



**CURRENT
AFFAIRS
UPDATED**

ACS PRELIMS CURRENT AFFAIRS QUESTIONS COMPILATION



CURRENT AFFAIRS QUESTIONS & EXPLANATIONS

1. Consider the following pairs:

- | Sea | : Bordering Country |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mediterranean Sea | : Israel |
| 2. Red Sea | : Ethiopia |
| 3. South China Sea | : Taiwan |
| 4. North Sea | : UK |
| 5. Celtic Sea | : Norway |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Ethiopia is a landlocked country in the Horn of Africa. Not open to Red Sea.

Border countries of Mediterranean Sea:
Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, **Israel**, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

Please locate other seas mentioned in the question and their border countries in your map.

2. “Global Hunger Index 2021” is released by which of the following?

- (a) Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe**
- (b) UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- (c) World Justice Project
- (d) Food and Agriculture Organization

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. It was first produced in 2006. It is published every October. The 2021 edition marks the 16th edition of the GHI. India has slipped to 101st position in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 of 116 countries, from its 2020 position of 94th.

3. With reference to Attorney General of India, Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Attorney General of India is appointed by the President on the advice of the central government.

2. The term of office of the Attorney General is not fixed by the constitution.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Both Statements are correct. Please revise your polity chapter on both Attorney General of India and Advocate General of States.

4. The area known as ‘Tigray Region’ sometimes appears in the news is located in

- (a) Central Asia
- (b) South America
- (c) East Africa**
- (d) Middle East

Answer: (c)

Explanation:



5. Among the following cities, which one lies on a longitude closest to that of Srinagar?

- (a) Jaipur**
- (b) Pune
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Bhopal

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Please locate it in your Map



6. In which one of the following states is Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Assam**
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Manipur

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the flood plains of River Brahmaputra in the district of morigaon, Assam. It has the highest density of one-horned rhinos in the world and second highest concentration in Assam after Kaziranga National Park. Often called ‘Mini Kaziranga’ due to similar landscape and vegetation. Pobitora was declared a reserved forest in 1971 and a wildlife sanctuary in 1987. Besides rhinoceros, the other animals are leopard, wild boar, Barking deer, wild buffalo etc. About 72% of Pobitora Sanctuary consists of wet savannah of Arundo donax and Saccharum. The remaining area is covered by water bodies. It is also home to more than 2000 migratory birds and various reptiles. It is also an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (by BirdLife International)

7. With reference to ‘PM-CARES FUND’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is a public charitable trust with the Prime Minister as its Chairman.
- 2. The minimum amount one can donate in the PM-CARES FUND is Rs 100.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

PM CARES Fund allows option for Micro donation; one can donate as low as Rs 10 in the PM CARES Fund. The minimum amount one can donate in the Prime Minister National Relief Fund (PMNRF) is Rs 100. Both PM CARES Fund and PMNRF are chaired by Prime Minister of India.

Please revise the difference between the two.

8. Consider the following statements:

- 1. ‘Lokpal’ is a multi-member body, which consists of one chairperson and a maximum of 8 members.
- 2. The members are appointed by the president on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- 3. The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 5 years or till the age of 70 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Lokpal is a multi-member body, that consists of one chairperson and a maximum of 8 members. Chairperson of the Lokpal should be either the former Chief Justice of India or the former Judge of Supreme Court or an eminent person with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and expertise of minimum 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management.

- Out of the 8 members, half will be judicial members and minimum 50% of the Members will be from SC/ ST/ OBC/ Minorities and women.
- The judicial member of the Lokpal either a former Judge of the Supreme Court or a former Chief Justice of a High Court.
- Non-judicial member should be an eminent person with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and expertise of minimum 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management.
- **The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 5 years or till the age of 70 years.**
- The members are appointed by the president on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.

- **Selection committee:** Prime Minister (Chairperson); Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India or a Judge nominated by him/her and One eminent jurist.

9. The ‘Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)’ was in the news. What is this JCPOA?

- It is a trade bloc agreement by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations supporting local trade and manufacturing
- It is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015, between Iran and the P5+1**
- It is an agreement between the Russian Federation and the European Union for the energy security cooperation
- It is a multilateral cooperation agreement among the BRICS countries for the promotion of Trade

Answer: (b)

10. What does Venture Capital Mean?

- A long-term start-up capital provided to new entrepreneurs
- Funds provided to industries at times of incurring losses
- Funds provided for replacement and renovation of industries
- A short-term capital provided to industries

Answer: (a)

11. With reference to ‘World Trade Organisation (WTO)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- It is an intergovernmental organization that regulates and facilitates international trade between nations.
- It is headquartered in Washington, D.C., United States.
- India is a founder member of the 1947 GATT and its successor, the WTO.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- 2 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only**
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

12. India is **not** a member of which among the following?

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
- G-20
- Indian Ocean Rim Association
- Indian Ocean Commission

Select the answer using the code given below:

- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 2 and 5 only**
- 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (c)

13. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>River</u> | <u>Origin</u> |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Krishna | : Trimbakeshwar |
| 2. Godavari | : Mahabaleshwar |
| 3. Cauvery | : Brahmagiri range |
| 4. Narmada | : Amarkantak range |

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

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- 3 and 4 only**
- 1, 2, and 4 only

Answer: (c)

14. With reference to ‘Minimum Support Prices,’ which of the following statements is/are **incorrect**?

- It is the rate at which the government purchases crops from farmers, and is based on a calculation of at least one-and-a-half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.

Select the answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

15. What is the importance of developing Chabahar Port by India?

- Pakistan will facilitate and protect the installation of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India
- India’s trade with South-East Asian countries will enormously increase

- (c) India's relations with oil-producing Arab countries will be strengthened

(d) India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia

Answer: (d)

16. Which among the following countries were participated the 'Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan', which was hosted by India's National Security Adviser?

1. Pakistan
2. Uzbekistan
3. Russia
4. Iran
5. Kazakhstan

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

17. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Sea</u> | <u>Bordering Country</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Black Sea | : Ukraine |
| 2. East China Sea | : Taiwan |
| 3. Caspian Sea | : Armenia |
| 4. Yellow Sea | : North Korea |
| 5. South China Sea | : Laos |

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

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

Answer: (a)

18. 'StopNCII.org' platform is sometimes seen in the news. Who launched the platform?

- (a) **Meta-Facebook**
(b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(c) National Crime Records Bureau
(d) Twitter

Answer: (a)

19. Which of the following countries did India signed the historic Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) in 2015?

- (a) China

- (b) Myanmar
(c) Bangladesh

- (d) Bhutan

Answer: (c)

20. With reference to the 'Border Security Force (BSF)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces of India, and was raised in the wake of the 1965 War on 1 December 1965.
2. It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. Recently, the ministry has extended the jurisdiction of the BSF up to 50 km inside the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

21. Sea of Azov is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Turkey
2. Russia
3. Ukraine
4. Belarus

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

22. Consider the following pairs with regards to the subject mentioned under the seventh schedule of the Constitution:

| <u>Subject</u> | <u>List</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Prison | : Union List |
| 2. Bankruptcy &insolvency: | Concurrent List |
| 3. Liquor Trade & Commerce | : State List |
| 4. Cyber Laws | : Concurrent List |

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

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

- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 3 and 4 only

Answer: (b)

23. With reference to ‘OPEC,’ Consider the following statements?

1. OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization of 13 oil-exporting developing nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its Member Countries.
2. It was founded in Baghdad with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Incorrect?**

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

Answer: (d)

24. With reference to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1958, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The original form of AFSPA was promulgated by the British in response to the Quit India movement in 1942.
2. The Act provides special powers for the armed forces that can be imposed by the cabinet ministry of the state government, on the state or parts of it, after it is declared “disturbed” under Section 3.
3. It remains in force in Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, J&K, and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

25. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Cyclone Names</u> | <u>Suggested by</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cyclone Jawad | : Oman |
| 2. Cyclone Gulaab | : Pakistan |
| 3. Cyclone Taukta | : Myanmar |
| 4. Cyclone Yaas | : Saudi Arabia |
| 5. Cyclone Amphan | : Thailand |

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

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

Answer: (c)

26. Consider the following pairs:

Strategically important ports : Location

1. Hambantota Port : Seychelles
2. Port of Duqm : Oman
3. Port Ehoala : Madagascar
4. Port of Victoria : Sri Lanka

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

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

Answer: (c)

27. The ‘Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure’ often appears in the news in the context of the affairs of a group of countries known as

- (a) G20
(b) ASEAN
(c) **SCO**
(d) BIMSTEC

Answer: (c)

28. Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the ‘Eight Degree Channel’?

