  - There were 30 wards in each village. **A representative for each ward was elected through the Kudavolai system.**
  - Names of the contestants from whom one could be chosen were written on palm leaf tickets. These palm leaves were put into a pot and shuffled. A small boy picked up palm leaves one by one from the pot. Persons whose name tickets were picked up by the boy were declared elected. Like that 30 members for thirty wards were elected.
  - **This kind of peculiar election system was called the kudavolai system.**
  - Out of the thirty elected members, twelve members were appointed to the Annual committee, twelve members were appointed as the members of the Garden committee and six members to the Tank committee.
  - The **village administrative committee** was called as **variyam**.

**12. China shares its border with how many Indian states/Union Territories:**

- a) 3
- b) 4
- c) 5
- d) 6

**Ans c)**

- **4 states i.e. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territories of Ladakh** share their border with China.

- The Sino-Indian border is generally divided into three sectors namely: **Western sector, Middle sector, and Eastern sector.**
  - Western Sector
    - It is between the **Union Territory of Ladakh and Xinjiang Province of China.**
    - In this sector, there is a territorial dispute over Aksai Chin.
  - Middle Sector
    - **Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand** touch this border with Tibet (China) in this sector.
    - Both sides do not have much disagreement over the border in this area.
  - Eastern Sector
    - It runs from the **eastern limit of Bhutan to a point near the Talu Pass at the trijunction of Tibet, India and Myanmar.**
    - This boundary line is called **McMahon Line.**



**13. Recently seen in news, Uronema africanum Borge is a:**

- a) new strain of covid virus found in Africa
- b) tiny plant that can 'digest' low density plastic sheets
- c) new species of Leopard found in Africa
- d) new species of tree which leaves for more than 100 years

**Ans b)**

- **Uronema africanum Borge is a tiny plant that can 'digest' low density plastic sheets.**
- The alga was isolated by the researchers from the murky waters of a lake in Chennai.
- This alga variety is commonly found in **Asia, Europe and Africa**, and can be seen under the light microscope.

**14. Consider the following statements with respect to the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO):**

- 1. It is located near Nainital in Uttarakhand.**
- 2. The observatory is becoming one of the globally promising observatory sites, due to its advantages of more clear nights, minimal light pollution, background aerosol concentration, extremely dry atmospheric condition and uninterrupted monsoon.**

**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 Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) is located at Hanle near Leh in Ladakh.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The observatory is becoming one of the globally promising observatory sites, according to a recent study by the Department of Science and Technology.

- This is due to its advantages of **more clear nights, minimal light pollution, background aerosol concentration, extremely dry atmospheric conditions and uninterrupted monsoon.**
- The researchers found that Devasthal has a slightly larger number of clear nights compared to the other sites in the subcontinent but are affected by monsoons for about three months in a year.
- However, **night observations at IAO Hanle from 2m-Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) are possible throughout the year without any interruption due to the monsoon.**

**15. Recently seen in news, Nord Stream 2 Pipeline will pass under which water body:**

- a) Caspian sea
- b) Baltic sea
- c) Black sea
- d) Aral sea

**Ans b)**

- **Nord Stream 2 is a system of offshore natural gas pipelines running under the Baltic Sea from Russia to Germany.**
- **It will increase Europe's dependence on Russia for Natural Gas.**
- Currently EU (European Union) countries already rely on Russia for 40% of their gas needs.
- **There is an existing pipeline between Russia and Europe through Ukraine, once the NS2P project is completed it would bypass Ukraine and deprive it of a significant transit fee of around \$ 3 billion per year.**

## Nord Stream pipelines from Russia



**16. Consider the following statements:**

1. India is the world's third-largest oil importer.
2. India imports more than 95% of its crude oil needs.

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

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

**Ans b)**

- **Statement 1 is correct. India is the world's third-largest oil importer** followed by China and the United States.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect. India imports 85% of its crude oil needs and about half of its natural gas requirement.**
  - While the crude oil is turned into fuels such as petrol and diesel, gas is used as CNG in automobiles and fuel in factories.
- **Iraq** is the top oil supplier to India, followed by the **United States and Saudi Arabia.**

**17. Consider the following statements, with respect to India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA) :**

- 1. The grouping was formalized and named the IBSA Dialogue Forum with the Brasilia Declaration.**
- 2. IBSA Fund for Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger, is a unique Fund through which development projects are executed with IBSA funding in fellow developing countries.**

**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)**

- IBSA is a unique Forum which brings together **India, Brazil and South Africa, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents, facing similar challenges.**
  - All three countries are developing, pluralistic, multicultural, multi-ethnic, multilingual and multi-religious nations.
- **Statement 1 is correct.** The grouping was formalized and named the IBSA Dialogue Forum when the Foreign Ministers of the three countries met in Brasilia on 6 June 2003 and issued the **Brasilia Declaration.**



- **Statement 2 is correct. IBSA Fund for Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger**, established in 2004, is a unique Fund through which development projects are executed with IBSA funding in fellow developing countries.
- **India is the current IBSA Chair.**
- **Joint naval exercise IBSAMAR (IBSA Maritime Exercise)** is an important part of IBSA trilateral defence cooperation.



**18. Recently seen in news, “Race To Zero” is a global campaign by:**

- a) United Nations
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Health Organisation
- d) Greenpeace

**Ans a)**



- **The Race to Zero is a United Nations-led campaign**, to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth.
- The objective of the campaign is **to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy ahead of COP26**, where governments must strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement.
- This will send governments a resounding signal that business, cities, regions and investors are united in meeting the Paris goals and creating a more inclusive and resilient economy.

**19. Consider the following statements, with respect to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):**

- 1. It is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.**
- 2. Its primary purpose is to coordinate response to only natural disaster and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans a)**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is **the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.**
- It is also the **apex body to lay down policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.**
- It was formally constituted **in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with the Prime Minister as its Chairperson** and nine other members, and one such member to be designated as Vice-Chairperson.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Its primary purpose is to **coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters** and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response.

**20. The State of the World's Forests Report is Published by:**

- a) United Nations Environment Program(UNEP)
- b) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- c) World Economic Forum(WEF)
- d) World Wide Fund for Nature(WWF)

**Ans b)**

- The State of the World's Forests is published by **the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.
- The report **assesses progress to date in meeting global targets and goals related to forest biodiversity and examines the effectiveness of policies, actions and approaches, in terms of both conservation and sustainable development outcomes.**
- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):**
- It is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- Its goal is to **achieve food security for all** and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. We believe that everyone can play a part in ending hunger.

**21. Recently seen in news, "Green War Room" refers to:**

- a) rooms from where authorities will make policies on stubble burning
- b) rooms from where authorities will make plans on curbing deforestation
- c) rooms from where authorities will be monitoring air pollution
- d) rooms from where authorities will make plans to promote use of green firecrackers

**Ansc)**

- **Green War Room** refers to rooms **from where authorities will be monitoring air pollution and coordinating with other departments, thus acting as a central point of contact.**

**22. Consider the following statements, with respect to Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY):**

- 1. PMJAY offers a sum insured of Rs 5 lakh per family for primary care as well as tertiary care.**
- 2. It is a central sector scheme.**

**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.** PMJAY offers a sum insured of **Rs 5 lakh per family for secondary care** (which doesn't involve a super specialist) as well as **tertiary care** (which does).
- It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the **beneficiaries as identified by latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The **insurance cost is shared by the centre and the state** mostly in the ratio of 60:40.

**23. Recently seen in news, "Green Strategic partnership" is a partnership between:**

- a) India-USA
- b) India-Japan
- c) India-European Union
- d) India-Denmark

**Ans d)**

- **India and the Kingdom of Denmark** have launched the **Green Strategic Partnership for delivering sustainable solutions to India.**
- **Green Strategic Partnership:**
- The Partnership will focus on **expanding economic ties, green growth, and cooperation on global challenges such as climate change.**

- Danish companies with niche technologies and expertise will help India in meeting its **air pollution control targets, including in the key area of tackling the problem of burning crop stubble.**
- Other key points under the partnership include **dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and cooperation in water efficiency and water loss.**

**24. Consider the following statements, with respect to Microfinance Institutions (MFI):**

- 1. MFIs are financial companies that provide small loans to people who do not have any access to banking facilities.**
- 2. These services include microloans, microsavings and microinsurance.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans c)**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** MFIs are financial companies that **provide small loans to people who do not have any access to banking facilities.**
  - The definition of “small loans” varies between countries. **In India, all loans that are below Rs.1 lakh can be considered as microloans.**
- **Statement 2 is correct.** These services include **microloans, microsavings and microinsurance.**
- Mostly the interest rates are lower than those charged by normal banks.
- Their area of operation includes **rural areas and among low-income people in urban areas.**
- **Currently there is no regulator that oversees NGO-MFIs.**
  - The **Non-Banking Financial Company -Micro Finance Institutions** (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2011 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is regulating all the Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC)-MFIs in India.

**25. Globally population of Tigers can be found in which of the following countries:**

- 1. Bhutan**
- 2. China**
- 3. Nepal**
- 4. Myanmar**
- 5. Thailand**

**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)**

- There are currently 13 tiger range countries - **India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.**

**Note:**

- India is home to over **70% of the tiger population globally.**
- Tiger is listed as '**Endangered**' on the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.**
- The **largest of all cats**, the tiger once occurred throughout central, eastern and southern Asia.
- However, in the past 100 years, the tiger has lost more than 93% of its historic range and now only survives in scattered populations in 13 countries, from India to Southeast Asia, and in Sumatra, China and the Russian Far East.
- The main threats to tigers are **poaching for trade in body parts used in traditional medicines, habitat loss and fragmentation, retaliatory killing after attacks on people and livestock.**

**26. Recently seen in news, "Endosulfan" is:**

- a) a fruit ripening chemical
- b) a weedicide
- c) an insecticide
- d) antibacterial liquid

**Ans c)**

- Endosulfan is an **off-patent organochlorine insecticide and acaricide that is being phased out globally.**
- It became a highly controversial agrichemical due to its **acute toxicity, potential for bioaccumulation, and role as an endocrine disruptor.**
- Recently It has been in news after Congress slammed the Kerala government for leaving thousands of endosulfan victims in Kasaragod district in the lurch.
- It was estimated that at least 2,700 people were diagnosed with signs of pesticide poisoning in the district.

