

Q.1 Consider the following statements:

1. Core Deep Ocean Exploration Mission is an initiative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
2. The mission has twin targets of Ocean bed Survey and Marine Life Conservation.
3. The Polymetallic Nodules found at the ocean bed are rich in Ferric Minerals.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- Finance Minister launches Rs 4,000 crore deep ocean mission in Union Budget 2020-21. The program will be under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Option B is correct: As stated above, Core Deep Ocean Mission is an initiative of India under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It has twin aims of Surveying Ocean Bed Resources and Biodiversity for economic prosperity and environmental conservation.

The two major minerals found in the ocean bed are:

- **Polymetallic Nodules (PMNs):** rich in Ferric Minerals with traces of rare minerals.
- **Gas Hydrates:** Methane frozen in ice and water crystals.

Q.2 Consider the following statements:

1. India is the world's largest producer of Silk.
2. It is the only country in the world that produces all major varieties of silk.
3. Mulberry accounts for 70% of total raw silk production in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- India's biggest silk fair was recently inaugurated by the Textiles Minister. It is a 5 days event, being organised on Indian Silk Export Promotion Council's virtual platform (Virtual due to COVID).

Option B is correct: India is the 2nd largest producer of Silk in World. India is the only country in the world that produces all four major varieties of silk - Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga. There are four major types of silk produced in India: Mulberry, Tasar, Muga, Eri of which Mulberry accounts for 70% of total raw silk production. India has around 11 Geographical Indications such as Pochampally Ikat, Chanderpaul Silk, Mysore Silk, Kanchipuram Silk, Muga Silk, Salem Silk, Arni Silk, Champa Silk, Bhagalpur Silk, Banaras Brocade and Sarees, etc.

Q.3 'Prabuddha Bharata' is a monthly journal, it was started by whom?

- (a) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (c) Raja Ram Mohar Rai
- (d) Swami Vivekananda

[ANS] d

[SOL] **In News-** The Prime Minister addressed the 125th anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata'.

Option D is correct: 'Prabuddha Bharata' is a monthly journal of the Ramakrishna Order which was started by Swami Vivekananda. It has been in publication since 1896 and carries articles on social sciences and humanities comprising historical, psychological, cultural and social sciences themes. Prabuddha Bharata' is regarded as a significant medium for spreading the message of India's ancient spiritual wisdom.

Q.4 Consider the following statements:

1. Fiscal deficit is the difference between the Revenue Receipts and the total expenditure excluding Non-debt Capital Receipts (NDCR).
2. High Fiscal deficit boosts the demand and hence more private production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] **In News-** Finance minister in her budget speech has proposed a glide path for fiscal consolidation to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.5% of GDP by FY26. She proposed to introduce amendments to the FRBM Act to make necessary changes in the fiscal consolidation roadmap.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Union Budget defines Fiscal Deficit as the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-debt Capital Receipts (NDCR) and the total expenditure. In other words, it is reflective of the total borrowing requirements of the Government.

Statement 2 is not correct: In the economy, there is a limited pool of investible savings. These savings are used by financial institutions like banks to lend to private businesses (both big and small) and the governments. If the FD ratio is too high, it implies that there is a lesser amount of money left in the market for private entrepreneurs and businesses to borrow.

Q.5 Consider the following statements:

1. Vembanad is the longest lake in India, and the largest lake in the state of Tamil Naidu.
2. It is the second-largest Ramsar site in India only after the Sunderbans in West Bengal.
3. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is located nearby to this lake.

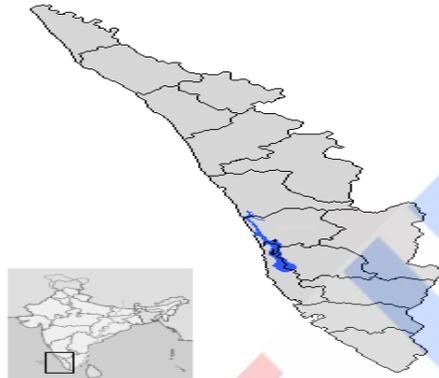
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- On his first ‘Mann Ki Baat’ programme for the year, the Prime Minister recognised Kottayam native NS Rajappan’s untiring effort in cleaning the Vembanad Lake.

Option B is correct: Vembanad is the longest lake in India, and the largest lake in the state of Kerala. With an area of 2033 square kilometres, it is the second-largest Ramsar site in India only after the Sunderbans in West Bengal. It receives water from rivers like the Pamba and Periyar. The lake is a major source of fresh water for the state but also has brackish water areas. also known as Vembanad Kayal, Vembanad Kol, Punnamada Lake (in Kuttanad) and Kochi Lake (in Kochi). The lake witnessed Snake boat race known as Nehru Trophy Boat Race (locally known as Vallam Kali) in August. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is located on the east coast of the lake.



Q.6 With reference to the “Dark Matter”, sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. Dark matter is a hypothetical invisible mass thought to be responsible for adding gravity to galaxies.
2. The ‘Dark matter’ interacts with the electromagnetic force similar to stars and galaxies.
3. Its gravitational force prevents stars in our Milky Way from flying apart.

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

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News -Scientists from the University of Sussex have found a new way to know more about **dark matter**.

Option A is correct: Dark matter, though never detected, is believed to be present in the entire universe, its existence presumed because a number of observable celestial phenomena could not be possible if the universe did not have much more matter in it than is seen. It is believed to make up more than 95% of all the universe. Its gravitational force prevents stars in our Milky Way from flying apart. Called dark matter- Because unlike normal matter (i.e. stars and galaxies), dark matter does not interact with the electromagnetic force.

Q.7 With reference to the Star Dust 1.0, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is the first-ever commercial booster rocket-powered entirely by biofuel.

2. It is launched by NASA for carrying large payloads to Lower Earth Orbits (LEOs).
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] **In News - Stardust 1.0** was launched by **blueshift Aerospace** from **Loring Commerce Centre** in Maine, the US, a former military base.

Option A is correct: Stardust 1.0 is a small sounding rocket powered by a "bio-derived" solid fuel to act as a testbed for future blueshift rockets capable of launching tiny nanosatellites. Stardust 1.0 is a launch vehicle suited for student and budget payloads. It will help to launch small satellites called CubeSats into space in a way that is relatively cheaper than using traditional rocket fuel and is less toxic for the environment.

Q.8 With reference to Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Consider the following statements:

1. Under this scheme, the funds are released in the form of grants-in-aid directly to the district authorities.
2. The funds released under the scheme are lapsable if not spent in a particular year.
3. The implementation and monitoring of the scheme are done by the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** MPLADS is a centrally-sponsored plan scheme fully funded by the government of India. Under this scheme, the funds are released in the form of grants in aids directly to the district authorities. Under the scheme, each MP has the choice to suggest to the District Collector for works to the tune of Rs.5 Crores per annum to be taken up in his/her constituency.

Statement 2 is not correct: The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable. This means that if the funds for a particular is not spent in that year, it will be carried forward.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme has issued the guidelines on MPLADS Scheme including implementation and monitoring of the scheme. The Department has initiated all necessary steps to ensure that the scheme is successfully implemented in the field.

Q.9 Consider the following statements:

1. Vembanad is the longest lake in India, and the largest lake in the state of Tamil Naidu.
2. It is the second-largest Ramsar site in India only after the Sunderbans in West Bengal.
3. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is located nearby to this lake.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- On his first 'Mann Ki Baat' programme for the year, the Prime Minister recognised Kottayam native NS Rajappan's untiring effort in cleaning the Vembanad Lake.

Option B is correct: Vembanad is the longest lake in India, and the largest lake in the state of Kerala. With an area of 2033 square kilometres, it is the second-largest Ramsar site in India only after the Sunderbans in West Bengal. It receives water from rivers like the Pamba and Periyar. The lake is a major source of fresh water for the state but also has brackish water areas. also known as Vembanad Kayal, Vembanad Kol, Punnamada Lake (in Kuttanad) and Kochi Lake (in Kochi). The lake witnessed Snake boat race known as Nehru Trophy Boat Race (locally known as Vallam Kali) in August. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is located on the east coast of the lake.