- (a) Andaman and Nicobar
(b) Nicobar and Sumatra
(c) **Maldives and Lakshadweep**
(d) Java and Sumatra

Answer: (c)

29. With reference to the ‘OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) Cardholders’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. As per the provisions of section 5(1) (g) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, a person who is registered as an OCI for 5 years and is residing in India for 1 year out of the above 5 years, is eligible to apply for Indian Citizenship.
2. According to Section 7A of the OCI card rules: an applicant is not eligible for the OCI card if

- he, his parents or grandparents have ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh.
3. The OCI cardholders is entitled to vote, be a member of Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council or Parliament, can hold constitutional posts such as President, Vice President, Judge of Supreme Court or High Court etc.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

- 30.** Which of the following countries are the members of D-10 Strategy Forum?

1. India
2. United States
3. Japan
4. Australia
5. South Korea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

- 31.** Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Classical Dances</u> | <u>State</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Kuchipudi | : Tamil Nadu |
| 2. Sattriya | : Assam |
| 3. Bharatnatyam | : Andhra Pradesh |
| 4. Kathak | : Uttar Pradesh |

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

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

Answer: (b)

- 32.** With reference to ‘Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010 ’Consider the following statements?

1. It aims to regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality by certain individual associations or companies.

2. The Act makes Aadhaar number mandatory for all office bearers, directors or key functionaries of a person receiving foreign contribution, as an identification document.

3. It is implemented by the Union Ministry of Finance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

- 33.** With reference to the ‘Payment Banks’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It can accept demand deposits in the form of savings and current accounts.
2. The payment banks can issue credit cards.
3. It can also accept time deposits or NRI deposits.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

- 34.** Which among the following goods are considered as ‘White goods’?

1. Washing machines
2. Air conditioners
3. Stoves
4. Refrigerators
5. LED Lights

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

- 35.** Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Region</u> | <u>often in news</u> | <u>Country</u> |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Berdyansk | : | Ukraine |
| 2. Yangon | : | China |
| 3. Xinjiang | : | Myanmar |
| 4. Minsk | : | Belarus |

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

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

Answer: (b)

36. Recently, linking of which of the following rivers was approved the funding and the implementation of the project?

- (a) Cauvery and Tungabhadra
- (b) Ken and Betwa**
- (c) Tapi and Narmada
- (d) Mahanadi and Sone

Answer: (b)

37. With reference to the ‘James Webb Space Telescope’, Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the joint project of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), ESA (European Space Agency) and the Canadian Space Agency.
2. Unlike the Hubble space telescope, the James Webb telescope will orbit the Earth at an altitude of around 570 kilometres above the planet.

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

Answer: (a)

38. Which of the following countries are the members of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)?

1. India
2. China
3. Japan
4. ASEAN Member States
5. United States

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

39. With reference to ‘Electoral Bonds’ Consider the following statements?

1. The electoral bonds are interest-free bearer instruments used to donate money anonymously to political parties.
2. These bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.
3. Any banks that are listed under the 2nd schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 are authorised to sell it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

40. With reference to the ‘Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The first NAM conference took place in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1961.
2. During 2nd NAM conference at Cairo, the government of South Africa was warned against the discriminatory practices of apartheid.
3. The purpose of the organization was enumerated in Havana Declaration of 1979 to ensure “the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries” in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign subjugation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

41. With reference to ‘India-Central Asia Dialogue’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and the Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
2. The first India-Central Asia Dialogue was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister of India.

3. All the countries participating in the dialogue are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (a)

42. With reference to the ‘Indian Pangolin’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Indian Pangolin can be distinguished from other Asian pangolins by the size of its scales, which reach a considerably larger size than scales of the Chinese, Sunda and Philippine pangolins.
- 2. It is listed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

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

Answer: (a)

43. With reference to ‘National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCAOR)’, consider the following statements?

- 1. It was established as an autonomous Research and Development Institution of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India on the 25th May 1998.
- 2. It is the nodal agency for planning, promoting, coordinating, and executing the entire gamut of polar and southern ocean scientific research in the country and the associated logistics activities.
- 3. The responsibilities of NCAOR include the management of the Indian Antarctic Research Bases “Maitri” and “Bharati”, and the Indian Arctic base “Himadri”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

44. With reference to the ‘Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is a small deposit scheme for girl child, launched as a part of the ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ campaign.
- 2. An account under the scheme shall be opened for a maximum of two girl children in one family under normal conditions.
- 3. The account shall mature on completion of 21 years from the date of opening of the account.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

45. With reference to ‘Vertical and Horizontal Reservation’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Vertical reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities, cutting through the vertical categories.
- 2. Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes is referred to as Horizontal reservation.

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

Answer: (d)

46. The National Voters’ Day is observed on

- (a) 25th January
- (b) 26th November
- (c) 15th August
- (d) 15th September

Answer: (a)

47. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Martial Arts</u> | <u>State</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. Kalaripayattu | : Kerala |
| 2. Mallakhamb | : Punjab |

3. Gatka : Maharashtra

4. Thang-ta : Manipur

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

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

Answer: (a)

48. The ‘Open Skies Treaty’ was in the news. What is this Treaty?

- (a) It is an agreement between the India and the United States to develop air-launched unmanned aerial vehicle or drones that can be launched from an aircraft
- (b) **It is an agreement that allows its participants to fly unarmed reconnaissance flights over any part of their fellow member states**
- (c) It is a treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on measures for the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms
- (d) It is an agreement that prohibit the member states from possessing, testing and deploying ground-launched cruise and ballistic missiles

Answer: (b)

49. Parakram Diwas is observed to celebrate on birth anniversary of

- (a) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- (c) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
- (d) **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**

Answer: (d)

50. “The Inequality Virus—Global Report 2021” is released by which of the following?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) World Health Organization
- (c) World Justice Project
- (d) **Oxfam International**

Answer: (d)

51. With reference to ‘Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)’, consider the following statements?

1. It is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

2. CDSCO is responsible for approval of Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice with a view of bringing about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

3. It is under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

52. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Protected Areas</u> | <u>State</u> |
|------------------------|--------------|
|------------------------|--------------|

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Chilika Lake | : Odisha |
| 2. Sitanadi-Udanti TR | : Chhattisgarh |
| 3. Karlapat WS | : Andhra Pradesh |
| 4. Periyar TR | : Kerala |

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

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

Answer: (d)

53. With reference to ‘Total Solar Eclipse’, consider the following statements?

1. It occurs when the New Moon comes between the Sun and Earth and casts the darkest part of its shadow, the umbra, on Earth.
2. During a total eclipse of the Sun, the Moon covers the entire disk of the Sun.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

54. With reference to ‘Security Transaction Tax (STT)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an indirect tax levied on every purchase and sale of securities that are listed on the recognized stock exchanges in India.

2. It was introduced in the year 2004 to curb tax evasion of capital gains tax.
3. The securities include equities, derivatives, equity funds, unlisted shares of IPO and offer for sale.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

- 55.** With reference to the ‘NIFTY Index’, Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. NIFTY is the benchmark index of the National Stock Exchange in India.
2. Nifty lists out top 30 companies which traded on the NSE stock exchange market.

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

Answer: (a)

- 56.** With reference to ‘Finance Commission’, Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a constitutional body, which determines the method and formula for distributing the tax proceeds between the Centre and states.
2. Under Article 280 of the Constitution, the President of India is required to constitute a Finance Commission at an interval of five years or earlier.
3. The 15th Finance Commission has recommended the share of states in the central taxes for the 2021-26 periods is to be 41%.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

- 57.** Which Article of the Constitution of India safeguards one’s right to live with human dignity?