**27. Consider the following statements, with respect to Malaria:**

- 1. It is a mosquito borne blood disease caused by a virus.**
- 2. The disease spreads through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.**

**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.** Malaria is a **mosquito borne blood disease caused by plasmodium parasites.**
- There are 5 parasite species that cause malaria in humans, and 2 of these species – Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax – pose the greatest threat.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The disease spread **through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.**
- After entering the human body, parasites initially multiply within the liver cells and then attack the Red Blood Cells (RBCs) resulting in their rupture.
- Recently the **World Health Organization has approved** the vaccine, called **Mosquirix.**
- **The vaccine is not just a first for malaria — it is the first developed for any parasitic disease.**

- Parasites are much more complex than viruses or bacteria, and the quest for a malaria vaccine has been underway for a hundred years.

**28. Koyna River, Warna River, Panchganga River, Dudhaganga, Ghataprabha River, Malaprabha River are the tributaries of which of the following river:**

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

**Ans b)**

- The Krishna River is the **fourth-biggest river in terms of water inflows and river basin area in India**, after the Ganga, Godavari and Brahmaputra.
- The river is also called **Krishnaveni**.
- The Krishna river originates in the **Western Ghats near Mahabaleshwar**, in the state of **Maharashtra in central India**.
- It is one of the major sources of irrigation for **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Koyna River, Warna River, Panchganga River, Dudhaganga, Ghataprabha River, Malaprabha River** are its tributaries.
- The delta of this river is one of the most fertile regions in India and was the home to ancient **Satavahana and Ikshvaku Sun Dynasty kings**. Vijayawada & Sangli are the largest cities on the Krishna.

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

- 1. NCAP targets a 20-30% reduction of air pollution by 2024.**
- 2. It is the first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target.**

**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.** National Clean Air Campaign (NCAP) of India, **targets 20-30% reduction in particulate concentration by 2024.**
- **It is India's flagship program for better air quality in 122 cities.**
- It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2019.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** It is the **first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target.**
- 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.**

30. Recently seen in news, “PM MITRA parks” are:

- a) food processing parks
- b) textile manufacturing parks
- c) children friendly parks
- d) pharmaceutical parks

Ans b)

- **PM MITRA parks** were announced to be in the Union Budget 2021-22. This move will help **India to stand at par with Global textile giants.**

#### **About PM MITRA**

- PM MITRA parks stands for “**Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel**” parks.
- These parks will be **established at Greenfield or Brownfield sites in different states.**
- Under the project, **parks will be established through a special purpose vehicle, owned by state governments and Centre under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.**
- As of 10 states are interested in establishing the PM MITRA parks namely, **Punjab, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.**

- PM MITRA initiative is **motivated by PM Modi's 5F vision of- "farm to fibre; fibre to factory; factory to fashion; and fashion to foreign".**

**31. Recently seen in news, "Nokku kooli" refers to:**

- a) festival of Tripura
- b) bonded labour practice in ancient times in India
- c) gawking charges in Kerala
- d) tribal dance of Meghalaya

**Ans c)**

- Nokkukooli is a **notorious practice in Kerala**. It is essentially a **gawking charge, payment for doing nothing**.
- This practice has been **widespread among the head-load workers, i.e. labourers involved in loading and unloading activities**.
- A Registered head-load worker demands Nokku kooli **for either doing the loading or unloading work himself or when he gets the job done through his own worker**.
- Recently the **Kerala High Court lashed out again at the practice of demanding Nokkukooli by head load workers in the State**.
- The court said that it did not want to hear the word Nokkukooli any more. **The use of the word should be discontinued**.
- The court added that investors were scared to invest in the State because of militant trade unionism. Such a situation should be changed. If an employer did not engage a head load worker, he/she was supposed to approach the competent authorities under the Kerala Head Load Workers Act, instead of resorting to violence.

**32. Consider the following statements, with respect to North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO):**

1. It was established by the Washington Treaty.
2. It is purely a military alliance.

**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.** NATO was established by **the North Atlantic Treaty, also called the Washington Treaty in 1949**, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
  - It is **headquartered at Brussels, Belgium.**
  - The collective defence principle enshrined in NATO's Article V states that **"an attack against one ally is considered as an attack against all allies"**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** It is both a **Political and Military Alliance.**  
 It's primary goals are the **collective defence of its members and the maintenance of a democratic peace in the North Atlantic area.**

**33. Recently seen in news, "RTS,S/AS01" is a:**

- a) meteoroid
- b) New virus strain of coronavirus
- c) Malaria vaccine
- d) Russian satellite

**Ans c)**

- Recently, the **World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed the Malaria Vaccine called "RTS,S/AS01"**.
- It is the **world's first vaccine against the mosquito-borne disease.**
  - This decision was taken following a review of a pilot programme deployed since 2019 across the countries like Kenya, Ghana, and Malawi where more than two million doses of the vaccine were given.
  - As per findings, the vaccine can help in reducing severe malaria cases by 30 percent.
- WHO has recommended **that children up to the age of two, in sub-Saharan Africa and in other regions having moderate to high malaria transmission should get four doses.**

**34. Consider the following statements, with respect to World Trade Organization (WTO):**

- 1. It is a specialized agency of The United Nations.**
- 2. The WTO was officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement.**

**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 World Trade Organization (WTO) is an **intergovernmental organization**, and not a specialized agency of The United Nations.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The WTO was officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the **Marrakesh Agreement**, signed by 123 nations on 15 April 1994, replacing the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**, which commenced in 1948.
- The WTO is the **world's largest international economic organization**, with 164 member states representing over 96% of global trade and global GDP.
- The WTO is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland**.
- The WTO **facilitates trade in goods, services and intellectual property among participating countries** by providing a framework for negotiating trade agreements, which usually aim to reduce or eliminate tariffs, quotas, and other restrictions.
- The WTO also **administers independent dispute resolution for enforcing participants' adherence to trade agreements** and resolving trade-related disputes.
- The organization prohibits discrimination between trading partners, but provides exceptions for environmental protection, national security, and other important goals.

**35. Consider the following rivers:**

- a) Chambal
- b) Sindh
- c) Betwa
- d) Son

**Which of the above are tributaries of river Yamuna?**

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

**Ans a)**

- The river Yamuna, **originates from the Yamunotri glacier near Bandarpooch peaks in the Mussoorie range of the lower Himalayas, in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.**
- It is a major **tributary of river Ganges.**
- It meets the Ganges at the Sangam in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.
- Major tributaries of Yamuna are: **Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken.**



36. Often seen in news, Palk Bay is located between:

- a) India and Maldives
- b) Sumatra and Java
- c) India and Srilanka
- d) Indonesia and Singapore

Ans c)

- Palk Bay is a **semi-enclosed shallow water body**. It is located **between the southeast coast of India and Sri Lanka**.





37. EX EASTERN BRIDGE V is the bilateral exercise between:

- a) India-Saudi Arabia
- b) India-Oman
- c) India-Uzbekistan
- d) India-Tajikistan

**Ans b)**

- EX EASTERN BRIDGE V, is a **biennial exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force Oman (RAFO).**
- Other Exercises Between India and Oman are:
  - **Naseem Al-Bahr is the naval exercise** conducted between both the countries.
  - **AL Nagah is the joint bilateral exercise between the armies** of two countries.
- The last EX EASTERN BRIDGE-IV exercise was conducted in 2019.



**38. It is a kharif crop which requires high temperature, (above 25°C) and high humidity with annual rainfall above 100 cm. In southern states and West Bengal the climatic conditions allow the cultivation of its two or three crops in an agricultural year. India is its second highest producer in the world.**

**The above description is for which of the following:**

- a) Wheat
- b) Sugarcane
- c) Rice
- d) Jute

**Ans c)**

- Rice is a **kharif crop which requires high temperature (above 25°C) and high humidity with annual rainfall above 100 cm.**
- In southern states and West Bengal the climatic conditions allow the cultivation of two or three crops of rice in an agricultural year.
- **In West Bengal** farmers grow three crops of rice called ‘aus’, ‘aman’ and ‘boro’.
- Approximately **one-fourth of the total cropped area in India is under rice cultivation.**
- **Globally, the top rice-producing country is China, followed by India.**
- Leading producer states of rice are: **West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab.**

**39. Often seen in news, “Guduchi” is a:**

- a) new bird species found in Western Ghats
- b) Tribal dance of Manipur
- c) Herb found in India
- d) new species of snake found in Arunachal Pradesh

**Ans c)**

- Guduchi is also commonly known as **Giloy** and its scientific name is **Tinospora Cordifolia.**
- It is found in **abundance in India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.**
- Guduchi is rich in **antioxidants like ascorbic acid, lycopene and carotene**-they have anti-ageing properties.

- The best way to consume it is to use a powder made from the stem of the Guduchi herb. The powder can be mixed in water and honey. While guduchi can help people with diabetes, it should only be taken under medical supervision.