Q.10 Consider the following pairs:

Reports — Releasing organisation

1. Global Risk Report — FATF
2. Global Financial Stability Report — World Bank
3. World Economic Outlook — World Economic Forum

Which of the pairs given above are not correctly matched?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] **Option D is correct:**

Global Risk Report is released by the World Economic Forum (WEF)

Global Financial Stability Report is released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

World Economic Outlook is released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Q.11 Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)?

1. It is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the NATO allies and the Russian Federation.
2. The treaty calls for measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.
3. It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague.

Choose the correct option using the codes given below:

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- The United States has extended the New START nuclear disarmament treaty with Russia for five years.

Statement 1 is not correct: It is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation. It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War) that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads.

Statement 2 is correct: It is the formal name of Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. The number of strategic nuclear missile launchers will be reduced by half.

Statement 3 is correct: It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification entered into force on 5 February 2011. New START replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT), which was due to expire in December 2012.

Q.12 Consider the following statements:

1. The Chauri-Chaura incident occurred in the Indian state of Bihar in the year 1922.
2. Non-Cooperation movement preceded the Chauri-Chaura incident.
3. Motilal Nehru and Chittaranjan Das were in favour of calling off of the Non-Cooperation movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News-** PM inaugurated the centenary Celebrations at Chauri Chaura at Gorakhpur Dist. Uttar Pradesh. He also releases a postal stamp dedicated to the Chauri Chaura centenary during the event.

Option C is correct: The incident occurred at Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of the United Province, (modern Uttar Pradesh) in British India on 4 February 1922. During this incident, a large group of protesters, participating in the Non-cooperation movement, clashed with police, who opened fire. Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the Non-cooperation Movement at the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of this incident. Wherever some leaders like Motilal Nehru and Chittaranjan Das were against calling off of the Non-Cooperation movement. Hence, statement 1 and 3 are not correct.

Q.13 Which of the following are the criteria considered by the 15th Finance Commission in the devolution of funds to the states from the divisible pool of taxes?

1. Demographic Performance
2. Population (1971)
3. Forest and Ecology
4. Income Distance
5. Tax effort

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News-** The final report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission of India for FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26 was tabled in the Parliament on February 1, 2021, alongside the Union Budget 2021-22.

Option C is correct: The 15th Finance Commission has recommended that states, along with Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, be given 42 per cent share in the divisible tax pool of the centre during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Fifteenth Finance Commission (FC) has considered the 2011 population along with forest cover, tax effort, area of the state, and “demographic performance” to arrive at the states’ share in the divisible pool of taxes.

Criteria	14 th FC 2015-20	15 th FC 2020-21
Income Distance	50.0	45.0
Population (1971)	17.5	-
Population (2011)	10.0	15.0
Area	15.0	15.0
Forest Cover	7.5	-
Forest and Ecology	-	10.0
Demographic Performance	-	12.5
Tax Effort	-	2.5
Total	100	100

Q.14 The Global Democracy Index is published by which of the following organisations?

- (a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- (b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (c) Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- (d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News-** Recently, 2020 Democracy Index's global ranking is released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Option C is correct: Norway topped the Democracy Index with Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Canada making up the top five. India slipped two places to the 53rd position in the 2020 Democracy Index’s global ranking. The report said that “democratic backsliding” by authorities and “crackdowns” on civil liberties has led to a further decline in the country’s ranking. However, India is ranked higher than most of its neighbouring countries.

Q.15 ‘Yuddh Abhyas’ is a military exercise between Indian and

- (a) U.S
- (b) Russia
- (c) BIMSTEC members
- (d) Japan

[ANS] a

[SOL] **In News-** Indo-U.S. joint military exercise ‘Yudh Abhyas’ to begin in Rajasthan on February 8

Option A is correct: It is the 16th edition of Indo-US joint military exercise. It aims at enhancing cooperation and interoperability between the two armies and will focus on counter-terrorism

operations under the United Nations mandate. It is significant in terms of security challenges faced by both the nations in the backdrop of global terrorism. It reiterates India's key role as a key partner in the Indo-Pacific region.

Q.16 With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Maternity Benefit Programme that is implemented across India in accordance with the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013.
 2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme executed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News- Recently, the government's maternity benefit scheme, or Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), has crossed 1.75 crores, eligible women, till the financial year 2020.

Option A is correct: The Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) was launched in 2016 as a flagship maternity benefits programme of the Government of India. The scheme is aimed at pregnant or lactating women aged 19 years or above for the first live birth. The programme provides partial compensation for wage loss during childbirth and afterwards during childcare. It also aims to provide information on good feeding and nutrition for mother and child pursuant to the National Food Security Act, 2013. Pregnant/Lactating Mothers except those who are employed with the Central Government, Public Sector Units or State Governments or those who receive similar benefits from similar laws for the time being. It is a centrally sponsored scheme executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Q.17 With reference to the Olive Ridley Turtles, consider the following statements:

1. They are endemic to most tropical regions of the Indian Subcontinent.
2. They are herbivores and mostly feed on seaweeds and algae.
3. They exhibit arribadas phenomenon.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News- At least 800 Olive Ridley sea turtles died since January 2021 across the **Gahirmatha marine sanctuary** of Odisha.

Statement 1 is not correct: Their **scientific name** is **Lepidochelys olivacea** and they are also known as the **Pacific ridley sea turtle**. They are the **smallest** and **most abundant** of all sea turtles found in the world. They are found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. They are vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List.

Statement 2 is not correct: They are not herbivores, these are carnivores and feed mainly on jellyfish, shrimp, snails, crabs etc.

Statement 3 is correct: These are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs. One unique feature about females is that they return to the very same beach from where they first hatched, to lay their eggs. The eggs **hatch in 45 to 60 days**, depending on the temperature of the sand and atmosphere during the incubation period.

Q.18 With reference to the ‘Carnatic and Hindustani’ music system, consider the following statements:

1. The Carnatic music system is associated with the southern part of Indian subcontinent and Hindustani with the northern part.
2. The Carnatic music system originated in the Vedic period and Hindustani in the Bhakti period.
3. Carnatic music system has 6 major ragas and Hindustani has 72 ragas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News- Recently, the Prime Minister has paid homage to Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Ji on his birth anniversary. He was a classical music vocalist and belonged to the school of Hindustani classical music.

Option A is correct:

- Carnatic music is a system of music associated with the southern part of the Indian subcontinent.
- Hindustani music is associated with north India and is deeply influenced by Persian and Islamic music systems.
- Hindustani music originated in the Vedic period, while Carnatic music originated during the Bhakti movement.
- Both the music evolved with Sanskrit language scripts in itself and through Vedic traditions.
- Carnatic music has 72 ragas and Hindustani music has 6 major ragas.

Q.19 With reference to Fishing cats, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. In India, this species is only found in Sundarbans and on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga.
2. These are listed as ‘endangered’ on the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: The Fishing Cat Conservation Alliance will start a worldwide month-long campaign in February to raise awareness and garner support across the globe to conserve Fishing Cat.

- In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats and along the Eastern Ghats as well. So, option 1 is not correct.
- It is listed as 'vulnerable' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List. So, option 2 is not correct.

Q.20 Smart Walls, recently seen in the news, are:

- Advanced surveillance technology for border security
- Cybersecurity systems
- Immunisation drives
- State-of-the-art technology to control forest fires

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Recently, the USA has stopped the construction of the "border wall" between the USA and Mexico.

- Smart walls are advanced surveillance technology for border security which use sensors, radars, etc. to detect and track border break-ins and technology capable of performing the most difficult tasks dedicated to border security.

Q.21 With reference to the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) technique, consider the following statements:

- It is used to amplify small segments of DNA.
- It is an extremely slow and expensive process.
- It is used in DNA fingerprinting, detection of bacteria or viruses and diagnosis of genetic disorders.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS) Animal Husbandry, Feeds and Equipment Subcommittee has replaced a test on guinea pigs used for detecting and identifying pathogenic organisms.