- (a) Article 19
- (b) Article 21**

- (c) Article 25
- (d) Article 29

Answer: (b)

- 58.** With reference to ‘Lingaraj Temple’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Lingaraja Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is considered as the largest temple of the city Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
2. It is an example of the Dravidian Style of Temple Architecture.
3. It is built in the Deula style that has four components, namely Vimana (structure containing the sanctum), Jagamohana (assembly hall) Natamandira (festival hall) and bhoga-mandapa (hall of offerings)

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

- 59.** The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with

- (a) administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**
- (b) allocation of seats for States and Union Territories in the Rajya Sabha
- (c) allocation of powers and functions between Union & States
- (d) administration and control of Scheduled Areas as well as of Scheduled Tribes residing in any State

Answer: (a)

- 60.** Recently, the ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’ was celebrated to mark the anniversary of

- (a) Bangladesh Liberation War, 1971**
- (b) Indo-Pak War, 1965
- (c) Sino-Indian War, 1962
- (d) The Kargil War, 1999

Answer: (a)

- 61.** “The Digital Payments Index” is released by which of the following?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India**
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Union Ministry of Finance
- (d) National Payments Corporation of India

Answer: (a)

62. With reference to the ‘G20 (Group of 20) countries’ Consider the following statements.

1. It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU), with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
2. India is a member of G20.
3. It does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

63. With reference to ‘The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering.
2. The FATF Secretariat is located in Paris.

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

Answer: (c)

64. The right to protest in India is a

- (a) Fundamental right**
- (b) Legal Right
- (c) Constitutional right
- (d) None of the Above

Answer: (a)

65. Which of the following is a form of indirect tax?

1. Corporate Tax
2. Goods and Services Tax
3. Income Tax
4. Value Added Tax

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

Answer: (b)

66. ‘Index of Industrial Production’ is compiled and published monthly by the

- (a) National Statistical Office**
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Reserve Bank of India
- (d) Ministry of Finance

Answer: (a)

67. “World Employment and Social Outlook” report is released by which of the following?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) International Labour Organization**
- (c) World Trade Organization
- (d) United Nations Development Programme

Answer: (b)

68. With reference to ‘Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Scheme’ Consider the following statements.

1. It is a demand-driven wage employment scheme, which functions under the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. The scheme envisages providing 200 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year.
3. Every adult member of a household in a rural area with a job card is eligible for a job under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

69. With reference to ‘the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)’, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to provide health insurance coverage to the unrecognised sector workers belonging to the BPL category.
2. While the scheme was started under the Ministry of Labor and Employment, it is now under 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

Answer: (d)

70. With reference to ‘Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)’ which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Membership in the AIIB is open to all members of the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank and is divided into regional and non-regional members.
2. The Board of Governors in the AIIB consists of one Governor and one Alternate Governor appointed by each member country.
3. China is its biggest shareholder and India is the second-largest in the AIIB.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

71. With reference to the ‘Seagrasses’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Seagrasses are flowering plants that grow submerged in shallow marine waters like bays and lagoons.
2. Seagrasses occur all along the coastal areas of India and are abundant in the Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu.

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

Answer: (c)

72. With reference to ‘Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-Kisan Yojana)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.
2. Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal installments, directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.

3. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

73. Which among the following state is celebrating the popular ‘Bathukamma festival’ in India?

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

Answer: (c)

74. Military Exercise ‘Yudh Abhyas’ is the largest joint military training between India and

- (a) **United States**
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Thailand
- (d) France

Answer: (a)

75. “The Digital Payments Index” is released by which of the following?

- (a) **Reserve Bank of India**
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Union Ministry of Finance
- (d) National Payments Corporation of India

Answer: (a)

76. Which of the following Article in Indian constitution is deals with the child labour?

- (a) Article 14
- (b) Article 21
- (c) **Article 24**
- (d) Article 32

Answer: (c)

77. The Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG-7) deals with

- (a) **Affordable and Clean Energy**
- (b) Decent Work and Economic Growth
- (c) Sustainable Cities and Communities
- (d) Climate Action

Answer: (a)

78. ‘Operation Red Rose’ to curb illicit liquor trading and nail excise-related crimes, sometimes seen in the news is an initiative of which of following state government

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Punjab**
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (b)

79. The term ‘Inverted duty structure’ refers to

- (a) Higher taxes on input and lower tax on output or final product**
- (b) Higher taxes on output or final product and lower tax on input
- (c) Lower taxes levied on imported goods
- (d) Lower taxes levied on exported goods

Answer: (a)

80. With reference to the ‘Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)’, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham.
- 2. The ASI functions under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- 3. It is under the Ministry of Tourism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

81. With reference to the ‘Discretionary Powers of Governor’ Consider the following statements.

- 1. The Governor can recommend the President about the failure of the constitutional machinery in the state.
- 2. The Governor can appointment a chief minister when no party has a clear majority in the state legislative assembly or when the current chief minister dies unexpectedly and there is no obvious successor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

82. With reference to the ‘International North South Transport Corridor’ Consider the following statements.

- 1. It is a multi-modal transportation established on 12th September 2000 in St. Petersburg, by Iran, Russia and India for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.
- 2. This corridor connects India Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via the Islamic Republic of Iran and then is connected to St. Petersburg and North Europe via the Russian Federation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

83. With reference to ‘International Solar Alliance (ISA)’, Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is an Indian initiative that was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris, France on the side-lines of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties-21 (COP21).
- 2. ISA is the nodal agency for implementing ‘One Sun One World One Grid’, which seeks to transfer solar power generated in one region to feed the electricity demands of others.
- 3. The Headquarters is in India with its Interim Secretariat being set up in Gurugram.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

84. “Living Planet Report” is released by which of the following?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) International Labour Organization
- (c) World Wildlife Fund**
- (d) United Nations Environment Programme

Answer: (c)

85. With reference to the ‘Aahaar Kranti Mission’, consider the following statements.

1. It aims to focus on addressing the problem of hunger and diseases in abundance across India and the world.
2. The motto of the Mission is “Uttam Aahaar-Uttam Vichaar or Good Diet-Good Cognition”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

86. With reference to the ‘Global Tiger Forum’, consider the following statements.

1. It is the only intergovernmental international body established with members from willing countries to embark on a global campaign to protect the Tiger.
2. It was formed in 1993 based on the recommendations of International Union for Conservation of Nature and United Nations Environment Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ Global Tiger Forum (GTF) is an inter-governmental body set up exclusively for the conservation of tigers across nations.
- ✓ Established in 1994, this organization was set up as per recommendations in the International Symposium on Tiger Conservation 1993 and is supported by member nations and non-governmental organizations like World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and other bodies.
- ✓ The member countries who are part of the Global Tiger Forum include tiger range countries like India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam. The United Kingdom is the only non-tiger range country that is supporting tiger conservation programs.

87. With reference to ‘Asian Development Bank’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a regional development bank established in 1966.
2. India is a founding member of Asian Development Bank.
3. Asian Development Outlook is a series of annual economic reports on the Developing Member Countries of the Asian Development Bank.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

88. With reference to the ‘Foreigners Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The FCRA registration is voluntary for any NGO or association to receive foreign funds or donations.
2. The Union Finance Ministry is the controlling authority of the FCRA and it conducts inspections and audits of NGOs.