**40. Often seen in news, Bhashan Char island is located in:**

- a) India
- b) Madagascar
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Maldives

**Ans c)**

- Bhashan Char Island is located east of **Hatiya island in South-East Bangladesh.**
- The island was formed about two decades ago on the **mouth of river Meghna.**
- The island is also known as Char Piya or Thengar Char Island .
- Despite the fact that the island is in an **ecologically fragile area prone to floods, erosion and cyclones, the Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh camps have been moved to Bhashan Char Island** since December last year.
- **Recently Bangladesh and the UN have signed a formal document, ending a long wait for a much-sought UN engagement at Bhasan Char on the humanitarian front to support the Rohingyas there.**

**41. Consider the following statements with respect to Uranium:**

- 1. Kazakhstan produces the largest share of uranium from mines in the world.**
- 2. Nuclear reactors use Low Enriched Uranium as a fuel.**

**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.** In 2020, **Kazakhstan** produced the largest share of uranium from mines (41% of world supply), followed by **Australia** (13%) and **Canada** (8%)
- **Statement 2 is correct. For nuclear reactors**, enrichment is required upto 3-4% which is known as **Low Enriched Uranium/reactor-grade uranium**.
- While nuclear weapons, enrichment is required upto 90% or more which is known as Highly Enriched Uranium/weapons-grade uranium.

**NOTE:**

- Uranium is a chemical element with the **symbol U and atomic number 92**. It is a **silvery-grey metal** in the actinide series of the periodic table. A uranium atom has 92 protons and 92 electrons, of which 6 are valence electrons.
- Natural uranium consists of **two different isotopes** - nearly 99% **U-238** and only around 0.7% of **U-235**.
- **U-235 is a fissile material that can sustain a chain reaction in a nuclear reactor.**
- Therefore, the **enrichment process** is used to increase the proportion of U-235 through the process of isotope separation (**U-238 is separated from U-235**).

**42. Recently seen in news, “Gandhamardan mine” is located in:**

- Jharkhand
- Andhra Pradesh
- Orissa
- Chattisgarh

**Ans c)**

- **Gandhamardan mine** is located in the Gandhamardan mountain ranges of **Orissa**.
- The Gandhamardan mountain ranges are a **rich source of diversity for medicinal plants**. The Botanical Survey of India has reported the existence of 220 plant species of medicinal value. Local people, however, claim that there are more than 500 species of medicinal plants in this area.
- Gandhamardan iron ore mine is **one of the biggest iron ore mines in Odisha and the largest profit-making public sector undertaking in the State**.
- It has been in news for the **deaths of the local tribes in the region, due to the lack of access to safe drinking water, and pollution caused by iron ore mining**.

43. Often seen in news, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) gives estimates of which of the following:

1. Labour Force Participation Rate
2. Worker Population Ratio
3. Unemployment Rate
4. Head count ratio

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

- **The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** gives estimates of Key employment and unemployment Indicators like **the Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR)**, etc.
- These indicators are defined as follows:
  - **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
  - **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
  - **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
- **Head count ratio (HCR):** The head count ratio is the population proportion that exists, or lives, below the poverty threshold.
- **The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) gives no estimation about HCR.**

44. Which of the following straits separates the island of Taiwan and continental Asia:

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

**Ans b)**

- Taiwan Strait, also called Formosa Strait, separates the island of Taiwan and continental Asia.
- The Strait of Malacca connects the Indian **Ocean to the South China Sea.**
- The Strait of Sunda connects **the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra.**
- The Luzon Strait is the strait between **Taiwan and Luzon island of the Philippines.**



**45. Recently seen in news, “Lukha river” is located in:**

- a) Orissa
- b) Gujarat
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Meghalaya

**Ans d)**

- The Lukha — “reservoir of fish” in the local Pnar language — is located **in the southern part of east Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya.**
- **It receives water from the Lunar river (Wah Lunar)** and small streams draining from the Narpuh Reserve Forest and the undulating hills of the area while flowing down.

- The river is **mainly fed by monsoon rain and flows in the south-west direction** and later takes a southern path after joining the Lunar river near the Khaddum village.
- The river ends up in the floodplains of Bangladesh.
- The Lukha **was considered toxic beyond redemption a decade ago due to contamination on acid mine drainage and run-off from the coal mines.**
- The Lukha river is in the East Jaintia Hills district where most of Meghalaya's rat-hole coal mines are located.
- **Recently it has been in the news after a detoxing pilot project has brought the river back from the dead.**

**46. Consider the following statements with respect to the Line of Actual Control (LAC):**

- 1. It is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.**
- 2. The line is agreed upon by the two countries and has been delineated on a map and demarcated on the ground.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans a)**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the **demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The LAC, is only a concept – it is not agreed upon by the two countries, neither delineated on a map or demarcated on the ground.
- **LAC is different from the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan.**
- The LoC emerged from the 1948 ceasefire line negotiated by the United Nations (UN) after the Kashmir War.
- It was designated as the LoC in 1972, following the Shimla Agreement between the two countries. It is delineated on a map signed by the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of both armies and has the international sanctity of a legal agreement.



47. Consider the following statements about BioDecomposer solution, recently seen in news:

1. It contains strains of decomposing Bacteria and Fungus.
2. The solution is capable of decomposing organic raw material, crop stubbles, animal waste etc. and producing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), ammonia, water, heat and humus.

**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.** The BioDecomposer solution contains **strains of decomposing Bacteria and Fungus.**
  - Dormant form of decomposing Bacteria and cell mass of Fungal spore, accelerate the process of decomposition under aerobic and anaerobic conditions.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** These Bacteria and Fungus are **capable of decomposing organic raw material , crop stubbles, animal waste etc. and produce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), ammonia, water, heat and humus.**
  - These bacteria and fungus accelerate the process of decomposition and get the organic raw material, crop stubbles decomposed in 40- 60 days depending upon type of organic raw material, which normally takes 150-200 days.
  - It breaks down **proteins, fats and complex carbohydrates such as cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin.**
  - **The product is non-toxic to human beings, animals, plants, birds, fishes and non-target organisms. No residue problems.**



**48. Global Climate Risk Index is published by:**

- a) United Nations Environment Program
- b) Germanwatch
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) World Wide Fund for Nature

**Ans b)**

- **Global Climate Risk Index is an annual index released by the environmental think tank and sustainable development lobbyist Germanwatch.**
- The 16th edition of the Global Climate Risk Index was released on January 25, 2021, in which **India was ranked 7<sup>th</sup>.**
- The index **analyses to what extent countries have been affected by the impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heat waves etc.).**
- Also, it **pushes for the need to support developing countries** in coping with the effects of climate change.

**Highlights of the GCRI, 2020:**

1. The Global CRI 2021 displayed data based on human impacts (fatalities) and direct economic losses due to extreme weather events in 2019 and between 2000 and 2019.
2. The Index aims at contextualising ongoing climate policy debates, especially the International climate negotiations – looking at the near world impacts in 2019 and the past two decades.
3. Mozambique, Zimbabwe and The Bahamas were the worst-affected countries in 2019.
4. While hurricane Dorian ravaged The Bahamas; Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi were affected by the single extreme weather event of cyclone Idai.
5. Japan and Afghanistan were the other countries that fared worse than India on the Index, while South Sudan, Niger and Bolivia fared better in comparison but still made it to the top 10 worst-affected countries.

**49. Consider the following statements about G20:**

- 1. The G20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union.**
- 2. It does not have any permanent secretariat or headquarters.**

**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.** The G20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

**Statement 2 is correct.** It does not have any permanent secretariat or headquarters.

**Note:**

- The G20 membership represents a mix of:
  - the world's largest advanced and emerging economies,
  - about two-thirds of the world's population,
  - 85% of global gross domestic product,
  - 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.
- The members of the G20 are- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

**50. Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**

- 1. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the national space agency of India, headquartered in New Delhi.**
- 2. ISRO comes under the Department of Science and Technology.**

**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.** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the national space agency of India, **headquartered in Bengaluru.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** ISRO operates under the **Department of Space (DOS)** which is directly overseen by the Prime Minister of India.
- ISRO is the primary agency in India to perform tasks related to **space based applications, space exploration and development of related technologies.**
- It is one of the six government space agencies in the world which possess full launch capabilities, **deploy cryogenic engines, launch extraterrestrial missions and operate large fleets of artificial satellites.**

**51. Consider the following statements with respect to the Graded Response Action Plan:**

- 1. The action plan which was formulated in 2016 for the whole nation.**
- 2. It includes the measures which will be taken by different government agencies to prevent worsening of Air Quality and prevent PM10 and PM2.5 levels to go beyond the 'moderate' national Air Quality Index (AQI) category.**

**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 action plan which was formulated in 2016 and notified in 2017 **for Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR)** only and not for the whole nation.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** GRAP includes the **measures which will be taken by different government agencies to prevent worsening of Air Quality of Delhi-NCR and prevent**

**PM10 and PM2.5 levels to go beyond the 'moderate' national Air Quality Index (AQI) category.**

- These are institutionalized measures to be taken when air quality deteriorates, hence works only as an emergency measure.
- The plan requires action and coordination among 13 different agencies in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan (NCR areas).