Statement 1 is correct. Polymerase Chain Reaction is used to "amplify" (copy) small segments of DNA.

Statement 2 is not correct. It is a fast and inexpensive technique.

Statement 3 is correct. PCR is also valuable in a number of laboratory and clinical techniques, including DNA fingerprinting, detection of bacteria or viruses, and diagnosis of genetic disorders.

Q.22 With reference to the revamped version of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, consider the following statements:

- Enrolments under the scheme are made voluntary for all the farmers who are under Below Poverty Line (BPL).
- The Central share in the premium subsidy is increased to 100 per cent for the north-eastern states.

3. Farmers have to pay 2 per cent of the sum insured for Kharif crops, 1.5 per cent for rabi crops and 5 per cent for cash crops.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** Rejected claims of farmers crop insurance have multiplied 10 times in two years under the Centre's flagship Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Statement 1 is not correct. Under the revamped version of the PMFBY, enrolments are made voluntary for all the farmers.

Statement 2 is not correct. The Centre's share is 90% of the premium subsidy for the north-eastern states to promote the uptake in the region.

Statement 3 is correct. Farmers have to pay 2 per cent of the sum insured for Kharif crops, 1.5 per cent for rabi crops. In the case of commercial and horticultural crops, the premium is 5%.

Q.23 What is the purpose of 'evolved Laser interferometer Space Antenna (eLISA)' project?

- (a) To detect neutrinos
- (b) To gravitational waves
- (c) To detect the effectiveness of missile defence system
- (d) To study the effect of solar flares on our communication systems

[ANS] b

[SOL] **Option B is correct:** eLISA aims to measure gravitational waves in the frequency range from 0.1mHz to about 100 mHz. Indian teams have worked on the theoretical aspects of eLISA: in the theoretical aspects of measurement of cosmological parameters; using eLISA to set constraints on the dark energy equation of state; developing techniques for time delay interferometry, and so on.

Q.24 With reference to the chemical element Lithium, consider the following statements:

1. It is highly reactive and flammable.
2. It is generally extracted through solar evaporation of large brine pools or by hard-rock extraction of the ore.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Government of India has confirmed the presence of lithium deposits of 1,600 tonnes in Mandya district of Karnataka.

Statement 1 is correct. Lithium (Li) is a chemical element which is a soft, silvery-white metal and it is highly reactive and flammable.

Statement 2 is correct. It is extracted either through solar evaporation of large brine pools or by hard-rock extraction of the ore.

Q.25 With reference to Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), consider the following statements:

1. It is a traditional Indian practise of rearing animals and cultivating crops together.
2. It relies on the principles of Agroecology.
3. It uses fermented microbial culture that adds nutrients to the soil.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

[ANS] **b**

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) is a method of chemical-free agriculture drawing from traditional Indian practices. It was originally promoted by Maharashtrian agriculturist and Padma Shri recipient Subhash Palekar. The ZBNF promotes the application of jeevamrutha — a mixture of fresh desi cow dung and aged desi cow urine, jaggery, pulse flour, water and soil — on farmland. The rearing of animals and cultivation of crops together are called mixed farming.

Statement 2 is correct: ZBNF principles are in harmony with the principles of Agroecology and it brings down the cost of production to nearly zero and returns to a pre-green revolution style of farming.

Statement 3 is correct: ZBNF promotes the application of jeevamrutha — a mixture of fresh desi cow dung and aged desi cow urine, jaggery, pulse flour, water and soil — on farmland. This is a fermented microbial culture that adds nutrients to the soil, and acts as a catalytic agent to promote the activity of microorganisms and earthworms in the soil.

Q.26 With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
2. It aims to provide LPG connections to women from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.

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

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

[ANS] **a**

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Prime Minister has dedicated to the nation four infrastructure projects worth Rs. 4700 crore at Haldia in West Bengal.

Statement 1 is not correct. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Statement 2 is correct. It provides LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households with an aim to replace the unclean cooking fuels with the clean and more efficient Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

Q.27 Consider the following statements:

1. Repo rate is a rate at which the commercial banks give a loan to the central authority.
2. Reverse repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to the banking system for short durations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 4.0% under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF).

Statement 1 is not correct. Repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to the banking system for short durations. Commercial banks sell government securities and bonds to the RBI with an agreement to repurchase them on a future date at a predetermined price including interest charges.

Statement 2 is not correct. Reverse Repo rate is a rate at which the commercial banks give a loan to the central authority. It is a monetary instrument used to maintain supply in the market.

Q.28 Recently, the Centenary Commemorative function of Pandit Bhimsen Joshi was organised in Pune. He was a:

- (a) Classical vocalist
- (b) Painter
- (c) Kathak dancer
- (d) Historian

[ANS] a

[SOL] Option A is correct. Pandit Bhimsen Joshi was a classical vocalist. He was a member of the Kirana Gharana and renowned for the khayal form of singing, as well as for his popular renditions of devotional music (bhajans and abhangs).

Q.29 Consider the following statements:

1. Orobanche is a serious hidden parasitic weed in mustard causing severe yield loss to the extent of up to 50%.
2. Prosopis juliflora is a shrub or small tree in the family Fabaceae commonly known as Seemai Karuvelam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct.** Orobanche (also known as broomrapes) is a large genus of parasitic, herbaceous plants. These hidden parasitic weeds in mustard cause a severe yield loss to the extent of up to 50%.

Statement 2 is correct. Prosopis juliflora is a shrub or small tree in the family Fabaceae. It is native to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean and is one of the top invaders in India, where it is commonly known as Seemai Karuvelam.

Q.30 Consider the following sentences:

1. The constitutional validity of Internet access as a fundamental right was upheld in the Faheema Shirin versus the State of Kerala, 2019.
2. Indian Telegraph Act of 1885 empowers only the Home Secretary of the Union or a state to pass orders to enforce an Internet shutdown in any area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] **b**

[SOL] In News: Recently, the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration has restored high-speed mobile Internet for the first time since 5th August 2019.

Statement 1 is correct. In Faheema Shirin versus the State of Kerala, 2019, the Kerala High Court declared that the right to Internet access as a fundamental right forms a part of the Right to Privacy and the Right to Education under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Statement 2 is correct. The Indian Telegraph Act of 1885, empowers only the Home Secretary of the central or the state government to pass orders to enforce an Internet shutdown in any area.

Q.31 Consider the following statements:

1. Einsteinium is a rare element, first discovered on the Moon.
2. It is a naturally occurring radioactive element.
3. Half-Life is the time in which the quantity of elements is reduced to half.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

[ANS] **a**

[SOL] In News: Recently, scientists have tried to study the bond formation between Einsteinium and other atoms.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Einsteinium was first discovered in the Hydro-gen Bomb Explosion of 1952.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is Synthetic, not Naturally Occurring.

Statement 3 is correct. Half-Life is the time period in which the material reduces by half in quantity.

Q.32 Recently, Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR) was in the news, it is located in

- (a) Orissa
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

[ANS] **c**

[SOL] In News-Recently, Tamil Nadu state government has given its approval for the creation of a fifth tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu named Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR).

Option C is correct: The Government of India (GoI) has approved the Srivilliputhur-Meghamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR) in Tamil Nadu (TN), it will be TN's 5th and Largest Tiger Reserve & 51st Tiger Reserve in India. SMTR is spread over an area of 1 Lakh Hectares and encloses lands which fall under the Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary & Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS).

Q.33 With reference to National Tiger Conservation Authority(NTCA), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
2. Project Tiger works under the administrative control of the National Tiger Conservation Authority(NTCA).

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct: National Tiger Conservation Authority(NTCA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. It is constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. It established the Tiger Protection Force with the aim of seizing the poachers and stopping the illegal killings of tigers.