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

Answer: (d)

89. With reference to ‘BIMSTEC’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was established as a grouping of four nations, India, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka through the Bangkok Declaration of 1997.
2. To become a member of the BIMSTEC, a country must first join the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

3. It is headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

90. ‘**Shigmo**’ is the celebration of a ‘rich, golden harvest of paddy’ by the tribal communities of which among the following state in India?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Goa**
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (b)

91. Which of the following Article in Indian constitution are deals with the right to freedom of speech and expression?

- (a) Article 17
- (b) Article 18
- (c) Article 19**
- (d) Article 20

Answer: (c)

92. The ‘Project RE-HAB’, sometimes seen in the news, aims to

- (a) mitigate human-elephant conflict**
- (b) creating the policy conditions for solar technology diffusion
- (c) expand affordable access to financial services
- (d) make Indian products competitive in global markets

Answer: (a)

93. ‘SAAMAR Campaign’ to tackle malnutrition and anemia, was sometimes seen in the news is an initiative of which of following state government

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Utter Pradesh
- (c) Jharkhand**
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: (c)

94. The ‘Zero Covid Policy’ refers to

- (a) a strategy involves strict lockdowns and extensive testing, heavily controlled or closed borders, as well as robust contact tracing systems and quarantine mandates**
- (b) a strategy to ensure no one is left behind with COVID-19 vaccinations
- (c) a temporary arrangements between two countries aimed at restarting commercial passenger services when regular international flights are suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

(d) key policy responses that governments are taking to limit the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Answer: (a)

95. With reference to the ‘National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)’, consider the following statements.

- 1. It was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- 2. No case can come to NCLAT directly; it must either come from NCLT under Section 421 of Companies Act, 2013 or any other body given in Section 410 of Companies Act, 2013.
- 3. A retired Supreme Court judge can be appointed as the Chairperson of the NCLAT.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

96. With reference to the ‘Leader of the Opposition’, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Leader of the opposition is a statutory post defined under the definition clause Section 2 of The Salaries and Allowances of Leader of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
- 2. To claim the position of “official opposition” in either house of the parliament, a party has to secure 55 seats (10%) of the seats in Lok Sabha and 25 seats (10%) of the seats in Rajya Sabha (Mavlanker Rule).
- 3. The Leader of the Opposition is recognized by the president of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

97. “The Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)” is an initiative of which of the following?

- (a) Union Ministry of Education**
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Higher Education Funding Agency
- (d) University Grants Commission of India

Answer: (a)

98. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Tiger Reserve</u> | <u>State</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Valmiki TR | : Uttar Pradesh |
| 2. Similipal TR | : Odisha |
| 3. Pilibhit TR | : Bihar |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only**
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

99. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Capital Cities</u> | <u>Country</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Kyiv | : Ukraine |
| 2. Ouagadougou | : Burkina Faso |
| 3. Sanaa | : Yemen |
| 4. Vilnius | : Lithuania |
| 5. Nur-Sultan | : Kazakhstan |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

100. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>River</u> | <u>Origin</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Cauvery | : Brahmagiri range |
| 2. Ken | : Vindhya Range |
| 3. Betwa | : Kaimur Range |
| 4. Godavari | : Trimbakeshwar Range |

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

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

Answer: (d)

101. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Strait</u> | <u>Connects between</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Palk Strait | : Bay of Bengal with Palk Bay |
| 2. Strait of Malacca | : Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman |
| 3. Strait of Hormuz | : Andaman Sea and South China Sea |
| 4. Kerch Strait | : Black Sea and Sea of Azov |

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

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

Answer: (c)

102. With reference to the composition of ‘National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)’ Consider the following statements.

1. A person who has been the Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court can be appointed as the chairperson.
2. The chairman and members hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
3. The chairman and members are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as its head, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament and the Union Home Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

103. With reference to ‘Greater One-Horned Rhino (also known as the Indian rhino)’, Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is identified by a single black horn and a grey-brown hide with skin folds.
2. The IUCN Status of Indian rhino is critically endangered.
3. World Rhino Day is observed on 22th September to spread awareness for all five species of rhino and work being done to save them.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

104. “Global Economic Prospects” is released by which of the following?

- (a) World Economic Forum

(b) World Bank

- (c) International Monetary Fund
(d) World Trade Organization

Answer: (b)

105. With reference to the ‘Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)’ Consider the following statements.

1. It is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
2. CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

106. With reference to the ‘PM-CARES Fund’, consider the following statements.

1. Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.
2. It can avail donations from the foreign contribution and donations to fund can also avail 100% tax exemption.
3. PM CARES Fund has also got exemption under the FCRA and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

107. With reference to ‘National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.

2. For the Commission, protection of all children in the 0 to 18 years age group is of equal importance.

3. This commission has a chairperson and six members of which at least two should be women.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

108. With reference to the ‘Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Drugs Controller General of India is the head of department of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of the Government of India.
2. The DCGI is responsible for approval of licences of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, IV fluids, vaccines and sera in India.
3. It comes under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (a)

109. With reference to ‘Electoral Bond Scheme’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The electoral bonds are interest-free bearer instruments used to donate money anonymously to political parties.
2. Reserve Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance.
3. Only the Political Parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 and which secured not less than one percent of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, shall be eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

110. Which of the following Articles in Indian constitution are deals with the fundamental right to move freely throughout the territory of India?

- (a) Article 14
- (b) Article 19**
- (c) Article 21
- (d) Article 25

Answer: (b)

111. The ‘Third Child Policy’, sometimes seen in the news, is an initiative of which of the following country?

- (a) India
- (b) China**
- (c) United States
- (d) Indonesia

Answer: (b)

112. What is the purpose of the ‘Pencil Portal’?

- (a) Eliminate child labour in India**
- (b) Empowerment of women in campuses
- (c) Enhancement of learning levels of Children
- (d) Providing vocational and general education broadly related to employment trends

Answer: (a)

113. The ‘Build Back Better World’, sometimes seen in the news, is an international economic initiative of which of the following groupings?

- (a) G-20
- (b) G-7**
- (c) SCO
- (d) BRICS

Answer: (b)

114. With reference to the ‘Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)’, consider the following statements.

1. It is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services

(Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard.

2. National Security Advisor of India is the chairperson of the Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

115. With reference to the ‘National Food Security Act, 2013’ Consider the following statements.

1. It aims to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
2. The Act legally entitles upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System.
3. As a step towards women empowerment, the eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above is mandated to be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing of ration cards under the Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

116. “Industrial Outlook Survey” released by which of the following?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Reserve Bank of India**
- (c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (d) Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

Answer: (b)

117. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Region</u> | <u>Country</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Sahel Region | : Kazakhstan |
| 2. Ural River | : Burkina Faso |
| 3. Donbass Region | : Ukraine |
| 4. Hindu Kush | : Afghanistan |

Which of the pairs given above is/are *incorrectly* matched?

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

Answer: (a)

118. With reference to the ‘Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948’, Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an international treaty that criminalizes genocide and obligates state parties to enforce its prohibition.
2. Since signing the Genocide Convention and ratifying it, to date India has not enacted any legislation in accordance with Article VI of the Genocide Convention.

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

Answer: (c)

119. With reference to the ‘Black Carbon’ Consider the following statements.

1. The black carbon is a long-lived climate pollutant with a lifetime of 3 years to 12 years after release in the atmosphere.
2. It is formed by the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, wood and other fuels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

120. With reference to the ‘Sedition Law’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The law was originally drafted in 1837 by Thomas Macaulay, the British historian-politician, but was inexplicably omitted when the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was enacted in 1860.
2. It defines sedition as an offence committed when “any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation,

or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India”.

3. A person charged under this law is barred from a government job.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

121. With reference to the ‘International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)’, Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Covenant was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1966 and came into force in 1976.
2. India has not ratified the ICCPR, which sets forth internationally recognized standards for the protection of freedom of expression.

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

Answer: (a)

122. With reference to the ‘Atlantic Charter’, consider the following statements.

1. The Atlantic Charter was a joint declaration issued during World War II (1939-45) by the United States and USSR to end the cold war.
2. The document is considered one of the first key steps toward the establishment of the United Nations in 1945.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

123. Which of the following is/are the features of the **5G Technology**?

- Operate in the millimetre wave spectrums which have the advantage of sending large amounts of data at very high speeds.
- Operate in 3 bands, namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum.
- Reduced latency will support new applications that leverage the power of 5G, the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence.
- Increased capacity on 5G networks can minimize the impact of load spikes, like those that take place during sporting events and news events.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

124. With reference to the ‘MPLAD (Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) Scheme’, consider the following statements:

- It aims to provide a mechanism for the Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature for creation of durable community assets and for provision of basic facilities including community infrastructure, based on locally felt needs.
- Under the scheme, nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select works for implementation anywhere in the country.
- The district authority is empowered to examine the eligibility of works, sanction funds and select the implementing agencies, prioritise works, supervise overall execution, and monitor the scheme at the ground level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

125. With reference to the ‘Public Accounts Committee (PAC)’, consider the following statements:

- The Public Accounts Committee consists of 30 members who are elected by the Lok Sabha every year from among its members.