**52. Consider the following statements about Silicosis:**

- 1. Silicosis is an incurable condition with its potential to cause permanent physical disability.**
- 2. Silicosis occurs most commonly in people working in the quarrying, manufacturing, and building construction industries.**

**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.** Silicosis is an **incurable condition** with its potential to cause permanent physical disability.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Silicosis occurs most **commonly in people working in the quarrying, manufacturing, and building construction industries.**

**About:**

- Silicosis is a **progressive lung disease caused by inhalation of silica over a long period of time.**
- It is one of the most prevalent occupational health illnesses in the world.
- It is characterized by **shortness of breath, cough, fever and bluish skin.**
- Hazard of the exposure of free silica may not be noticed as **silica is odourless, non-irritant and does not cause any immediate health effects**, but long-term exposure is **associated with pneumoconiosis, lung cancer, pulmonary tuberculosis, and other lung diseases.**
- Silicosis is a **notified disease under the Mines Act (1952) and the Factories Act (1948).**

**53. Recently seen in news “Pandora Papers” are related to:**

- a) global efforts to curb climate change
- b) list of critically endangered species of earth
- c) leaked files from global corporate services firms which set up off-the-shelf companies and private trusts
- d) extensive research on cyber crimes all over the world

**Ans c)**

- **Pandora Papers are 11.9 million leaked files from 14 global corporate services firms which set up about 29,000 off-the-shelf companies and private trusts.**
- **The Papers reveal how trusts are used as a vehicle in conjunction with offshore companies set up for the sole purpose of holding investments and other assets by business families and ultra-rich individuals.**
- **Tax havens, which offer relative tax advantages like: Samoa, Belize, Panama, and the British Virgin Islands are used to park the money in such trusts.**
- **The Panama and Paradise Papers also dealt largely with offshore entities set up by individuals and corporations respectively.**

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

- 1. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is a statutory body formed under the Air Pollution Control Act of 1955.**
- 2. The CAQM has replaced the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).**

**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 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.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** 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.**
- 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.
  - **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.**
- **Only the National Green Tribunal will have the power to hear cases involving the CAQM, and not the civil courts.**

**55. Recently which country have launched Kunming Biodiversity fund:**

- China
- India
- U.S.A
- France

**Ans a)**

- Recently China has pledged to inject \$233 million into a **new fund to protect biodiversity in developing countries** during a key UN conservation summit, despite disagreements among major donors on the initiative.
- During a speech to the Leaders' **Summit of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity** via video link in Beijing, the Chinese President addressed that- **“China will take the lead in establishing the Kunming**



biodiversity fund with a capital contribution of 1.5 billion yuan (\$233 million) to support the cause of biodiversity conservation in developing countries,”.

56. Consider the following statements with respect to recently launched “Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti”:

1. Gati Shakti is a Rs.100 lakh-crore project for developing railway infrastructure only.
2. It will provide a framework for the ‘National Infrastructure Pipeline program’.

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.** Gati Shakti is a **Rs.100 lakh-crore project** for developing ‘holistic infrastructure’.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** It will provide a framework for the ‘National Infrastructure Pipeline program’.

NOTE:

- Gati Shakti Scheme was launched with the **aim of achieving three basic goals namely:**
  - Seamless multimodal connectivity for facilitating easy movement of goods & people,
  - Improved prioritisation, optimal usage of resources, timely creation of capacities,
  - Resolution of issues like disjointed planning, standardisation & clearances.
- Gati Shakti Masterplan will bring together 16 Ministries and seven core infrastructure sectors, on a single platform in order to synergise project planning across stakeholder ministries for avoiding duplication, plug gaps and expedite clearances at the right time.
- The plan also aims **to make Indian products more competitive by cutting down their logistics costs and improving supply chains.**
- It also aims to give a **foundation for holistic infrastructure and an integrated pathway for the economy.**

**57. Recently seen in news, “Mundra port” is located in:**

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Orissa
- d) West Bengal

**Ans a)**

- Mundra Port is the **largest private port of India** located on the **north shores of the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat.**
- **It is not one of the 13 major ports in India.**
- The port has been recently in the news after the Mundra Port terminal deal came under scrutiny over its link with a Chinese company.
- In this regard, the government is evaluating an agreement between the Adani Ports’ French joint venture partner CMA CGM and the China Merchants Group.

**58. The state is one of the Seven Sister States of Northeast India. It is an ethnically diverse state, with predominantly Monpa people in the west, Tani people in the center, Tai people in the east, and Naga people in the south of the state. About 45 tribes/sub-tribes live in the state. The main tribe of the state is Adi, Nyishi, Galo, Tagin, Apatani, and so forth.**

**The above description is for which of the following state:**

- a) Nagaland
- b) Manipur
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

**Ans d)**

- Arunachal Pradesh is an Indian state in Northeast India.
- It was formed from the erstwhile North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) region, and became a state on 20 February 1987.
- It borders the **states of Assam and Nagaland to the south.**
- It shares **international borders with Bhutan in the west, Myanmar in the east, and a disputed border with China in the north at the McMahon Line.**

- Arunachal Pradesh is the **largest of the Seven Sister States of Northeast India by area.**
- It is an **ethnically diverse state, with predominantly Monpa people in the west, Tani people in the center, Tai people in the east, and Naga people in the south of the state.**
- About 45 tribes/sub-tribes live in the state.
- The main tribe of the state is **Adi, Nyshi, Galo, Tagin, Apatani, and so forth.**

**59. Consider the following statements about Green Climate Fund (GCF):**

- 1. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the world's largest environmental fund**
- 2. It is serving as the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.**

**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.** The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the **world's largest environmental fund** that **seeks to help developing nations in cutting down their greenhouse gas emissions**, while at the same time **making them adapt suitably to climate change.**
- It was established under the **Cancun Agreement in 2010 by UNFCCC** as a dedicated financing vehicle for developing countries within the global climate architecture.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** It is serving as the **Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.**
- GCF funds come mainly from developed countries and also from some developing countries and regions.

**60. Consider the following statements about Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):**

- 1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.**
- 2. Its headquarter is in Paris, France.**

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

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

**Ans b)**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** FAO is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** It is one of the UN food aid organisations **based in Rome (Italy)**.
- Its **sister bodies** are the **World Food Programme** and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**.

**61. Consider the following statements with respect to the Election Commission of India (ECI):**

- 1. ECI is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering all the election processes in India.**
- 2. The Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners have a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.**

**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.** The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an **autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for administering **Union and State election processes in India**.

- The body administers elections to the **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.**
- It is **not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states.**
- For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The CEC and Election Commissioners of ECI are **appointed by the President.** They have a **fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.**

62. Consider the following statements with respect to Mudumalai National Park, recently seen in news:

1. It is situated in Karnataka.
2. The park is part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

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.** Mudumalai National Park is a national park in the **Nilgiri Mountains in Tamil Nadu, south India.**
- It is located in the Nilgiri District and **shares boundaries with the states of Karnataka and Kerala.**
- **Statement 2 is correct.** It is **part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.**
- It was declared a **tiger reserve in 2007.**
- The park harbours several endangered and vulnerable species including Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, Indian elephant and gaur.

**63. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The rapid spread of both communicable and non-communicable diseases over several continents or worldwide is termed as pandemic.**
- 2. A disease is called epidemic when the presence or usual prevalence of its infectious agent is constant within a given geographical area or population group.**

**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.** A **pandemic** is the term used to describe **the rapid spread of a transmissible infectious/communicable disease** (and not non-communicable diseases) **over several continents or worldwide.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** A disease is called **endemic** (and not epidemic) **when the presence or usual prevalence of its infectious agent is constant within a given geographical area or population group.** for eg.
  - **Caribbean Dengue** is still present in the Caribbean region due to a failure to eradicate the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.
  - **Malaria** is another infectious disease that is endemic to Africa; through education and implementing countrywide strategies the cases of Malaria are now falling.

**Epidemic:**

- An epidemic is the term used to describe a **situation where a disease spreads rapidly to a large number of people in a given population over a short time period**, for eg. **seasonal flu.**
- The term epidemic is not just used with infectious diseases. It is also **used with any scenario that leads to a detrimental rise of health risks within a society.** eg.
  - The rise in **obesity globally** is often described as an **"obesity epidemic".**



64. As per the Indian constitution, which of the following may be removed from office through a motion adopted by Parliament on grounds of 'proved misbehaviour or incapacity':

1. Judges of Supreme Court
2. Auditor General (CAG)
3. Judges of High Courts
4. Chief Election Commissioner

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

- The **Judges of Supreme Court, Auditor General (CAG), Judges of High Courts and the Chief Election Commissioner** may be removed from office through a motion adopted by Parliament on **grounds of 'proved misbehaviour or incapacity'**.
- The removal requires a **special majority of 2/3rd members present and voting, supported by more than 50% of the total strength of the house.**

65. Often seen in news, Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by:

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

Ans a)

- TB is caused by **bacteria (Mycobacterium tuberculosis).**

Note:

- **TB usually affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body, such as the brain, the kidneys, or the spine.**
- **It can spread from person to person through the air.**
- **It is a treatable and curable disease.**

**66.** Consider the following statements with respect to Air Quality Index (AQI):

1. It is released on a monthly basis.

2. It focuses on health effects one might experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air.

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. The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality.
- Statement 2 is correct. It focuses on health effects one might experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air.
- It is calculated for eight major air pollutants: Ground-level ozone, PM10, PM2.5, Carbon monoxide, Sulfur dioxide, Nitrogen dioxide, Ammonia, Lead.

**67.** Which of the following statements is correct with respect to October heat:

a) It contributes to the rise in temperatures throughout the nation.

b) It is a pre-monsoon and post-winter phenomenon.

c) It is the phenomenon when the temperature goes up and humidity drops as the monsoon sets in.

d) All of the above.

Ans a)

- The phenomenon of October heat contributes to the rise in temperatures throughout the nation.
- It is post-monsoon and pre-winter.
- During the south-west monsoon, many parts of India cool down because of precipitation, increased moisture, cloud cover, and sea waves in coastal regions. Even so, the temperature goes up and humidity drops as the monsoon withdraws, eventually leading to the phenomenon locally referred to as October heat.

**68.** Often seen in news, the term stunting refers to:

- a) low weight for height
- b) low height for age
- c) low weight for age
- d) a lack of important vitamins and minerals

Ans b)

- The term stunting refers to a state of undernutrition where a child has low height for age.