Q.34 Consider the following statements:

1. Lingyats are the members of the Hindu sect having the wide following in Southern part of India.
2. They are the worshippers of Shiva.
3. Lingayats and the Veerashaivas both have rejected the Vedas and the caste system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Lingayats, a dominant community (nearly 17% of Karnataka's six crore population), is demanding reservation under OBC quota.

Option D is correct: The Lingayat/Veerashaiva community, a politically dominant group in Karnataka, are devotees of Shiva. The Lingayats follow 12th-century saint-philosopher Basavanna who had rejected ritualistic worship and pre-eminence of the Vedas. They have the wide following in the Southern part of India. Lingayats constitute 17% of the total population in Karnataka.

Q.35 Consider the following statements about Basavanna.

1. He was Nayanars bhakti saint, reformer and philosopher.
2. Nathpanthis Group was founded by him.
3. He was contemporary of Raja Krishna Dev Raya.

Which of the statement(s) above is/ are correct?

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

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: Ligayats are demanding reservation in Karnataka under OBC quota.

Statement 1 is correct. Shaivite Bhakti Saints are called Nayanars. Basavana was a Nayanar saint and poet and compiled Vachanas.

Statement 2 is incorrect. He founded Lingayats also known as Veershaivs. Nathpanthis were founded by Gorakhnath.

Statement 3 is incorrect. He was contemporary of Chalukyan Kings, not Vijaya Nagar Empire. Vijaynagar empire came into existence in the 14th century whereas Basvanna was a saint of the 11th century.

Q.36 Consider the following statements about the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

1. The maximum number of members are elected from Western Europe.
2. India and Israel have never been a member of UNHRC.
3. Members can't hold the seat for two consecutive terms of 3 years.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: The Biden administration has decided to re-engage with the much-maligned UN Human Rights Council from which Trump withdrew 3 years back.

Statement 1 is incorrect. UNHRC is an Inter-governmental body (not Non-Governmental Body) under the aegis of the UN General Assembly. Out of 47 members, maximum members are selected from Asia and Africa (13 each).

Statement 2 is incorrect. India was selected as a member multiple times including 2006-09 and recent 2019-2021 term.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Members are elected for 3 years term and can hold the seat for two consecutive terms but not beyond that.

Q.37 Which of the following Mars mission(s) is/are correctly matched with their parent agency?

1. Tianwen 1: JAXA
2. Perseverance: NASA
3. Amal: Saudi Arabia
4. MOM: ISRO

Choose the correct option:

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: UAE's space centre in Dubai confirmed the unmanned craft, called Amal, Arabic for Hope, had reached the end of its nearly seven-month, 300-million-mile journey and had begun circling the red planet.

Mars Mission-Agency

Tianwen 1-China National Space Agency (CNSA)

Perseverance-NASA

Amal-UAE Space Agency

MOM: ISRO-ISRO

Q.38 Consider the following statements:

1. The concept of One Person Companies (OPCs) was suggested by the J.J. Irani Committee Report.
2. In OPCs, the owner and the business are considered the same legal entity.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: In the Union Budget 2021-22, measures to ease norms on setting up One Person Companies (OPCs) have been announced.

Statement 1 is correct. The concept of OPCs was introduced by the Companies Act of 2013 which was based on the suggestions of the J.J. Irani Committee Report on Company Law, 2005.

Statement 2 is not correct. In OPCs, the person and the company are considered separate legal entities. In the Sole Proprietorship Mode, the owner and the business are considered the same.

Q.39 Which among the following is/are correct with respect to the Reserve Bank of India's Open Market Operations?

1. It is the rate at which the banks are able to borrow overnight funds from RBI against the approved government securities.
2. It is one of the qualitative tools of RBI under his monetary policy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Open market operations is the sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by RBI or the central bank of the country. And Marginal Standing Facility is a new Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) window created by Reserve Bank of India in its credit policy of May 2011. MSF is the rate at which the banks are able to borrow overnight funds from RBI against the approved government securities.

Statement 2 is not correct: The quantitative instruments are Open Market Operations, Liquidity Adjustment Facility (Repo and Reverse Repo), Marginal Standing Facility, SLR, CRR, Bank Rate, Credit Ceiling etc. On the other hand, qualitative instruments are credit rationing, moral suasion and direct action (by RBI on banks).

Q.40 With reference to 'Jagannath Temple' recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It was constructed by a famous king of Ganga Dynasty Ananta Varman Chodaganga Deva dating back to 12th century
2. It is located in Andhra Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct.** It was constructed by a famous king of Ganga Dynasty Ananta Varman Chodaganga Deva dating back to the 12th century at the seashore Puri.

Statement 2 is not correct. Shree Jagannath Puri Temple is one of the most impressive monuments of the Indian state Odisha.

Q.41 'Appe midi', recently seen in the news, is a variety of:

- (a) Apricot
- (b) Bee
- (c) Mango
- (d) Apple

[ANS] c

[SOL] **Option C is correct:** Appe midi is a wild variety of mangoes from Karnataka on verge of extinction due to habitat loss. These are rich in fibre and good for digestion, hence used for pickle making and juice extraction. The Bee's genus is Apis.

Q.42 Which of the following traditional medicine system(s) is/are correctly matched with their place of origin?

1. Sowa Rigpa: Western Ghats
2. Siddha: Sindh (present-day Pakistan)
3. Unani: Greece
4. Homeopathy: China

Choose the correct option using codes given below:

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **Option B is correct:** The Ministry of AYUSH has launched a central sector scheme for promotion of international cooperation in the traditional medicine system.

Traditional Medicine Systems : Origin Place

1. Sowa Rigpa : Trans-Himalayan Region (Tibet)
2. Siddha : South India (The name 'Siddha' comes from 'Siddhar Saints'.)
3. Unani : Greece (Ancient Greece was called Unan in Arabic)
4. Homeopathy : Germany (founded by Samuel Hahnemann)

Q.43 With reference to the KAPILA Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] Statement 1 is correct. The Kalam Programme for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness (KAPILA) campaign helps in establishing the Intellectual Property (IP) filing ecosystem.

Statement 2 is not correct. The programme has been launched by the Ministry of Education and not by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Q.44 The term ‘Pattachitra’, recently seen in the news, refers to:

- (a) Dance
- (b) Music
- (c) Painting
- (d) Festival

[ANS] c

[SOL] Option C is correct. ‘Pattachitra’ style of painting is one of the oldest and most popular art forms of Odisha. The name Pattachitra has evolved from the Sanskrit words *patta*, meaning canvas, and *chitra*, meaning picture. These are done on canvas and are manifested by rich colourful application, creative motifs and designs, and portrayal of simple themes, which are mostly mythological in depiction.

Q.45 The ‘World Sustainable Development Summit’ is a flagship event of:

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- (b) Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- (c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- (d) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

[ANS] d

[SOL] Explanation:

Option D is correct. The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The Summit aims to make ‘sustainable development’ a globally shared goal. It has also established itself as a responsible and effective platform for mobilizing opinion-makers to identify and advance pioneering actions to address some of the most relevant issues concerning sustainable development.

Q.46 Situated on the southern bank of Tungabhadra river, the city boasts of being one of the largest medieval era capital cities of a long-ruling prosperous empire. The city houses Ashokan epigraphy, Hazara Ram Temple and Virupaksha Temple. The city which has been described above is?

- (a) Badami
- (b) Hampi
- (c) Vengi

(d) Devgiri

[ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** A new district has been created in Karnataka with the name of Vijayanagar, taking the number of districts to 31 in Karnataka.

Option B is correct. Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, situated on the banks of Tungabhadra River. It was a prosperous city with many medieval era temples like Hazara Ram Temple, Virupaksha Temple, etc. Hampi's legacy dates back to the ancient era with mentions in Ramayan and Puranas as Pampa Devi Tirtha Kshetra.

Q.47 With reference to the "Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)" which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. The scheme aims to develop certified organic production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **Option B is correct:** It is a Central Sector Scheme under the Government of India's organic scheme which aims at the development of organic value chains in the North East Region of India. It was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for implementation in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, during the 12th plan period. The scheme aims at the development of certified organic production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers and to support the development of entire value chains.