- The Chairperson of the PAC is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- The main function of PAC is to examine the audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) after it is laid in the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

126. Consider the following statements with regard to the ‘Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)’:

- Alternative Investment Fund comprises pooled investment funds which invest in venture capital, private equity, hedge funds, managed futures etc.
- AIF are private funds which are coming under the jurisdiction Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

127. With reference to the ‘Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- It is a large system of ocean currents that carry cold water from the tropics southward into the south Atlantic.
- If the AMOC collapsed, it would increase cooling of the Northern Hemisphere, sea level rise in the Atlantic, an overall fall in precipitation over Europe and North America and a shift in monsoons in South America and Africa.

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

Answer: (b)

128. With reference to ‘The Census’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Census was first started under British Viceroy Lord Canning in 1861.
2. The first synchronous census in India was held in 1881.
3. The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

129. Which of the following Article in Indian constitution deals with the “**right to move freely throughout the territory of India**”?

- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 19**
- (c) Article 21
- (d) Article 23

Answer: (b)

130. The term “VIRUS” in the computer system stands for:

- (a) Virtual Information Resources Under Siege
- (b) Vital Important Resources Under Siege
- (c) Vital Information Resources Under Siege**
- (d) Virtual Information Resorts Under Siege

Answer: (c)

131. Which of the following is the correct name of the Indian Air Force helicopter which crashed near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu on 8th December 2021?

- (a) Mi 26
- (b) MK 1A
- (c) Mi 17V5**
- (d) MQ - 9

Answer: (c)

132. Who among the following artists was originally drew the painting of “**Bharat Mata**”?

- (a) Raja Ravi Varma
- (b) Amrita Sher-Gil
- (c) Abanindranath Tagore**
- (d) Nandalal Bose

Answer: (c)

133. With reference to the ‘**Judicial Disqualification or Recusal**’, consider the following statements.

1. Judicial disqualification, referred to as recusal, is the act of abstaining from participation in an official action such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official or administrative officer.
2. There are no definite rules on recusals by Judges in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

134. With reference to the ‘**Global Minimum Corporate Tax**,’ consider the following statements.

1. Global Minimum Corporate Tax is an additional tax imposed on large multinational companies, potentially forcing them to pay taxes to countries based on where their goods or services are sold, regardless of whether they have a physical presence in that nation.
2. It neutralizes the low tax incentive and will discourage multinationals from shifting profits - and tax revenues - to low-tax countries regardless of where their sales are made.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

135. Consider the following statements:

1. Rule of Law is to control the unlimited exercise of the power by the supreme lawmaking authority of the land while the Rule by Law is laid down by the supreme lawmaking authority of the land.
2. Rule by law is upheld when the laws are guided by the ideals like Justice and Equity.
3. Rule of law can embody ethical as well as unethical laws.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Answer: (a)

136. With reference to the ‘**Drone Rules 2021**,’ consider the following statements:

1. No flight permission is required up to 400 feet in green zones and up to 200 feet in the area between 8 and 12 km from the airport perimeter.
2. No Pilot licence is required for micro drones for non-commercial use, nano drones and for the Research & Development organisations.
3. No restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

137. With reference to the ‘**Fiscal Deficit**,’ which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government is termed as fiscal deficit.
2. Direct monetisation of the government’s fiscal deficit may give rise to unproductive spending and may lead to higher inflation.

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

Answer: (c)

138. The “**Malimath Committee**”, was sometimes seen in the news, is associated with

- (a) **Reforming Criminal Justice System**
- (b) Reforming Higher Education
- (c) Good and Service Tax Reforms
- (d) Textile Sector Reforms

Answer: (a)

139. The “**Meteorological Drought**”, sometimes mentioned in the news, is refers to

- (a) **a drought occurs when there is a prolonged time with less than average precipitation**

- (b) a severe drought kind of situation that develops very rapidly
- (c) a drought brought about when the water reserves available in sources such as aquifers, lakes and reservoirs fall below a locally significant threshold
- (d) a drought occurs when soil moisture goes below the level needed to sustain plant growth

Answer: (a)

140. With reference to the ‘**Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme**,’ consider the following statements:

1. The RoDTEP scheme would refund to exporters the embedded Central, State and local duties or taxes that were so far not being rebated or refunded and were, therefore, placing our exports at a disadvantage.
2. The rebates under RoDTEP is WTO-compliant as per legal advice, range from 0.5% to 4.3% of the Free On Board value of outbound consignments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

141. With reference to the ‘**Organic farming**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. ‘Organic farming’ is a system of farm design and management to create an ecosystem of agriculture production without the use of synthetic external inputs such as chemical fertilisers, pesticides and synthetic hormones or genetically modified organisms.
2. Sikkim became the first State in the world to become fully organic in 2016.
3. Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory in India to be declared 100% organic by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2020.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

142. The 'Maitri Setu' bridge, sometimes seen in the news, connects Sabroom town in Tripura to _____ in Bangladesh.

- (a) Srimangal
- (b) Ramgarh**
- (c) Cox's Bazar
- (d) Sonargaon

Answer: (b)

143. With reference to the 'National Education Policy (NEP) 2020', consider the following statements:

1. It is the first education policy of the 21st century and replaces the thirty-four-year-old National Policy on Education, 1986.
2. This policy envisages that the extant 10+2 structure in school education will be modified with a new pedagogical and curricular restructuring of 5+3+3+4 covering ages 3-18.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

144. Who among the following is/are included in the committee constituted for the appointment of the **National Human Rights Commission?**

1. The President
2. Prime Minister as a Chairperson
3. Speaker of Lok Sabha
4. Chairman of Rajya Sabha
5. Union Home Minister
6. Leaders of the Opposition in both Houses of the Parliament

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

145. The first e-court in India was opened at the high court of

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Hyderabad**
- (c) Calcutta

- (d) Mumbai

Answer: (b)

146. Which among the following was the first cyber law enacted in India?

- (a) Information Technology Act, 2000**
- (b) Cyber Law 1989
- (c) Cyber Security Law 2003
- (d) Computer Misuse Act 1990

Answer: (a)

147. With reference to the '**National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was established under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
2. The Constitution 102nd Amendment Act, 2018 gave constitutional status to the NCBC, and empowered the President to notify the list of socially and educationally backward classes for any state or union territory for all purposes.