Difference between Malnutrition and Undernutrition:

- Undernutrition is part of malnutrition.
- Malnutrition refers to an unbalanced diet - including excessive eating - whereas the term undernutrition refers more specifically to a deficiency of nutrients.
- Thus, the term malnutrition covers two broad groups of conditions:
  - Undernutrition—which includes stunting (low height for age), wasting (low weight for height), underweight (low weight for age) and micronutrient deficiencies (a lack of important vitamins and minerals).
  - Obesity— which includes overweight and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer).

**69.** The sell of which of the following are kept out of the purview of GST:

1. Electricity
2. Crude Oil
3. Natural gas

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

- One Hundred and First Amendment introduced a national Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act in India from 1 July 2017.

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a Value added Tax (VAT) proposed to be a comprehensive indirect tax levy on manufacture, sale and consumption of goods as well as services at the national level. It replaces all indirect taxes levied on goods and services by the Indian Central and state governments.
- When a national GST subsumed Central taxes such as excise duty and State levies like VAT, five petroleum goods — petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel (ATF), natural gas and crude oil — were kept out of its purview.
- Also the electricity has been exempted from GST.

**70.** Recently seen in news, Heron is:

- Exoplanet
- Unmanned aerial vehicle
- Satellite
- Missile

Ans b)

Heron-I

- The IAI Heron (Machatz-1) is a medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by the Malat (UAV) division of Israel Aerospace Industries.
- It is capable of Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) operations of up to 52 hours' duration at up to 10.5 km (35,000 ft).
- It has demonstrated 52 hours of continuous flight, but the effective operational maximal flight duration is less, according to payload and flight profile.
- An advanced version, the Heron TP, is also known as the IAI Eitan.
- Recently the Army Aviation has got the control of Heron-I unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) in the eastern sector, which were earlier with the Artillery.
- This will bring all aviation assets under one roof and augment its ability to keep an eye on Chinese activities across the border.

NOTE:

- Indian forces are working towards inducting an armed version of the UAV, under the ambitious 'Project Cheetah' spearheaded by the Indian Air Force.

**71. Match the following amendments with correct options**

- Sarnath - Birth place of Buddha  
Kushinagar - Dhammachakra Pravartan  
Lumbini - Mahaparinirvana  
Bodhgaya - Enlightenment of Buddha.

Which of the following sequences is correct?

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

Ans C)

- a) Sarnath is the deer park where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon or Dhammachakrapravartan Sutta.  
b) Kushinagara is located in Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh. It is the site of Buddha's death and mahaparinirvana.  
c) Lumbini is currently located in Kapilvastu district of Nepal. It is the birth place of Buddha.  
d) Bodhgaya is located in Bihar on the bank of river Neranjana {this river was known as Uruwela at that time}. It is known as the place of enlightenment of Buddha.

**72. Often seen in news, "Madhav Gadgil committee report" is related to:**

- a) Crime in India  
b) Malnutrition in India  
c) Western Ghats in India  
d) Wildlife in India

Ans c)

- Madhav Gadgil committee report" is related to the Western Ghats in India.
- The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), also known as the Gadgil Commission after its chairman Madhav Gadgil, was an environmental research commission appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests of India.
- The Expert Panel approached the project through a set of tasks, such as:

- Compilation of readily available information about Western Ghats
- Development of Geo-spatial database based on environmental sensitivity, and
- Consultation with Government bodies and Civil society groups.
- Certain sections of people in Kerala, strongly protested the implementation of the report since most of the farmers obtained their livelihood from the hilly regions in Wayanad.
- The Gadgil Commission report was criticised for being excessively environment-friendly and not in tune with the ground realities.

**73.**With reference to the cultural history of India, which one of the following is the correct description of the term 'Arhat'?

- a) A perfected person, one who has gained insight into the true nature of existence
- b) Philosophical schools that did not accept the authority of Vedas
- c) Perfections whose attainment led to the Bodhisattva path
- d) Powerful merchant guilds of early medieval South India

Ans a)

- Arhat, in Buddhism, is a perfected person, one who has gained insight into the true nature of existence and has achieved nirvana (spiritual enlightenment).
- The arhat, having freed himself from the bonds of desire, will not be reborn.
- The state of an arhat is considered in the Theravada tradition to be the proper goal of a Buddhist.

**74.**Consider the following statements with respect to Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Act, 2021:

1. The Act allows the termination of pregnancy up to 24 weeks in the case of failure of contraceptive method or device.
2. It allows both married and unmarried women to terminate a pregnancy for this reason.

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, while 2 is correct.
- Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Act, 2021, a pregnancy may be terminated up to 20 weeks by both married and unmarried women in the case of failure of contraceptive method or device.
- Other amendments under the act-
- Opinion of one Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) for termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation.
- Opinion of two RMPs for termination of pregnancy of 20-24 weeks of gestation.
- Opinion of the State-level medical board is essential for a pregnancy to be terminated after 24 weeks in case of substantial foetal abnormalities.
- Increases the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women, including survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women (differently abled women, minors, among others).
- The “name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated shall not be revealed”, except to a person authorised in any law that is currently in force.

**75.** The Global Hunger Index is published by:

- a) Greenwatch
- b) United Nations Development Programme
- c) Concern Worldwide
- d) World Economic Forum(WEF)

Ans c)

- Global Hunger Index is Jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- The aim of the index is to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels.
- It is calculated on the basis of four indicators:
  - Undernourishment: Share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.

- Child Wasting: Share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
- Child Stunting: Share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.
- Child Mortality: The mortality rate of children under the age of five.
- In the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021, India has slipped to 101 position out of 116 countries, from its 2020 position of 94th.
- Global Scenario:
- Highlights of the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021:
  - Based on current GHI projections, the world as a whole and 47 countries in particular, will fail to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.
  - Worsening conflict, weather extremes associated with global climate change, and the economic and health challenges associated with the Covid-19 pandemic are all driving hunger.
  - After decades of decline, the global prevalence of undernourishment is increasing.
  - Africa, South of the Sahara and South Asia are the world regions where hunger levels are highest.

**76.** On the basis of carbon content arrange different coal types in descending order:

1. Bituminous
2. Lignite
3. Peat
4. Anthracite

Which of the following sequences is correct?

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

Ans d)

On the basis of carbon content coal types can be arranged as following:

Anthracite:

- It is the best quality of coal with highest calorific value and carries 80 to 95% carbon content.
- It is found in small quantities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Bituminous:

- It has a low level of moisture content with 60 to 80% of carbon content and has a high calorific value.
- It is found in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Lignite:

- It carries 40 to 55% carbon content and is often brown in colour with high moisture content thus, gives smoke when burnt.
- It is found in Rajasthan, Assam and Tamil Nadu.

Peat:

- It is the first stage of transformation from wood to coal with low calorific value and less than 40% carbon content.

77. Recently seen in news, "INSACOG" is:

- a) Anti-Satellite missile
- b) Assault Rifle
- c) Multi-lab agency to monitor the genomic variations in the covid-19
- d) Military alliance against Chinese aggression

Ans c)

- Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) is a multi-lab agency set up by the Government with a view to monitor the genomic variations in the covid-19 causing SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- It is set up under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It is a joint initiative of the Health Ministry, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

78. Arrange the following in the North to South direction:

1. West Bank
2. Gaza strip
3. Sinai Peninsula
4. Golan Heights

Which of the following sequences is correct?

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

Ans c)



**79.** Consider the following statements with respect to Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC):

1. It is India's apex biotechnology regulatory body.
2. It is a statutory body.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans d)

- Statement 1 is correct. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex biotech regulatory body in India. It is a statutory body.
- Statement 2 is correct. It is a statutory body constituted under the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use /Import /Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineering Organisms or Cells, 1989' notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- It functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
- The body regulates the use, manufacture, storage, import and export of hazardous microorganisms or genetically-engineered organisms and cells in India.

**80.** Recently which of the following countries have decided to launch a new quadrilateral economic forum:

1. India
2. Israel
3. United Arab Emirates
4. United States

Which of the following are correct ?

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

Ans d)

- Recently India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States have decided to launch a new quadrilateral economic forum.
- The quadrilateral builds on ongoing cooperation between the U.S., Israel and the UAE after the Abraham Accords last year, and the India, Israel and UAE cooperation that was launched since.

**81.** Arrange the following states in descending order, in terms of total coal reserves in India:

1. West Bengal
2. Jharkhand
3. Odisha
4. Madhya Pradesh

Which of the following sequences is correct?

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

Ans b)

- Top 5 States in terms of total coal reserves in India are: Jharkhand > Odisha > Chhattisgarh > West Bengal > Madhya Pradesh.

**82.** Often seen in news Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), is product of which of the following:

- a) Paris Agreement
- b) Kyoto Protocol
- c) Convention of Biodiversity (CBD)
- d) Montreal Protocol

Ans b)

- The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), is a product of the Kyoto Protocol.
- It is a United Nations-run carbon offset scheme allowing countries to fund greenhouse gas emissions-reducing projects in other countries and claim the saved emissions as part of their own efforts to meet international emissions targets.



- Under CDM, CER units are issued by the UNFCCC which is the global administrator of Kyoto mechanisms.
- It is the main source of income for the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund.
- Adaptation Fund (AF) was also established under the Kyoto Protocol in 2001.

#### Kyoto Protocol

- The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the UNFCCC, which commits its parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets.
- It was adopted in Kyoto, Japan in 1997 and entered into force in 2005.
- It recognized that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity.
- The detailed rules for the implementation of the Protocol were adopted at COP-7 in Marrakesh, in 2001 and are referred to as the Marrakesh Accords.