Q.48 The SAKSHAM initiative was recently seen in the news. It is related to:

- (a) Skills mapping exercises of workers
- (b) Scholarship for girls in higher classes
- (c) Digitisation drive for primary teachers
- (d) Promotion of Minor Forest Products

[ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has launched two new technology initiatives: SAKSHAM (Shramik Shakti Manch) and Seaweed Mission.

Option A is correct. The SAKSHAM initiative has been launched by the TIFAC to dynamically map the skills of Shramiks and help MSMEs in the recruitment of appropriate personnel.

Q.49 Vijayanagar empire reached its zenith during the reign of?

- (a) Krishnadev Raya
- (b) Harihara I
- (c) Devaraya II
- (d) Sangama II

[ANS] a

[SOL] Option A is correct. Vijayanagar empire was founded by the brothers Harihar and Bukka in 1336 in the wake of the rebellions against Tughluq rule. The empire reached its zenith under the reign of Krishnadev Raya of the Tuluva dynasty.

Q.50 With reference to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), consider the following statements:

1. These are set of statutory norms laid under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. The MCC is operational from the date the election schedule is announced till the last day of polling.
3. Certain provisions of MCC can be enforced by invoking certain corresponding provisions in other statutes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: The model code refers to a set of norms laid down by the Election Commission of India, with the consensus of political parties. It is not statutory. The purpose of these guidelines is to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair elections.

Statement 2 is not correct: The MCC is operational from the date that the election schedule is announced till the date that results are announced.

Statement 3 is correct: The MCC is not enforceable by law. However, certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced through invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Q.51 Consider the following statements:

1. Disinvestment is when organizations liquidate their assets or subsidiaries.
2. India has continuously achieved its disinvestment targets for the last 5 years.
3. Narasimham Committee has suggested reducing the government's stake in Public Sector Banks.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: The Government has decided to privatise two Public Sector Banks (PSBs) along with IDBI and General insurance.

Statement 1 is correct. Disinvestment is the process when the government decides to reduce its stake from any public company. Disinvestment can be by privatisation, public listing or partial sale of shares. In other words, Disinvestment is when governments or organizations sell or liquidate assets or subsidiaries.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The disinvestment targets are highly underachieved except for the last two years viz. 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Statement 3 is correct. Narasimham Committee, P J Nayak Committee both have suggested the government to reduce its stake in Public Sector Banks to 33% and less than 50% respectively.

Q.52 The term ‘BL Lacertae Blazar’, often seen in the news, is related to:

- (a) Exoplanet
- (b) Supermassive Blackhole
- (c) An Epoch of time referring to Ice Age
- (d) A newly discovered Fossil

[ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct. BL Lacertae Blazar is a supermassive blackhole. Blazars are black-hole-powered galaxies. As matter falls toward the supermassive black hole at the galaxy's center, some of it is accelerated outward at nearly the speed of light along jets pointed in opposite directions. When one of the jets happens to be aimed in the direction of Earth, the galaxy appears especially bright and is classified as a blazar.

Q.53 With reference to the Vigyan Jyoti programme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to encourage girls to take interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
 2. This is an initiative of the Ministry of Education.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] In News: The second phase of Vigyan Jyoti programme commenced on the occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11, 2021.

Statement 1 is correct. The Vigyan Jyoti programme aims to encourage girls to take interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Statement 2 is not correct. The programme was initiated by the Department of Science and technology.

Q.54 Recently, ‘Tholpavakkoothu’ was in the news. It is a

- (a) Shadow puppetry
- (b) Musical Instrument
- (c) Dance
- (d) Festival

[ANS] a

[SOL] Option A is correct. Tholpavakoothu or shadow puppetry is a temple art form which is prevalent in the Bhagavathy temples (mother Goddess) in Palakkad district and nearby regions in Kerala.

Q.55 With reference to the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project**, consider the following statements:

1. It will make all legislatures in the country paperless by making proceedings of houses digital.
2. It is being implemented on the pattern of the 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] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct.** The National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project aims to digitise the proceedings of the Parliament and make all legislatures in the country paperless.

Statement 2 is not correct. The funding of NeVA is on the pattern of Central Sponsored Scheme. Under such schemes, the Union government and the states funding is at a 60:40 ratio, 80:20 in some cases and 90:10, in the case of north-eastern states. The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA and technical support by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MietY).

Q.56 Consider the following statements about FASTag:

1. It is a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) passive tag.
2. It is an initiative of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
3. Sensors at toll plazas can detect tags even when it is not in the direct line of sight.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** FASTag is mandatory in India from 1st January 2021 for all vehicles.

Statement 1 is correct. FASTag is a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag to be pasted on the windscreen. It is a passive tag which means it does not release its own radio frequency but simply reflects or interacts with the incoming radio waves at the toll plaza gate.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is a flagship project of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and is operated by the National Highway Authority of India.

Statement 3 is correct. The RFID tag does not require being in direct line of sight because radio waves are used by sensors. Once the car/vehicle is within a certain range (few feet), the sensors at toll plaza will automatically detect and deduct the amount from the pre-decided wallet or bank account.

Q.57 Recently, the term “Dickinsonia” was seen in the news. It refers to

- (a) Earliest known multicellular animal
- (b) A hominid fossil
- (c) A supermassive blackhole
- (d) A marigold species with high Carotene

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct.** Dickinsonia is the earliest known living animal and represents the emergence of multicellular complex lifeforms on earth. Its 550 million years old fossils have been found in the roof of Bhimbetka Cave, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Q.58 Netwire, sometimes seen in the news, is a?

- (a) Smart Wall Technology
- (b) Optical Fibre Cable
- (c) Forest-fire Preventive Technology
- (d) Remote Access Trojan

[ANS] d

[SOL] **Option D is correct.** A well-known malware, Netwire is a Remote Access Trojan (RAT) which gives control of the infected system to an attacker through a command and control server. It causes extensive damage to data and systems or to gain unauthorized access to a network.

Q.59 With reference to the Lithium-ion Batteries, consider the following statements:

1. Metallic lithium is used in these rechargeable batteries.
2. Lithium ions move from the negative electrode to the positive electrode during discharge and vice-versa while charging.

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

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** The Indian government is formulating a policy to institutionalise research and development on the next generation of battery technologies for Electric Vehicles (EVs).

Statement 1 is not correct. The Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable batteries which use an intercalated lithium compound as one electrode material, compared to the metallic lithium used in a non-rechargeable lithium battery.

Statement 2 is correct. Lithium ions move from the negative electrode to the positive electrode during discharge and back when charging.

Q.60 Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT) is a treatment for?

- (a) SARS-CoV-2
- (b) Diphtheria
- (c) Malaria
- (d) Yellow Fever

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, scientists have unveiled the detailed genome of the Asian malaria vector mosquito *Anopheles stephensi*.

Option C is correct. Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT) is recommended for the treatment of Malaria

Q.61 Consider the following statements:

1. Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chisti was contemporary of Qutub-ud-din Aibak.
2. The Chisti saints actively sought patronage from the Delhi Sultanate.
3. Urs is a term used for the birth anniversary of a Sufi Saint.

Which of the above statements are not correct?

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** 2021 marks the 809th Urs of Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chisti.

Statement 1 is correct. Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chisti was the founder of Chisti Silsila of Sufism in India. He was contemporary of Qutub-ud-din Aibak and Iltutmish.

Statement 2 is not correct. Chisti Saints stressed the importance of keeping a distance from worldly power (including Kings). Hence, they never actively engaged in any politics or sought any patronage. Even if the king provided patronage, he was never treated as a special one.

Statement 3 is not correct. Urs is the term used for death anniversaries. The year 2021 marks the 809th death anniversary of Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chisti.

Q.62 The National Development Council is a?

- (a) Constitutional Body
- (b) Statutory Body
- (c) Quasi-judicial Body
- (d) Executive Body

[ANS] d

[SOL] **Option D is correct.** The National Development Council is an executive body as it was established by an executive resolution on the recommendation of the First Five Year Plan (draft outline) in August 1952. It is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.