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

Answer: (c)

148. With reference to the '**Foreigners Tribunal**', consider the following statements:

1. Foreigners' Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies established as per the Foreigners' Tribunal Order, 1964 and the Foreigners' Act, 1946.
2. The powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.
3. A member can be a retired judicial officer of the Assam Judicial Service, a retired civil servant not below the rank of secretary and additional secretary with judicial experience, or a practising advocate not below the age of 35 years and with at least seven years of practice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

149. The “**Kasturirangan Committee and the Gadgil Committee Report**” were sometimes seen in the news, are related to

- (a) Interlinking of Rivers
- (b) Protection of Western Ghats**
- (c) Protection of Eastern Ghats
- (d) Personal Data Protection Bill

Answer: (b)

150. With reference to the ‘**Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)**’, consider the following statements:

1. The CAMPA funds are part of long-pending dues of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund, a ₹54,000-crore tranche collected for nearly a decade as environmental compensation from industry, which has razed forest land for its business plans.
2. As per the rules, 90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre.
3. The funds can be used for treatment of catchment areas, assisted natural regeneration, forest management, wildlife protection and management, relocation of villages from protected areas, managing human-wildlife conflicts, training and awareness generation, supply of wood saving devices and allied activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

151. With reference to the ‘**Biological Diversity Act, 2002**’, consider the following statements:

1. It aims at the conservation of biological resources, managing its sustainable use and enabling fair and equitable sharing benefits arising out of the use and knowledge of biological resources with the local communities.
2. The Act provides for setting up of a National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees in local bodies.
3. Any grievances related to the determination of benefit sharing or order of the

National Biodiversity Authority or a State Biodiversity Board under this Act shall be taken to the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

152. “**A2+FL**” and ‘**C2**’ costs, sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to

- (a) Minimum Support Price of crop**
- (b) Covid 19 Vaccination
- (c) Measuring of Fiscal Deficit
- (d) WTO Agreement on Agriculture

Answer: (a)

153. With reference to the ‘**Cryptocurrency**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A cryptocurrency is a digital asset designed to work as a medium of exchange wherein individual coin ownership records are stored in a ledger existing in a form of a computerized database.
2. It typically does not exist in physical form like paper money and is not issued by a central authority.
3. Cryptocurrencies typically use decentralized control as opposed to centralized digital currency and central banking systems.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

154. Recently, the “**Parker Solar Probe**” has become the first spacecraft to fly through the outer atmosphere of the Sun- ‘Corona’. Which among the following space agency was launched the mission?

- (a) NASA**
- (b) ISRO
- (c) JAXA
- (d) European Space Agency

Answer: (a)

155. With reference to the ‘**James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an orbiting infrared observatory that will complement and extend the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope, with longer wavelength coverage and greatly improved sensitivity.
2. James Webb orbits around the Earth at an altitude of about 570 km.
3. It is a joint venture between the NASA, European Space Agency and Canadian space agencies

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

156. With reference to the ‘**Geographical Indication (GI) tag**’, Consider the following statements:

1. A Geographical Indication is used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
2. This tag is valid for a period of 100 years following which it can be renewed.
3. The first product in India to be accorded with GI tag was Darjeeling tea in the year 2004-05.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

157. “ACROSS Scheme”, sometimes mentioned in the news, is aims to

- (a) provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecast and services**
- (b) provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes
- (c) provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof
- (d) provide electrification to all villages in India

Answer: (a)

158. “**Global Gender Gap Report 2021**” is released by which of the following?

- (a) Global Fund for Women
(b) World Economic Forum
(c) World Justice Project
(d) United Nations Women

Answer: (b)

159. With reference to the ‘**Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The CAG is appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his/ her hand and seal.
2. He/ She holds office for a period of six years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
3. CAG audits the accounts related to all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, Consolidated Fund of each state and UT having a legislative assembly.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

160. With reference to the ‘**Zika virus**’, Consider the following statements:

1. Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys.
2. The Zika virus is predominantly transmitted by infected mosquitoes from the Aedes genus, mainly Aedes aegypti.
3. The Zika virus has no treatment or vaccine.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

161. With reference to the ‘**Delimitation Commission**’, consider the following statement:

1. According to the Delimitation Commission Act, 2002, the Delimitation Commission will have six members.
2. The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
3. The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President with the help of the Election Commission in 1950-51.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

162. “Paray Shikshalaya”, an open-air classroom initiative, was sometimes seen in the news, launched by

- (a) **West Bengal**
- (b) Assam
- (c) Utter Pradesh
- (d) Odisha

Answer: (a)

163. ‘The Opportunity Index 2021’ report is released by

- (a) LinkedIn**
- (b) Indeed
- (c) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (d) National Statistical Office

Answer: (a)

164. To commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, India celebrates the ‘National Youth Day or Yuva Diwas’, which is on

- (a) January 12**
- (b) 31 October
- (c) 14th April
- (d) 23rd January

Answer: (a)

165. Which of the following international organization is governed by an international treaty called the ‘Rome Statute’?

- (a) International Criminal Court**
- (b) International Court of Justice
- (c) International Labour Organization
- (d) International Development Law Organization

Answer: (a)

166. The ‘Kostak Rate’ is related to an IPO application, was sometimes seen in the news is refers to

- (a) the rate at which an investor buys an IPO application before the listing**
- (b) the premium at which the IPO shares are traded in the grey market
- (c) the rate at which a buyer sells an IPO application before the listing
- (d) the premium at which the IPO bonds are traded in the open market

Answer: (a)

167. “El Nino” is a complex weather pattern, which is part of the ‘El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)’ cycle, is refers to the

- (a) period is characterized by warming or increased sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean**
- (b) unusual cooling of the tropical eastern Pacific
- (c) warmer western basin of the Indian Ocean as compared to the Eastern basin
- (d) warmer water and greater precipitation in the eastern Indian Ocean, and cooler and drier conditions in the west

Answer: (a)

168. The “FAME India Scheme”, was sometimes seen in the news, is aims to

- (a) provide financial, technical and business support to upgrade existing micro food processing enterprise
- (b) encourage electric vehicles by providing subsidies**
- (c) preserve and revitalize the rich cultural heritage of the country
- (d) create a national database for Persons with Disability and to issue a Disability Identity Card to such persons

Answer: (b)

169. Which of the following launch vehicle will be used to launch the ‘Gaganyaan’ mission?

- (a) GSLV Mk II
- (b) GSLV Mk III**
- (c) PSLV C-11
- (d) PSLV-C52

Answer: (b)

170. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Mountains Ranges</u> | <u>: State</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Girnar Range | : Gujarat |
| 2. Aravalli Range | : Maharashtra |
| 3. Zanskar Range | : Uttarakhand |
| 4. Seshachalam Hills | : Andhra Pradesh |

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

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

Answer: (a)

171. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Ramsar sites</u> | <u>State</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Sultanpur NP | : West Bengal |
| 2. Khijadia WS | : Gujarat |
| 3. Bakhira WS | : Uttar Pradesh |
| 4. Haiderpur Wetland | : Andhra Pradesh |

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

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

Answer: (b)

172. With reference to the ‘Agni-VMissiles,’ consider the following statements.

- 1. The Agni-V is the intercontinental surface-to-surface nuclear capable ballistic missile.
- 2. The missile uses a five-stage liquid-fuelled engine.
- 3. Agni-V has a range of over 5,000 km and can carry about a 1500-kg warhead.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

173. With reference to the ‘International Securities Identification Number (ISIN),’ which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The ISIN is a numerical value which is used as a unique identifier of a security.
- 2. It is an alphanumeric code containing 12 characters.

3. The numbers are allocated by a country's respective National Numbering Agency (NNA).

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

174. Which of the following commission has recommended that the Governor should be someone from outside the respective State so that he would not have any personal interest to protect?

- (a) Punchhi Commission
- (b) **Sarkaria Commission**
- (c) Justice V. Chelliah Commission
- (d) Administrative Reforms Commission

Answer: (b)

175. “Operation Ganga” is the initiative launched by the government of India, was frequently mentioned in the news recently, aims to

- (a) reduce pollution and ensure rejuvenation of the Ganga river
- (b) prevent smuggling and trading of protected species of turtles in parts of India
- (c) **bring back Indians stranded in war-torn Ukraine**
- (d) evacuate Indian citizens and foreign nationals after the fall of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the Taliban

Answer: (c)

176. Which of the following states in India recently has claimed that a detoxing pilot project has brought the ‘Lukha River’ back from the dead?

- (a) **Meghalaya**
- (b) Assam
- (c) Tripura
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: (a)

177. The ‘Hot Springs’ is a campsite and the location of an Indian border check-post, sometimes seen in the news, situated in

- (a) South of Pangong Tso lake
- (b) Northwest of Galwan Valley
- (c) **Southeast of Galwan Valley**
- (d) West of Leh

Answer: (c)

178. The “Industrial Park Ratings System (IPRS) Report” is released by

- (a) Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency

(b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Bureau of Indian Standards

Answer: (b)

179. With reference to the ‘Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is a trade deal between the eight members of the South Asian Area for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) including India and Pakistan.
- 2. India withdrew from the RCEP in 2019 largely because of concerns it would open it up to Chinese goods amid an already wide trade imbalance with China.