**83.** Which of the following genetically modified (GM) crops have been approved for commercial cultivation by the Government of India?

1. Bt mustard
2. Bt brinjal
3. Bt rice
4. Bt cotton

Which of the following are correct ?

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

Ans d)

- Bt cotton is the only genetically modified (GM) crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation in 2002 by the Government of India.
- Bt cotton has alien genes from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) that allows the crop to develop a protein toxic to the common pest pink bollworm.

**84.** Recently seen in news, Global Threat Assessment report is published by:

- a) United Nations Environment Program
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) WeProtect Global Alliance
- d) World Wide Fund for Nature

Ans c)

- The Global Threat Assessment report is published by WeProtect Global Alliance .
- WeProtect Global Alliance is a global movement of people and organisations. Its members work together to transform the global response to child sexual exploitation and abuse online.
- The Global Threat Assessment report, 2021 shows how the global response to child sexual exploitation and abuse online needs a new approach. Without this, more children will continue to be placed at risk and experience abuse.
- Protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse online requires coordinated action from governments, technology companies, civil society and other actors.
- For this, WeProtect Global Alliance has developed a Model National Response and a Global Strategic Response to help identify and guide actions that need to be taken.

**85.** Clear skies, Rise in temperature, October heat, Cyclonic depressions which originate over the Andaman Sea are the characteristics of which monsoon type:

- a) Southwest monsoon
- b) North-east monsoon
- c) Both a) and b)
- d) None of the above

Ans b)

North-east monsoon or winter monsoon is also called Retreating Monsoon.

Retreating Monsoon

- The retreating southwest monsoon season is marked by clear skies and rise in temperature.
- During the south-west monsoon, many parts of India cool down because of precipitation, increased moisture, cloud cover, and sea waves in coastal regions. Even so, the temperature

goes up and humidity drops as the monsoon withdraws, eventually leading to the phenomenon locally referred to as October heat.

- The widespread rain in this season is associated with the passage of cyclonic depressions which originate over the Andaman Sea and manage to cross the eastern coast of the southern Peninsula. These tropical cyclones are very destructive.
- A bulk of the rainfall of the Coromandel Coast is derived from these depressions and cyclones.
- Unlike the rest of the country, which receives rain in the southwest monsoon season between June and September, the northeast monsoon is crucial for farming and water security in the south.

#### Monsoon

- Monsoons are seasonal winds that reverse their direction according to the change in season. They are, hence, periodic winds.
- The monsoons travel from the sea to the land in summers and from land to the sea during winters, hence, are a double system of seasonal winds.
- India receives southwest monsoon winds in the summers due to the formation of an intense low-pressure system over the Tibetan Plateau.
- While in winters it receives northeast monsoons due to the high-pressure cells that are formed over the Siberian and Tibetan plateaus.

**86.** These are the protected natural habitats, declared by the government of a country, under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. These areas provide protection to the entire ecosystem of that region. They not only conserve wildlife but also provide a diversion of environmental and landscape heritage in a manner that does not harm it, in order to provide enjoyment to future generations. These areas are given the highest level of protection. These are:

- a) National parks
- b) Wildlife Sanctuaries
- c) Community Reserves
- d) Conservation Reserves

Ans a)

- National parks are protected natural habitats, declared by the government of a country according to the regulations from the IUCN (The World Conservation Union) to preserve the wildlife through the conservation of ecosystems.
- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for the establishment of Protected Areas in India.
- The Government of India enacted the Wildlife Protection Act in 1972 with the aim to effectively protect the wildlife of the country and control poaching, smuggling, and illegal trade in wildlife.
- There are 104 National Parks in India. The first national park in India was established as Hailey National Park in the year 1936 and later renamed as Corbett National Park.
- National parks provide protection to the entire ecosystem, that is, flora, fauna, landscape, etc. of that region.
- The national parks not only conserve wildlife but also provide a diversion of environmental and landscape heritage in a manner that does not harm it, in order to provide enjoyment to future generations.
- These areas are given the highest level of protection. Unlike wildlife sanctuaries, no human interference in any form of harvesting of timber, collecting minor forest products and private ownership rights is allowed.
- Only certain areas can be visited and only activities permitted by the chief wildlife warden of the state are allowed in the park.

**87.** Often seen in news, COVAXIN is India's first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine. It is developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Virology (NIV). The vaccine is which of the following type:

- a) Toxoid Vaccines
- b) Inactivated vaccine
- c) Live-attenuated Vaccines
- d) Conjugate Vaccine

Ans b)

- COVAXIN vaccine is developed using Whole-Virion Inactivated Vero Cell derived platform technology.
- 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.

**88.** Recently seen in news Konkan Shakti is one of the biggest joint exercise between:

- a) India-U.S
- b) India-Russia
- c) India-U.K.
- d) India-Australia

Ans c)

- Konkan Shakti is a Joint exercise between India and the United Kingdom armed forces.
- Recently, the United Kingdom's Carrier Strike Group (CSG) has get ready for the exercise with its aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabethone.

- The exercise aims to strengthen military as well as cultural ties with India with an intent to “demonstrate that democracies that have similar views of the world want to work together to keep peace and stability”.

**89.** Consider the following statements with respect to Disinvestment :

1. Disinvestment refers to the strategy of selling off or liquidating some assets.
2. In disinvestment, the government necessarily sells more than 50 % of its shareholdings.

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. Disinvestment refers to a strategy of selling off or liquidating some assets like plant, division, unit, etc. owned by the government or the organization.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Disinvestment is the sale or liquidation of an assets or subsidiary of an organization or government but on any condition Government's share should not go below 51%.
- Some of the benefits of disinvestment are that it can be helpful in the long-term growth of the country; it allows the government and even the company to reduce debt and to improve financial discipline and facilitate modernization.
- Note:
- The key difference between Privatization and Disinvestment is that in Privatization, the government sells more than 50 % of its shareholdings, whereas in case of Disinvestment, shareholdings less than 50 % is sold by the government.



**90.** Often seen in news, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established during summit of:

- a) Group of Seven (G7)
- b) Group of Twenty (G20)
- c) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- d) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Ans a)

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.
- Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- India is one of its members.

**91.** In the backdrop of unusually heavy rains that has caused landslides in Kottayam and Idukki, the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel has been in the news. The Expert Panel is commonly also known as:

- a) Ranganath Mishra committee
- b) R A Mashelkar committee
- c) Gadgil Committee
- d) Kasturirangan committee

Ans c)

- The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel is commonly also known as Gadgil Committee.
- Both Gadgil Committee and Kasturirangan committee are on Western Ghats conservation, while Ranganath Mishra committee is on plastic waste management

**92.** Which of the following are Non-renewable Energy Resources:

1. Coal
2. Petroleum products
3. Compressed natural gas
4. nuclear fuels

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

- There are four major types of nonrenewable resources: oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear energy.
- Oil, natural gas, and coal are collectively called fossil fuels.
- Fossil fuels were formed within the Earth from dead plants and animals over millions of years—hence the name “fossil” fuels.

**93.** Consider the following statements with respect to Uighur Muslims:

1. The Uighurs are a predominantly Muslim ethnic minority group, whose origins can be traced to Russia.
2. Currently, the largest population of the Uighur ethnic community lives in China.

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 Uighurs are a predominantly Muslim minority Turkic ethnic group, whose origins can be traced to Central and East Asia.

- Statement 2 is correct. Currently, the largest population of the Uighur ethnic community lives in the Xinjiang region of China.
- Xinjiang is technically an autonomous region within China — its largest region, rich in minerals, and sharing borders with eight countries, including India, Pakistan, Russia and Afghanistan.
- A significant population of Uighurs also lives in the neighbouring Central Asian countries such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.
- They speak their own language, similar to Turkish, and consider themselves culturally and ethnically close to Central Asian nations.
- Recently forty-three countries have called on China to “ensure full respect for the rule of law” for the Muslim Uighur community in Xinjiang, in a statement read at the United Nations.
- The declaration, signed by the United States as well as several European and Asian member states and others, accused China of series of human rights violations against the Uighurs, including torture, forced sterilisation and forced disappearances.

**94.** Recently seen in news Smerch is:

- a) Drone
- b) Exoplanet
- c) Rocket system
- d) Satellite

Ans c)

- Smerch is the longest range conventional rocket system with a maximum range of 90km, hence one of the most potent weapons in the arsenal of Indian artillery.
- The system is aimed to defeat personnel and engage with soft targets in concentration areas, artillery batteries, command posts and ammunition depots.
- It was initially designed by the Soviets in the early 1980s and was deployed in the Soviet Army in 1989.
- Recently, the deployment of the Pinaka and Smerch System near India's border with China has been done to boost Indian Army firepower in the region.

**95.** Recently this country has elected its first ever president, despite 54 years of independence from Britain. With a population of about 285,000, it is one of the more populous and prosperous Caribbean islands. Once heavily dependent on sugar exports, its economy has diversified into tourism and finance. This country is:

- a) Martinique
- b) Guyana
- c) Jamaica
- d) Barbados

Ans d)

- Barbados has elected its first ever president as it prepares to become a republic, removing Queen Elizabeth as head of state.
- Dame Sandra Mason, 72, is set to be sworn in on 30 November, which will mark the country's 55th anniversary of independence from Britain.
- The first woman to serve on the Barbados Court of Appeals, Dame Sandra has been governor-general since 2018.
- With a population of about 285,000, Barbados is one of the more populous and prosperous Caribbean islands. Once heavily dependent on sugar exports, its economy has diversified into tourism and finance.
- Barbados will not be the first former British colony in the Caribbean to become a republic.
- Guyana took that step in 1970, less than four years after gaining independence from Britain. Trinidad and Tobago followed suit in 1976 and Dominica in 1978.
- Jamaica has in the past suggested that it might also consider the change.