Q.63 With reference to the Leatherback Turtle, consider the following statements:

1. They are the largest sea turtle species on the planet and are found in all oceans.
2. The IUCN Red List categorises them as Vulnerable.

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

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct.** Leatherback Turtles are the largest sea turtle species on the planet. They are found in all oceans except the Arctic and the Antarctic.

Statement 2 is correct. The IUCN Red List status of these turtles is 'Vulnerable'. They are also listed in Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Q.64 With reference to the National Language Translation Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Announced in the Union Budget 2021-22, it aims to create a voice-based internet accessible in popular Indian languages.
2. It will use technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning along with the traditional methods.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Minister for Health and Family Welfare has highlighted that there has been an increase in 2021-22's budget of the Ministry of Science and Technology compared to 2020-21.

Statement 1 is correct. The National Language Translation Mission will work towards creating a "voice-based internet" which will be accessible in popular Indian languages and not be dominated by Hindi or English. It will also translate governance-and-policy related knowledge on the internet to major Indian languages.

Statement 2 is correct. It will use technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and speech recognition together with the traditional methods.

Q.65 Which of the following statements regarding 'National Marine Turtle Action Plan', is/are correct?

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
2. It focuses on assessments of the environmental impact of marine and coastal development that affects marine turtle populations and their habitats.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **Statements 1 is not correct.** It was launched by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.

Statement 2 is correct. It focuses on assessments of the environmental impact of marine and coastal development that affects marine turtle populations and their habitats.

Promotes inter-sectoral action for conservation and also guides improved coordination amongst the government, civil society and all relevant stakeholders.

Q.66 With reference to the Cantonment Boards, consider the following statements.

1. They are executive bodies.
2. They operate under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

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

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the e-Chhawani portal was launched to provide civic facilities to armed forces families in Cantonment areas.

Statement 1 is not correct. Cantonment boards are statutory civic administration bodies set up under the Cantonments Act, 2006. At present, there are 62 bodies functioning in India.

Statement 2 is not correct. They operate under the Ministry of Defence.

Q.67 Recently seen in the news, the e-Chhawani portal was launched to:

- (a) Track the deployment and movement of the Armed forces.
- (b) Provide civic facilities to Armed Personnel Families.
- (c) Create a geospatial directory of ammunition in India.
- (d) Access safety around Cantonment Areas.

[ANS] b

[SOL] Option B is correct.

In News: Recently, the e-Chhawani portal was launched to provide online civic services to over 20 lakh residents of 62 Cantonment Boards across the country. Launched by the Defence minister, it is an innovative effort to transform the functioning of Cantonment Boards, in line with the vision of 'New India'.

Q.68 Consider the following statements:

1. Spatial Mark-Resight (SMR) is developed to precisely estimate the population size of leopards.
2. The IUCN Red List categories Leopard as an Endangered Species

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct.** Scientists from Aaranyak, Panthera and World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) have developed a model called 'Spatial Mark-Resight' (SMR) to precisely estimate the population size of leopards where the population is a mix of the rosette and melanistic leopards.

Statement 2 is not correct. The IUCN Red List categories Leopard as Vulnerable Species.

Q.69 With reference to the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws.
2. It was established in 1975 under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

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

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct.** The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws which promotes animal welfare in the country.

Statement 2 is not correct. It was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Q.70 With reference to Geothermal Energy, consider the following statements:

1. It is the heat stored beneath the earth's surface that is carried to the surface by magma.
2. Hydrogen sulfide is a by-product of the extraction process.

Which of the sentences mentioned above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, Ladakh's administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing India's first-ever geothermal field development project.

Statement 1 is not correct. Geothermal energy refers to the heat stored beneath the earth's surface that is carried to the surface by water and/or steam and is directly used or converted into electricity.

Statement 2 is correct. The process of extraction releases hydrogen sulfide as a by-product, a gas that smells like a rotten egg at low concentrations.

Q.71 Consider the following statements:

1. Hydrogen produced from fossil fuels is called Grey Hydrogen.
2. Hydrogen generated entirely from renewable power sources is called Green Hydrogen.

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Union Finance Minister has announced the launch of the Hydrogen Energy Mission during her budget speech.

Statement 1 is correct. Hydrogen produced from fossil fuels is called grey hydrogen, this constitutes the bulk of the hydrogen produced currently.

Statement 2 is not correct. Hydrogen generated from fossil fuels with carbon capture and storage options is called blue hydrogen. Hydrogen generated entirely from renewable power sources is called green hydrogen.

Q.72 Who was the founder of Visva-Bharati University?

- (a) Madan Mohan Malaviya
- (b) Rabindranath Tagore
- (c) Bhagwan Das
- (d) Homi J Bhabha and J.R.D. Tata

[ANS] b

[SOL] **In News-** Prime Minister addresses the Convocation of Visva-Bharati on 19th February 2021.

Option B is correct: Visva-Bharati University was founded by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in 1921 at Santiniketan, Bolpur in West Bengal's Birbhum district. It is also the oldest Central University in the country and an Institution of National Importance by an Act of Parliament in 1951. It brings a synergy between the country and the rest of the world therefore it is called Visva-Bharati. It consists of two campuses one at Shantiniketan and the other at Sriniketan. Sriniketan focuses on agriculture, adult education, village, cottage industries and handicrafts.

Q.73 With reference to Rabindranath Tagore, consider the following statements:

1. He started the Rakhi Utsav where people from Hindu and Muslim communities tied colourful threads on each other's wrists.
2. In 1913, he became the first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel 'Bhanusimha'.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct.** Rabindranath Tagore started the Rakhi Utsav where people from Hindu and Muslim communities tied colourful threads on each other's wrists.

Statement 2 is not correct. In 1913, he became the first Indian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel 'Geetanjali'.

Q.74 With reference to the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:

1. It is the only place in the country with a viable population of Northern Swamp Deer.
2. It is one of the finest examples of the Terai eco-systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) has recovered the decomposed flesh of a tiger from the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

Statement 1 is correct. It is the only place in the country to hold a potentially viable population of the nominate subspecies of the northern swamp deer (*Cervus duvauceli duvauceli*).

Statement 2 is correct. It is one of the finest examples of the exceedingly diverse and productive Terai eco-systems. Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) is composed of 14 Indian and Nepalese trans-border protected ecosystems of the Terai and nearby foothills of the Himalayas and encompassing 14 protected areas of Nepal and India.

Q.75 The Bilimora-Waghai Heritage Train, recently seen in the news, is located in which of the following state?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Gujarat

[ANS] d

[SOL] **Option D is correct.** The Bilimora-Waghai Heritage Train is a 63-km narrow gauge train connecting Bilimora in Navsari district with Waghai in Dang district in Gujarat. The Indian Railways had proposed to preserve its route as "industrial heritage" in 2018.

Q.76 Consider the following statements about “Go Electric Campaign”.

1. Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) is the nodal agency for “Go Campaign”.
2. Its aim is to promote electric vehicles only.

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

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: “Go Electric” Campaign was launched to promote a boost to electric mobility and use of electrical appliances across the country.

Statement 1 is not correct. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power is the nodal agency for creating awareness and extending technical support.

Statement 2 is not correct. It was launched to give a boost to all types of electric appliances including electric mobility and the use of electrical appliances across the country.

Q.77 Which of the following Anti-Tank Missiles is/are correctly matched with their origin country?

1. Dhruvastra: India
2. Spike: Israel
3. Helina: Russia

Which of the above pair(s) is/are correctly matched?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] In News: Recently, Dhruvastra and Helina, two indigenous anti-tank guided missiles were tested from Advanced Light Helicopter.

Anti-Tank Missiles	Country of Origin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amogha • Nag • Helina • Dhruvastra • Man-Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) 	India
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spike 	Israel

Q.78 Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** India has for the first time used the word 'QUAD' signalling closer alignment with other members.

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

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

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

Q.79 The 'Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)' works under the aegis of which of the following ministries?