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

Answer: (b)

180. Which of the following international institution is listing the countries that support terror financing and money laundering activities to the 'black' and 'grey list'?

- (a) Financial Action Task Force**
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- (d) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Answer: (a)

181. Which one of the following countries is NOT a member of the quadrilateral security dialogue (QUAD grouping), which India is part of

- (a) Japan
- (b) United States
- (c) Australia
- (d) South Korea**

Answer: (d)

182. Consider the following pairs:

Covid 19 Vaccines : Type

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. Moderna | : Plasmid DNA Vaccine |
| 2. ZyCov D | : mRNA Vaccine |
| 3. Covishield | : Viral Vector Vaccine |

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

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

Answer: (b)

183. The “UPI 123PAY” is a digital payment initiative, which will provide the users of feature phones to make payments without internet connectivity, is launched by

- (a) Reserve Bank of India**
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Union Ministry of Finance
- (d) State Bank of India

Answer: (a)

184. The "MIG 29" is a twin-engine multirole fighter jet, was in the news recently in the context of Russia - Ukraine War, developed by

- (a) United States
- (b) Russia**
- (c) France
- (d) India

Answer: (b)

185. With reference to the ‘Warsaw Pact’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The Warsaw Pact was a collective defence treaty established by the Soviet Union and seven other Soviet satellite states in Central and Eastern Europe.
- 2. The Warsaw Pact was formally founded on May 14, 1955, immediately after the accession of Ukraine to the NATO Alliance.
- 3. The pact obligated member states to mutual defense, allowed for member states to station troops on each other's territory and set up a unified military command under Soviet control.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

186. With reference to the ‘**Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021**,’ which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Amendment Act has increased 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.
2. Opinion of one Registered Medical Practitioner for termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation.
3. A state-level medical board will be set up to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of foetal malformation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

187. With reference to the ‘**Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)**’, consider the following statements.

1. It is an intergovernmental military alliance of six member countries that came into effect in 2002.
2. Ukraine is a member of CSTO.
3. The headquarters is located in the Russian capital of Moscow.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

188. With reference to the ‘**Western Disturbances**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A western disturbance is an extra tropical storm originating in the Central Pacific region that brings sudden winter rain to the southern parts of the Indian subcontinent.
2. The disturbance travels from the “eastern” to the western direction.

Select the ***Incorrect*** answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

189. The **All India Services (AIS)** comprises the three civil services of India. Which of the following is not an All India Service?

- (a) Indian Administrative Service
(b) Indian Police Service
(c) Indian Foreign Service
(d) Indian Forest Service

Answer: (c)

190. Which of the following committee proposed a ‘**National Environment Research Institute**’ and an ‘**Indian Environment Service**’ to recruit qualified human resources in the environment sector?

- (a) B. Sivaraman Committee
(b) Swaran Singh Committee
(c) TSR Subramanian committee
(d) Justice Eradi committee

Answer: (c)

191. "Cooperative federalism" is the horizontal relationship between union and states and shows neither is above the other. Who among the following called Indian Federalism as the Cooperative Federalism?

- (a) Morris Jones
(b) Granville Austin
(c) Sir Ivor Jennings
(d) KC Wheare

Answer: (b)

192. With reference to the ‘**Fiscal consolidation**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Fiscal consolidation is eliminating fiscal debt.
2. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act gives the targets for fiscal consolidation in India.

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

Answer: (b)

193. "Substantive Equality" was sometimes seen in the news, is refers to

- (a) understanding and meeting the needs of disadvantaged persons or groups using historical, legal and social contexts
- (b) a belief that, for fairness, a person must be consistent or equal in treatment at all times
- (c) treating all persons equally, no matter whether they are poor or rich, male or female, upper caste or lower caste
- (d) equal subjection of all to the same legal code and equal opportunity for all to secure legal protection of their rights and freedom

Answer: (a)

194. The "Davos Agenda Summit 2022" was sometimes seen in the news, is an initiative of

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme
- (b) World Economic Forum
- (c) BRICS
- (d) G-20

Answer: (b)

195. Which of the following war was ended with the 'Treaty of Sugauli' in 1816?

- (a) Anglo-Burmese Wars
- (b) Anglo-Maratha Wars
- (c) Anglo-Afghan Wars
- (d) Anglo-Nepalese War

Answer: (d)

196. Which of the following countries given below has signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with India?

1. Japan
2. Sri Lanka
3. Singapore
4. South Korea

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

197. With reference to the 'Anti-Dumping Duty', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

2. The use of anti-dumping measures as an instrument of fair competition is permitted by the World Trade Organisation.

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

Answer: (c)

198. Which of the following Northeastern state in India organize the largest indigenous festival called as 'Hornbill Festival'?

- (a) Nagaland
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Assam
- (d) Tripura

Answer: (a)

199. With reference to the 'National Stock Exchange (NSE)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the oldest and the first stock exchange in Asia.
2. The 'Nifty' is the Index of NSE that represents the weighted average of 50 of the largest Indian companies listed on the NSE stock exchange market.

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

Answer: (b)

200. The first country in the world that has authorized the use of a plant-based Covid 19 vaccine is

- (a) Russia
- (b) United States
- (c) India
- (d) Canada

Answer: (d)

201. With reference to the ‘Green Climate Fund (GCF)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the world’s largest climate fund, mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways.
2. It is guided by the principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
3. The Green Climate Fund is headquartered in Incheon, South Korea.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

202. Consider the following pairs with regards to the pardoning powers of President of India:

Pardoning Power : Meaning

1. Commutation : Replacing the punishment with less severe punishment
2. Respite : Temporary suspension of death sentence
3. Reprieve : Awarding a lesser punishment on some special grounds
4. Remissions : Reduction of the amount of sentence without changing its character

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

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

Answer: (a)

203. ‘Collegium System’ is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved by

- (a) an Act of Parliament
(b) a provision of the Constitution
(c) means of the judgments of the Supreme Court
(d) An Act passed by British in India

Answer: (c)

204. Consider the following pairs:

Animal Sports in India: State

1. Bullock-Cart Races: Karnataka
2. Kambala : Maharashtra
3. Bulbul Fight : Assam
4. Cock-Fight : Andhra Pradesh

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

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

Answer: (c)

205. With reference to the ‘Question Hour’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is termed as Question hour.
2. It is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.

Select the **Incorrect** answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

206. The first ‘Indian National Army’ was founded by

- (a) Subash Chandra Bose
(b) Mohan Singh
(c) Rashbehari Bose
(d) Captain Lakshmi Swaminathan

Answer: (b)

207. The terms ‘Lokpal and Lokayukta’ were coined by

- (a) P.K. Thungon
(b) Ashok Mehta
(c) R. S. Sarkaria
(d) L. M. Singhvi

Answer: (d)

208. Who among the following propounded the philosophy of ‘Dwaiata’ or ‘Dualism’?

- (a) Shri Madhvacharya**
(b) Shri Adi Shankaracharya
(c) Shri Ramanujacharya

- (d) Shri Ramananda

Answer: (a)

209. 'Paika Rebellion' was an armed rebellion against British rule in India in **1817**. Where did the 'Paika Rebellion' take place?