**96.** The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a bilateral project between Pakistan and China, intended to promote connectivity across Pakistan with a network of which of the following:

1. highways
2. railways

3. infrastructure development projects

4. pipelines

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

- China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a bilateral project between Pakistan and China, intended to promote connectivity across Pakistan with a network of highways, railways, and pipelines accompanied by energy, industrial and other infrastructure development projects.
- It intends to link the Western part of China (Xinjiang) to the Gwadar Port in Balochistan, Pakistan via Khunjerab Pass in Northern Pakistan.

97. Often seen in news Net- Zero Emissions means which of the following :

1. It means that all man-made carbon dioxide gas emissions must be removed from the atmosphere.
2. It means that all greenhouse gas emissions must be removed from the atmosphere.
3. It means that all carbon dioxide gas emissions must be removed from the atmosphere.
4. It means that all man-made greenhouse gas emissions must be removed from the atmosphere.

Ans d)

- It means that all man-made greenhouse gas emissions must be removed from the atmosphere through reduction measures, thus reducing the Earth's net climate balance, after removal via natural and artificial sink, to zero.
- Thus making planet earth carbon neutral and stabilising the global temperature.

**98.** Consider the following statements with respect to the POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012).

1. The act defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography.
2. The Act stipulates that a case of child sexual abuse must be disposed of within one month from the date the offence is reported.

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. It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Act stipulates that a case of child sexual abuse must be disposed of within one year from the date the offence is reported.

- In order to effectively address the heinous crimes of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children through less ambiguous and more stringent legal provisions, the Ministry of Women and Child Development championed the introduction of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.
- The POCSO Act 2012 defines a child as any person who is below 18 years of age.
- The Act is gender neutral and regards the best interests and welfare of the child as a matter of paramount importance at every stage.



**99.** Consider the following statements with respect to Sabarmati river:

1. The river originates in the Satpura Range of Rajasthan.
2. The river flows through two Indian states.

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 while Statement 2 is correct. . It originates in the Aravalli Range of the Udaipur District of Rajasthan
- It meets the Gulf of Khambhat of Arabian Sea after travelling 371 km (231 mi) in a south-westerly direction across Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Thus the river flows through two Indian states namely: Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- The Sabarmati is a seasonal river whose flows are dominated by the monsoon, with little or no flows post-monsoon.

**100.** The National Air Quality Index' (AQI) was launched in 2014 to disseminate information on air quality. The measurement of air quality in this index is done based on which of the following pollutants:

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Sulphur Dioxide
3. Nitrogen Dioxide
4. Benzene

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans c)

- The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality.

- It focuses on health effects one might experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air.
- It is calculated for eight major air pollutants: Ground-level ozone, PM10, PM2.5, Carbon monoxide, Sulfur dioxide, Nitrogen dioxide, Ammonia, Lead.

**101.** Which of the following refers defines Venture Capital:

- a) It is the capital invested by the government on profit making startups, so that it can earn the revenue in future and finance its expenditure.
- b) It is the capital invested by firms or companies that use other people's money. They raise that money by offering investors a chance to take part in a fund that is then used to buy shares in a private company.
- c) It is the capital invested by the public banks on profit making startups, in order to expand their lending business.
- d) None of the Above

Ans c)

- Venture Capital is invested by firms or companies that use other people's money. They raise that money by offering investors a chance to take part in a fund that is then used to buy shares in a private company.
- Venture capital is a type of private equity, a form of financing that is provided by firms or funds to small, early-stage, emerging firms that are deemed to have high growth potential, or which have demonstrated high growth.
- Venture capital is one of the most common alternative sources of funding, other than angel investments are the most common alternative sources of funding.
- Business Angel Investors are individuals, often successful business people who are investing their own personal funds into a potentially rewarding business opportunity.

**102.** Recently, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has designated the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a 53rd Tiger Reserve of India. This tiger reserve is located in which of the following state:

- a) Punjab
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Rajasthan

Ans c)

- Recently, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has designated the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve.
- This is the 53rd Tiger Reserve in India. Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary (Rajasthan) is the 52nd Tiger Reserve in India.
- It is located in Chhattisgarh, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- This will be the fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, after the Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar and Indravati Reserves.
- Guru Ghasidas National Park was the last known habitat of the Asiatic cheetah in the country.

**103.** Consider the following statements with respect to Natural Rubber:

1. It grows in the Mediterranean region only.
2. Rich well drained alluvial soil is ideal for rubber growing.

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. It is an equatorial crop, but under special conditions, it is also grown in tropical and sub-tropical areas.

Conditions required for its growth:

- Above 25°C with a moist and humid climate.

- Rainfall more than 200 cm.
- Statement 2 is correct. Rich well drained alluvial soil is ideal for rubber growing.
- Adequate supply of skilled labour is needed for this plantation crop.

In India:

- The British established the first rubber plantation in India in 1902 on the banks of the river Periyar in Kerala.
- India is currently the sixth largest producer of natural rubber in the world with one of the highest productivity.
- Top Rubber Producing States: Kerala > Tamil Nadu > Karnataka.

Major Producers Globally are: Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, China and India.

**104.** Consider the following statements with respect to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA):

1. It comes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It monitors the availability of drugs, identifies its shortages, and takes remedial steps in case of any shortage.

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)

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India.
- Statement 1 is incorrect. It was constituted by Government of India Resolution, 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers as an independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.

Functions:

- To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it.

- To deal with all legal matters arising out of the decisions of the Authority.
- Statement 2 is correct. To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.
- To collect/ maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc, for bulk drugs and formulations.
- To undertake and/ or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/ pharmaceuticals.
- To recruit/ appoint the officers and other staff members of the Authority, as per rules and procedures laid down by the Government.
- To render advice to the Central Government on changes/ revisions in the drug policy.
- To render assistance to the Central Government in the parliamentary matters relating to the drug pricing.

**105.** Recently seen in news Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve is located in which of the following state:

- Tamil Nadu
- Andhra Pradesh
- Telangana
- Kerala

Ans a)

- Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve is the fifth tiger reserve of Tamil Nadu.
- It is the 51st tiger reserve of India.
- The Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve spans the forests of Megamalai wildlife sanctuary and Srivilliputhur grizzled squirrel wildlife sanctuary.
- Srivilluputhur hosts leopards, Nilgiri tahrs, lion tailed macaques, jungle cats and sambars.

**106.** Consider the following statements with respect to Airports Authority of India (AAI):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. The major function of the AAI is to provide Air Traffic Management (ATM) services over airspaces that belong to the Indian Territory and the neighbouring oceanic areas.

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 d)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Airports Authority of India was created through the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Hence, it is a statutory body.
- Statement 2 is correct. The major function of the AAI is to provide Air Traffic Management (ATM) services over airspaces that belong to the Indian Territory and the neighbouring oceanic areas.
- It is also responsible for the creation, management, maintenance and up-gradation of aviation infrastructure in the country.
- The headquarters of the Airports Authority of India is in New Delhi.
- AAI is currently managing a total of 137 Airports, including 34 International Airports, 10 Customs Airports, 81 Domestic Airports and 23 Civil enclaves at Defense Airfields.
- AAI also has ground installations at all airports and 25 other locations to ensure safety of aircraft operations.

**107.** Which of the following disease are transmitted by the mosquito named- Aedes aegypti:

1. Chikungunya
2. Malaria
3. Zika infection
4. Dengue

Which of the above is/are correct?

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



Ans c)

- Several species of mosquito within the genus Aedes, principally Aedes aegypti transmits diseases like: chikungunya, dengue, yellow fever and Zika infection.
- Malaria is spread through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.

**108.** Consider the following statements with respect to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

- 1.Its membership is limited to Asian countries.
- 2.It is headquartered in Manila.

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. As a multilateral development bank focused on developing Asia, but with members from all over the world, its investments in infrastructure and other productive sectors seek to foster sustainable economic development, create wealth and improve infrastructure connectivity.
- The members of the Bank have now grown to 97 approved members worldwide. There are 27 prospective members including Armenia, Lebanon, Brazil, South Africa, Greece, etc.
- Fourteen of the G-20 nations are AIIB members including France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. It is headquartered in Beijing.

**109.** It is nestled in the Maikal range of Satpuras in Madhya Pradesh, the heart of India that forms the central Indian highlands. The national park is being popularized as the Tiger reserve and interestingly is being declared as one of the finest wildlife areas in the world. This vivacious land has been the source of inspiration for Rudyard Kipling, a famous writer for his outstanding creation- "The Jungle Book". The above description refers to which of the following national park of India:

- a) Panna national park
- b) Kanha National Park
- c) Satpura national park
- d) Bandhavgarh national park

Ans b)

- Kanha National Park is nestled in the Maikal range of Satpuras in Madhya Pradesh, the heart of India that forms the central Indian highlands.
- The national park is being popularized as the Tiger reserve and interestingly it is being declared as one of the finest wildlife areas in the world.
- Spreading across two revenue districts the Mandala and the Kalaghat, Kanha National Park was declared a reserve forest in 1879 and revalued as a wildlife sanctuary in 1933. Its position was further upgraded to a national park in 1955.
- The landscapes and the surrounding luxurious meadows along with the wooded strands and the dense maroons of forests offer magnanimous sightseeing experiences for the nature lovers.
- This vivacious land has been the source of inspiration for Rudyard Kipling, a famous writer for his outstanding creation- "The Jungle Book".
- The Kanha National Park is the ideal home for wide ranges of wild creatures; right from the mighty tigers to the most populated Barasingha and the countless species of plants, birds, reptiles and insects.