- (a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(b) Ministry of Labour and Employment
(c) Ministry of Education
(d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct:** Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment inaugurated the 3rd Edition of the Indian Sign Language Dictionary with 10,000 terms. The first edition was launched in March 2018 with 3,000 terms, followed by the second edition in February 2019 that had 6,000 terms. The dictionary included terms of daily use, academic, legal and administrative, medical, technical and agricultural terms.

Q.80 Consider the following statements:

1. The river Alaknanda rises in the Gangotri Glacier.
2. Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers meet at Devprayag to form Ganga.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is incorrect**

The Alaknanda rises in the Satopanth glacier and is met at Vishnuprayag by the Dhaulti Ganga.

Statement 2 is correct

Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers unite at Devprayag to form the mainstream known as the Ganga.

- The Alaknanda river is among the **best for river rafting in the world** due to its **high rafting grade.**
- The Alaknanda system drains parts of **Chamoli, Tehri, and Pauri districts.**
- There are many operational dams and **HE projects in the Alaknanda basin** namely **Tapovan, Tharali, Vishnuprayag, Srinagar** etc

Q.81 Consider the following statements:

1. Acute Encephalitis Syndrome is caused by the viruses only.
2. The disease commonly affects children and young adults.

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

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) including Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is a group of clinically similar neurologic manifestations caused by several different **viruses, bacteria, fungus, parasites, spirochetes, chemicals/ toxins etc.**

Statement 2 is correct: It is characterized as acute-onset of fever and a change in mental status (mental confusion, disorientation, delirium, or coma) and/or new onset of seizures in a person of any age at any time of the year. The disease commonly affects children and young adults and can lead to considerable morbidity and mortality.

Q.82 Consider the following statements:

1. Guru Nanak Dev advocated the 'Saguna' form of bhakti.
2. He set up rules for congregational worship (Sangat) involving collective recitation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct:** He was born into a middle-class Hindu family and raised by his parents, Mehta Kalu and Mata Tripta. He was the first of the 10 Sikh Gurus and the founder of Sikhism in the 15th century. He started writing the Guru Granth Sahib and completed 974 hymns. He advocated the '**Nirguna**' (devotion to and worship of formless divine) form of bhakti.

Statement 2 is correct: His verses preach selfless service to humanity, prosperity and social justice for all, irrespective of differences. Rules were set up by him for congregational worship (Sangat). Guru Nanak travelled across South Asia and the Middle East to spread his teachings.

A Gurdwara was built at his birthplace in the city now known as Nankana Sahib which is located in the Punjab province of Pakistan.

Q.83 Consider the following statements

1. National Physical Laboratory will conduct a survey to develop Indian Footwear Sizing System.
2. India is the third largest footwear producing country after China and Bangladesh.

Which of the above statements is correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct.** CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) will lead a pan India 3D feet scanning survey.

Statement 2 is not correct. India is the second largest footwear producing country after China.

Q.84 Consider the following statements

1. Between 1951 and 2011, India's population increased due to significant increase in both fertility and mortality.
2. India is adding 0.5 million people to the working-age population each year.
3. India is set to witness a sharp slowdown in population growth in the next two decades.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare expressed his views in the Population v/s Planet Conference on 21st Feb 2021.

* It is a part of WION and Zee Media's year-long campaign called 'Mission Sustainability: Population Vs Planet'.

Statement 1 is not correct. Even though India's population has increased from 36 crore in 1951 to 121.02 crore in 2011, the country has witnessed a significant decline in both fertility and mortality.

Statement 2 is not correct. India is adding 12 million people to the working-age population each year.

Statement 3 is correct. As per Economic Survey 2018-19, India is set to witness a sharp slowdown in population growth in the next two decades.

Q.85 'Carbon Watch' recently seen in the news, it is an

- (a) App to access Climate Change.
- (b) Organisation set up by Paris Agreement.
- (c) App to access individual's Carbon Footprints.
- (d) NGO working for Environment.

[ANS] c

[SOL] Carbon Watch is India's first app to assess one's carbon footprint. It has been launched by Chandigarh but can be accessed by all.

It asks the user to feed certain data in 4 parts:

- * Water: inform about the consumption of Water
- * Energy: Data regarding monthly electricity units consumed and solar energy consumed
- * Waste Generation: Amount of waste produced by individual and family is to be inputted
- * Transport (Vehicular movement): Mode of transport like bicycle, two-wheeler or four-wheeler, etc will be asked

Q.86 Consider the following statements about Kandla Forests.

1. They are found in the coastal areas of the Gulf of Kutch.
2. Kandla Forest trees are characterised by Stilt Roots, Pneumatophores and Buttress Roots.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** Karnataka Biodiversity Board wants to declare the expansive Kandla Forests in the Panchagangavali Estuary as a biodiversity hotspot.

Statement 1 is not correct. Kandla Forests are Mangrove Forests found in the Panchganga Estuary of Karnataka.

Statement 2 is correct. The Stilt Roots (Prop Roots), Pneumatophores (Breathing Roots) and Buttress Roots are key characteristics of Mangrove Forests.

Q.87 Consider the following statements about the SFURTI scheme, often seen in the news:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Trade and Commerce.
2. SFURTI clusters have been set up to promote Entrepreneurship in emerging fields like Industry 4.0, Artificial Intelligence, etc.

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

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** MSME minister recently inaugurated 50 SFURTI clusters.

Statement 1 is not correct. The SFURTI scheme was launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in 2005.

Statement 2 is not correct. The aim of SFURTI clusters is to organise **traditional industries and artisans** into clusters to make them competitive and increase their income.

Q.88 Consider the following statements:

1. Myanmar proposed the idea to observe International Mother Language Day.
2. It was welcomed by the UN General Assembly in its resolution of 2002.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct.** Bangladesh proposed the idea to observe International Mother Language Day.

Statement 2 is correct. The proposal got UNESCO's approval in 1999. the UN General Assembly welcomed it in its resolution of 2002.

The UN General Assembly in 2007 asked its member states "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world."

Q.89 With reference to the Line of Credit (LOC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a type of grant provided to developing countries which has not to be repaid.
2. Through this, borrowers can access funds at any time, not exceeding the maximum amount.

3. It helps to promote lenders' exports of goods and services.

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

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is not correct.** It is not a grant but a 'soft loan' provided on concessional interest rates to developing countries, which has to be repaid by the borrowing government.

Statement 2 is correct. The borrower can access funds from the LOC at any time as long as they do not exceed the maximum amount (or credit limit) set in the agreement and meet any other requirements such as making timely minimum payments.

Statement 3 is correct. These help to promote exports of lenders' goods and services, as 75% of the value of the contract must be sourced from the lender.

Q.90 Recently, scientists have successfully cloned a Black-footed Ferret using frozen cells. The species is listed in the IUCN Red List as?

- (a) Near Threatened
- (b) Vulnerable
- (c) Extinct
- (d) Endangered

[ANS] d

[SOL] **Option D is correct.** Recently, scientists have successfully cloned a Black-footed Ferret using frozen cells from an animal that died more than 30 years ago. This is the first time any native endangered species has been cloned in the US. Black-footed ferrets are found in short or middle grass prairies in North America and are the only ferret species native to the continent. These are listed as "endangered" in the IUCN Red List.

Q.91 Consider the following statements:

1. Mahadayi River is a right-bank tributary of the Krishna River in Karnataka.
2. Kalasa Banduri Nala is a major project to link Mahadayi River with Malaprabha River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] b

[SOL] **In News:** Kalasa Banduri Nala is a bone of contention between Karnataka and Goa.

Statement 1 is not correct. Mahadayi River is a west-flowing river that meets the Arabian Sea after flowing through Karnataka and Goa. In Goa, after meeting the Zuari River, it is called Mandovi.

Statement 2 is correct. Kalasa Banduri Nala is a major project to link Mahadayi River with Malaprabha River. This transfer of water is a bone of contention between Karnataka and Goa which are party to the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal set up in 2010.

Q.92 Consider the following statements:

1. Kutia Kondhs are the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of Rajasthan.
2. There are 700 PVTG identified across India by Census 2011.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Kutia Khonds are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of Kalahandi District of Odisha and need special care for their upliftment.

Statement 1 is not correct. Kutia Kondhs are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of Odisha.

Statement 2 is not correct. There are 75 PTVGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes spread across 17 states in India identified by Census 2011.

Q.93 With reference to the Greater Adjutant Stork, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. They are only found in the Gangetic Plains of India.
2. They are listed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Communities in Bihar are doing great work in conserving Garuda or Adjutant Stork.

Statement 1 is not correct. Once found across South and Southeast Asia, the Greater Adjutant is one of the most threatened stork species in the world. At present, only three known breeding grounds are known. One is in Cambodia and two are located in India (Assam and Kadwa Diara, Bihar).

Statement 2 is not correct. Greater Adjutant Stork is enlisted as “Endangered” in the IUCN Red List data and is listed under Schedule IV of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Schedule III and IV include species that are not endangered, however, Adjutant stork is listed under Schedule IV despite being Endangered.

Q.94 Which of the following states has declared the Kala Namak Rice as the One District One Product (ODOP)?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

[ANS] d

[SOL] Option D is correct. In order to promote the production, processing, packaging and branding of Kala Namak Rice, the UP Government has declared it as the One District One Product

(ODOP) of Siddharth Nagar whereas the Central Government has announced it as the ODOP of Basti, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj and Sant Kabir Nagar.

Q.95 Who among the following is the chairperson of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)?

- (a) Defence Minister
- (b) President
- (c) Chief of Defence Staff
- (d) National Security Advisor

[ANS] a

[SOL] Option A is correct. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) works under the Ministry of Defence and was constituted for overall guidance of the defence procurement planning process. The Defence Minister acts as its chairperson.

Q.96 Consider the following statements:

1. Nearly half the world's population without access to electricity is in sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Solar 'Gigawatt Club' is a subgroup formed by International Solar Alliance.
3. India is also a member of the Solar Gigawatt club.

Which of the statements mentioned above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Algeria and eight other nations can be next members of Solar Gigawatt Club from Africa. Currently, only two African nations feature on the list.

Statement 1 is correct. According to the International Energy Association, nearly half the world's population without access to electricity (591 million) is in sub-Saharan Africa.

Statement 2 is not correct. It is an unofficial tag used by nations having a minimum of 1GW solar power-producing capability. It is not given by any organisation.

Statement 3 is correct. India certainly has more solar power-producing capability. India is targeting 100GW of solar energy by 2022. India has achieved the 5th global position in solar power deployment by surpassing Italy. Solar power capacity has increased by more than 11 times in the last five years from 2.6 GW in March 2014 to 30 GW in July 2019.

Q.97 Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Information Commission (CIC) is an executive body.
2. The term of Chief Information Commissioner is fixed at 5 years or 65 years age whichever is earlier.
3. Public Information Officers are liable to reply to a plea within 30 days.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Supreme Court expressed its displeasure on no reply of Central Government on plea against RTI Amendment Act 2019.

Statement 1 is not correct. The Chief Information Commission (CIC) is a statutory body.

Statement 2 is not correct. The new term of CIC as decided by the Central Government is 3 years after the 2019 amendment.

Statement 3 is correct. Public Information Officers are liable to reply to RTI applications or plead within 30 days.

Q.98 Consider the following statements:

1. Tuberculosis is caused by bacteria.
2. India has the second-highest burden of HIV positive persons infected with TB.
3. CB-NAAT is a diagnostic test for TB.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

[ANS] d

[SOL] In News: Prime Minister of India has declared his vision to eliminate TB from India by 2025.

Statement 1 is correct. Tuberculosis is caused by a bacteria called Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

Statement 2 is correct. India has the second-highest burden of HIV positive persons infected with TB after South Africa.

Statement 3 is correct. CB-NAAT is a diagnostic test for TB.

Q.99 With reference to the Karbis group, consider the following statements:

1. They are mentioned as the Mikirs in the Constitution Order.
2. The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) is protected under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] In News: Recently, 1,040 insurgents of five militant groups of Karbi Anglong district ceremonially laid down arms at an event in Guwahati.

Statement 1 is correct. The Karbis, an important ethnic group in the hill areas of Assam, are mentioned as the Mikirs in the Constitution Order. However, they never call themselves Mikir but call themselves Karbi and sometimes Arleng which literally means a man.

Statement 2 is correct. The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) is an autonomous district council, protected under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which allows the constitution of autonomous district councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to safeguard the rights of the tribal population.

Q.100 Mount Etna, recently seen in the news, is located in?

- (a) Italy
- (b) Colombia
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Iceland

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Option A is correct.** Mount Etna is situated in Sicily in Italy and is Europe's most active volcano. Its geological characteristics indicate that it has been active since the end of the Neogene Period (i.e., for about the past 2.6 million years).

Q.101 *Pasteurella multocida*, recently seen in the news, is related to?

- (a) Infection in Elephants
- (b) Souring of Milk
- (c) Organism sent to the moon by Israel
- (d) Congress Grass imported from US

[ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, 7 elephants in Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha have died of haemorrhagic septicaemia caused by bacteria *Pasteurella multocida*.

Option A is correct. *Pasteurella multocida* is a Gram-negative, nonmotile, penicillin-sensitive coccobacillus of the family Pasteurellaceae. It is the cause of a range of diseases in mammals and birds, including fowl cholera in poultry, atrophic rhinitis in pigs, and bovine hemorrhagic septicemia in cattle and buffalo.

Q.102 With reference to Coffee, consider the following statements:

1. Well-drained and rich friable loam is the ideal soil for coffee cultivation.
2. Its plantations are resistant to frost.
3. Kerala is the highest producer of coffee in India.

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

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

[ANS] c

[SOL] **In News:** Coffee output may drop as rain lashes plantations.

Statement 1 is correct. Well-drained, rich friable loams containing a good deal of humus and minerals like iron and calcium are ideal for coffee cultivation.

Statement 2 is not correct. Coffee plantations are not resistant to frost, prolonged drought, stagnant water and excess sunlight. They are very sensitive crops.

Statement 3 is not correct. Karnataka is the largest producer (about 70% of total coffee production and 60% of the area under coffee in India).

Q.103] Consider the following pairs:

Dynasties : Founders

1. Sangama : Harihara I
2. Aravidu : Tirumala
3. Saluva : Narasa Nayaka
4. Tuluva : Krishnadeva

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

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] **In News:** Recently, the first-ever epigraphical reference to the date of death of Vijayanagar king Krishnadeva Raya has been discovered at Honnenahalli in Tumkur district, Karnataka.

Pair 1 is correct. The Sangama dynasty (1336 to 1485 CE) was founded by Harihara I.

Pair 2 is correct. The Aravidu dynasty (1542 to 1646 CE) was founded by Tirumala.

Pair 3 is not correct. The Saluva dynasty (1485 to 1503 CE) was founded by Saluva Narasimha.

Pair 4 is not correct. The Tuluva dynasty (1491 to 1570 CE) was founded by Tuluva Narasa Nayaka. Krishnadeva Raya was the most famous king of this dynasty.

Q.104 With reference to Saras Aajeevika Mela, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to bring the rural women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under one platform to showcase their skills and sell their products at national level.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Culture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

[ANS] a

[SOL] **Statement 1 is correct:** Through participation in SARAS Aajeevika Mela, rural self-help groups (SHG) women get vital national level exposure to understand the demand and taste of urban customers. It brings SHG under one platform to showcase their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with bulk buyers.

Statement 2 is not correct. It is an initiative of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

Q.105 The City Innovation Exchange (CIX) Platform, recently seen in the news, has been launched by?

- (a) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- (d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

[ANS] d

[SOL] **Option D is correct.** The City Innovation Exchange (CIX) Platform will connect cities to innovators across the national ecosystem to design innovative solutions for their pressing challenges. It has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.