**110.** Which of the following countries form part of Horn of Africa:

1. Djibouti
2. Somalia
3. Eritrea
4. Ethiopia

Which of the above options is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

- The Horn of Africa is a peninsula in Northeast Africa, lying along the southern side of the Gulf of Aden.
- The Horn of Africa denotes the region containing the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.



**111.** Consider the following rod puppets and the respective states, from where they belong:

1. Togalu Gombeyaata – Karnataka
2. Tholpavakoothu – Kerala
3. Ravana Chhaya – Orissa
4. Thol Bommalattam – Tamil Nadu

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans d)

- It is believed that the puppetry art tradition is more than thousands of years old. Its reference can be found in many folk tales, ballads, and sometimes even in folk songs.
- Almost all types of puppets are found in India. Puppets from different parts of the country have their own identity.
- Different rod puppetry found in India are:
  - Togalu Gombeyaata – Karnataka
  - Tholpavakoothu – Kerala
  - Ravana Chhaya – Orissa
  - Thol Bommalattam – Tamil Nadu
  - Chamadyache Bahulya – Maharashtra
  - Tholu Bommalata – Andhra Pradesh

**112.** Recently seen in news, B3W Initiative is launched by:

- a) European Union
- b) World Bank
- c) G-7 countries
- d) G-20 countries

Ans c)

- Build Back Better World (B3W) Initiative is an international infrastructure investment initiative announced by the Group of Seven (G-7) richest democracies in 2021.
- The initiative is a Covid-19 relief, future economic, and infrastructure package proposed for developing and lower-income countries.
- Through B3W, the G7 and other like-minded partners will coordinate in mobilizing private-sector capital in four areas of focus:
  - Climate
  - Health and health security
  - Digital technology
  - Gender equity and equality
- The initiative is being seen as the US' initiative to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

**113.** Consider the following statements with respect to Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):

1. It comes under the Prime Minister's Office (India).
2. It lies outside the ambit of the Right to Information Act.

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)

- The Narcotics Control Bureau is tasked with combating drug trafficking and the use of illegal substances under the provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
- Statement 1 is incorrect. The NCB is an Indian central law enforcement and intelligence agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- The agency is responsible for coordination with the Indian state governments and other central departments, implementation of India's international obligations with regard to drug trafficking, and assisting international and foreign drug law enforcement agencies.



- The Narcotics Control Bureau's national headquarters is located in Delhi, the national capital. The Narcotics Control Bureau is also represented on the Economic Intelligence Council.
- Statement 2 is correct. The NCB is outside the ambit of the Right to Information Act under Section 24(1) of the RTI act 2005.

114. Turkey separates which of the two water bodies:

- Black sea and Caspian sea
- Black sea and Mediterranean sea
- Caspian sea and Mediterranean sea
- Mediterranean sea and Sea of Azov

Ans b)

Turkey separates Black sea from the Mediterranean sea.



**115.** Consider the following statements with respect to CAATSA:

1. The CAATSA is a United States Federal Law that has imposed sanctions against Iran, and Russia only.
2. Under it, sanctions can be imposed against a person or a country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) is a United States Federal Law that has imposed sanctions against Iran, Russia and North Korea.
- This act prevents trade partners of the United States from entering into bilateral contracts with these three nations.
- Statement 2 is correct. Under CAATSA, sanctions can be imposed against a person or a country.
- Recently, the USA administration has recently imposed sanctions on Turkey for its purchase of the S-400 missile system from Russia. Background of CAATSA.
- The Act empowers the US President to impose at least five of the 12 listed sanctions on persons engaged in a "significant transaction" with Russian defence and intelligence sectors.

**116.** Often seen in the news, the theaterisation process refers to:

- a) process of developing drama technique and infrastructure improvement of theatres.
- b) integration of the capabilities of the Army, Air Force and Navy for optimal resource utilisation.
- c) improving financial inclusion through digitalisation of banking services.
- d) agreement through which global states have agreed to use outer space for Peaceful purposes.

Ans b)

- The theaterisation process refers to integration of the capabilities of the Army, Air Force and Navy for optimal resource utilisation.
- Under this process, an integrated theatre command is established, which envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander, for geographical theatres (areas) that are of strategic and security concern.
- Integration and jointness of the three forces will avoid duplication of resources.

**117.** Recently seen in news, Data Disclosure Framework have been launched by:

- European Union
- World Bank
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Ans c)

- The UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate have launched Data Disclosure Framework, a tool that outlines the practices developed for responding to data requests from foreign criminal justice authorities for counter-terrorism investigations.
- The tool will help to facilitate e-evidence collection.

**118.** Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair, and Shantanu and Matsyagandha are famous works of which of the following Indian painter:

- Amrita Sher-Gil
- M.F.Husain
- Raja Ravi Varma
- Abindranath Tagore

Ans c)

- Raja Ravi Varma (1848-1906) is remembered for giving Indians their western, classical representations of Hindu gods and goddesses.
- Through his printing press, he humanised depiction of Hindu pantheon travelled beyond the surfaces of costly canvases, and into the prayer and living rooms of working-class homes.
- He achieved this by making affordable lithographs, which were accessible even to the poor.

- Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Shakuntala Looking for Dushyanta, Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair, and Shantanu, Matsyagandha, A Family of Beggars, A Lady Playing Swarbat, Arjuna and Subhadra,, Jatayu (a bird devotee of Lord Rama), Lady Lost in Thought, are the famous works by the Raja Ravi Varma.

**119.** Consider the following statements with respect to Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI):

1. UIDAI was created to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to citizens of India only.
2. UIDAI is a statutory authority established under the Home Ministry.

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. UIDAI was created to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India.
- The eligibility for an Aadhaar card is :
  - Any resident of India (newborns/minors) is eligible for an Aadhaar card. While the Aadhaar card is for adults, Baal Aadhaar is for children below five years.
  - NRIs and foreigners staying in India for more than 12 months are eligible for the Aadhaar.
  - It is proposed to issue an Aadhaar card for non-resident Indians with Indian passports after their arrival in India without waiting for 180 days.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016") by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Under the Aadhaar Act 2016, UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle, developing the policy, procedure, and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals



and perform authentication and the security of identity information and authentication records of individuals.

**120.** Consider the following statements with respect to Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG):

1. CAG is an independent authority under the Constitution of India.
2. CAG is responsible for both accounting and auditing duties for central and state governments of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

- Statement 1 is correct. CAG is an independent authority under the Constitution of India.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. In 1971 the central government enacted the Comptroller and Auditor General (Duties, Powers, and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971. The act made CAG responsible for both accounting and auditing duties for central and state governments.
  - But in 1976, CAG was relieved from accounting functions.
- Article 148 of the Indian Constitution provides for the establishment of a Comptroller and Auditor General to be appointed by the President of India.
- He is the head of the Indian audit & account department and chief Guardian of Public purse.
- It is the institution through which the accountability of the government and other public authorities (all those who spend public funds) to Parliament and State Legislatures and through them to the people is ensured.

**121.** Recently seen in news AY4.2, is:

- a) China's recently tested, earth-circling hypersonic missile
- b) Latest mutation of the coronavirus variant
- c) Newly discovered exoplanet in habitable zone
- d) Smallest natural satellite of Jupiter

Ans b)

- AY4.2 is the latest mutation of the coronavirus variant, which has been linked to a rise in cases in the United Kingdom.
- The mutation is "very infrequent" in India, according to a weekly report by the India SARS-CoV-2 Genome Consortium (INSACOG), the body that tracks the emergence of new variants.

**122.** Recently seen in news, which country is going to launch the drive- 'Time for India':

- a) Japan
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Australia
- d) Sweden

Ans: D

Sweden is set to launch a 'Time for India' drive, which will promote business and bilateral trade between India and Sweden.

**123.** Consider the following statements with respect to Asian Development Bank (ADB):

1. Although ADB assists its members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, and equity investments, it does not extend any grants for the same.
2. It is headquartered in Beijing, China.

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. ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. ADB is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.

About ADB

- ADB was conceived in the early 1960s as a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region.
- ADB maximizes the development impact of its assistance by facilitating policy dialogues, providing advisory services, and mobilizing financial resources through cofinancing operations that tap official, commercial, and export credit sources.
- Members: From 31 members at its establishment in 1966, ADB has grown to encompass 68 members—of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.

**124.** Consider the following statements with respect to Eastern Economic Forum (EEF):

1. EEF is an international forum held each year.
2. It was established to support the economic development of China's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

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. Eastern Economic Forum is an international forum held each year in Vladivostok, Russia, for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the Russian Far East.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Eastern Economic Forum was established by decree of the President of the Russian Federation, in 2015 to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The Eastern Economic Forum 2021 will take place on 2–4 September in Vladivostok.

**125.** Consider the following statements with respect to PM Atma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Scheme:

1. The scheme aims to develop capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary care health systems even in the last miles of the nation.
2. It is a Centre Sector scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans a)

- Statement 1 is correct. The measures under the PM Atma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Scheme focus on developing capacities of health systems and institutions across the continuum of care at all levels viz. primary, secondary and tertiary and on preparing health systems in responding effectively to the current and future pandemics/disasters.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with an outlay of about Rs. 64,180 crores.
- The PMASBY targets to build an IT enabled disease surveillance system by developing a network of surveillance laboratories at block, district, regional and national levels, in Metropolitan areas & strengthening health units at the Points of Entry, for effectively

detecting, investigating, preventing and combating Public Health Emergencies and Disease Outbreaks.

- Increased investments are also targeted to support research on COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, including biomedical research to generate evidence to inform short-term and medium-term response to COVID-19 like pandemics and to develop core capacity to deliver the One Health Approach to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks in animals and humans.