- (a) Assam
(b) Utter Pradesh
(c) Odisha
(d) Jharkhand

Answer: (c)

210. Which of the following country/ countries is/are **NOT** a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

1. Belarus
2. Lithuania
3. Georgia
4. Ukraine
5. Cyprus
6. Poland

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

211. With reference to the '**Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)**', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 5000 km around the Indian mainland.
2. It is developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
3. NavIC consists of eight satellites, three satellites in geostationary orbit and five satellites in geosynchronous orbit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

212. With reference to the '**'Recognizing a National Party'**', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Election Commission of India lists the political parties as "national party", "state party" or "registered (unrecognised) party".
2. A party is recognised as a national party if it secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly.
3. A party is recognised as a national party if it is recognised as a state party in four states.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

213. With reference to the '**'Competition Commission of India (CCI)'**', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was established under the Competition Act, 2002 for the administration, implementation and enforcement of the Act.
2. The Competition Commission used to consist of one chairperson and a minimum of two members and a maximum of six members.
3. The members of the CCI are appointed by the Central Government.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

214. Which of the following is/are the **initiatives of UNESCO**?

1. Man and Biosphere Programme
2. World Heritage Programme
3. Global Geopark Network
4. Network of Creative Cities

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Answer: (d)

215. Consider the following pairs:

Indian Festivals : State

- 1. Gudi Padwa : Maharashtra
- 2. Pongal : Tamil Nadu
- 3. Ambubachi Mela : Andhra Pradesh
- 4. Ugadi : Assam

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

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

Answer: (a)

216. With reference to the ‘Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The CAT is responsible for adjudication or trial of matters connected with recruitment and conditions of service of personnel in public service in India.
- 2. It was established via the 44th Constitutional Amendment of the Constitution.
- 3. The appointment of members in CAT is made on the basis of recommendations of a high powered committee chaired by a sitting judge of Supreme Court who is nominated by the Chief Justice of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

217. Consider the following pairs:

Seas : Bordering Countries

- 1. Azov Sea : Ukraine
- 2. Black Sea : Poland
- 3. Baltic Sea : Romania
- 4. Caspian Sea : Iran

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

- (a) 1 and 4**

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

Answer: (a)

218. ‘Vaccine Maitri Initiative’, sometimes seen in the news, refers to

- (a) a Covid vaccination campaign to deliver the vaccines by the healthcare workers, going door-to-door, and increasing the rate of vaccinated people in districts with low coverage
- (b) an initiative to digitizes the entire vaccine stock management, their logistics and temperature tracking at all levels of vaccine storage – from national to the sub-district
- (c) a diplomatic effort by Government of India to gift and supply made-in-India vaccines to low-income and developing countries globally**
- (d) a campaign that is designed to connect tribal communities from across the country emphasizing that the COVID-19 vaccination is free, available in the nearby health centres

Answer: (c)

219. Which of the following countries is/are part/s of the Baltic states/countries?

- 1. Estonia
- 2. Belarus
- 3. Latvia
- 4. Lithuania

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

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

Answer: (b)

220. With reference to the ‘GST Compensation Cess’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The GST compensation is paid out of Compensation Cess every two months by the Centre to states.
- 2. The compensation cess was specified by the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.
- 3. It is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.

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

Answer: (c)

221. Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) was a revolutionary organization of India established in 1924 in East Bengal. Who among the following is NOT a founder of the 'HRA'?

- (a) Bhagat Singh
- (b) Sachindranath Sanyal
- (c) Narendra Mohan Sen
- (d) Pratul Ganguly

Answer: (a)

222. The term 'V-shaped recovery' is sometimes mentioned in the news, is a type of economic recession and recovery that resembles a "V" shape in charting, is characterized by

- (a) a quick and sustained recovery in measures of economic performance after a sharp economic decline
- (b) a sharp decline in the metrics followed by a sharp rise back upward, followed again by a sharp decline and ending with another sharp rise
- (c) an economic recession characterized by a more-or-less steep decline in the economy, but without a correspondingly steep recovery
- (d) an economy experiences a sharp decline in the metrics without a clearly defined trough but instead a period of stagnation followed by a relatively healthy rise back to its previous peak

Answer: (a)

223. Which of the following education reforms were introduced by the British in the 19th century was called as "**Magna Carta of English Education**" in India?

- (a) Macaulay's Education Policy
- (b) **Wood's Dispatch**
- (c) Hunter Education Commission
- (d) Saddler University Commission

Answer: (b)

224. The second schedule of the Indian constitution mentions emoluments, allowances, and other privileges of certain officials. Which of the following is/are amongst those officials?

- 1. President of India
- 2. Governors of States

- 3. Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- 4. Chairman of Rajya Sabha
- 5. Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts
- 6. Comptroller and Auditor-General of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

225. With reference to the '**International Solar Alliance (ISA)**', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through deployment of solar energy solutions.
- 2. It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow in 2021.
- 3. Recently, the United Nations General Assembly has granted Observer Status to the ISA.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

226. Which of the following is/are the component/s of the Current Account in the balance of payments?

- 1. Trade in goods and services
- 2. Foreign Portfolio Investment
- 3. Net earnings on overseas investments and net transfer of payments over a period of time, such as remittances.
- 4. Commercial borrowings

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a)

227. Consider the following pairs:

Trade Agreements : Implications

1. **Preferential Trade Agreement** : Two or more nations to reduce barriers to imports and exports among them
2. **Free Trade Agreement** : Two or more countries agree upon a preferential right of entry to certain products facilitated by reducing duties
3. **Customs Union** : Members may agree to trade at zero duty among them and maintain common tariffs against the rest of the world
4. **Common Market** : Countries allow free trade and free movement of labour and capital among the members of the group

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

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

Answer: (a)

228. With reference to the ‘composition of the members of the State Legislative Council’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The total number of members in the State Legislative Council shall not be more than 1/3rd of the total number of members in the State Legislative Assembly.
2. The total number of members in the Legislative Council should not be more than 100.
3. About one-sixth of the members are nominated by the Governor.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

229. Which of the following Indian languages enjoy the “classical language status” in India?

1. Tamil
2. Hindi
3. Kannada

4. Sanskrit
5. Assamese
6. Malayalam

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

230. Which of the following criteria for the horizontal distribution of taxes among the states was considered by the 14th finance commission is/are not considered under the latest 15th finance commission?

1. Income Distance
2. Population (1971 Census)
3. Population (2011 census)
4. Forest Cover

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (a)

231. With reference to the ‘Institutes of Eminence Scheme’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Only higher education institutions currently placed in the top 500 of global rankings or top 50 of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) are eligible to apply for the eminence tag.
2. The private institutions under IOE tag will receive a government grant of ₹1,000 crore, while the public institutions will not get any funding under the scheme.
3. Institutes with IOE tag will be given greater autonomy and freedom to decide fees, course durations and governance structures.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

232. The "Battle of Bhima-Koregaon, 1818", sometimes seen in the news, was part of the

- (a) 1st Anglo-Sikh War
- (b) 3rd Anglo-Maratha War**
- (c) 2nd Anglo - Mysore War
- (d) 1st Anglo - Maratha War

Answer: (b)

233. What is 'Frictional unemployment'?

- (a) It is form of unemployment is when people who work in seasonal jobs become unemployed when demand for labour decreases
- (b) It is a form unemployment that does not affect aggregate economic output
- (c) It is a form of unemployment reflecting the gap between someone voluntarily leaving a job and finding another**
- (d) It is a form of involuntary unemployment caused by a mismatch between the skills

Answer: (c)

234. With reference to the members of the 'Election Commission of India', consider the following statements?

- 1. The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission.
- 2. The constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.
- 3. The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

235. With reference to 'Web 3.0', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Web 3.0 enables peer to peer (seller to buyer) transaction by eliminating the role of the intermediary.
- 2. Web 3.0 will deliver decentralized and fair internet where users control their own data.

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

Answer: (c)

236. With reference to 'GST Council', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
- 2. For a valid meeting of the members of GST Council, at least 50 percent of the total number of the member should be present at the meeting.

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

Answer: (c)

237. With reference to the 'Demand for Grants', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Article 113 (iii) prescribes that no demand for grants can be presented in the Lok Sabha without the President of India's prior approval.
- 2. The demand for grants include both charged and voted expenditure.
- 3. Under Article 113, the Lok Sabha has the power to give or refuse its assent to a demand for grants or it can reduce the amount specified in the demand.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

238. With reference to 'Securities and Exchange Board of India', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is a statutory regulatory body established under the provisions of the Companies Act 2013.
- 2. The headquarters of SEBI is situated in Mumbai.

3. SEBI is the regulatory body to control and regulate the securities market and mutual funds industry in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: It is a statutory regulatory body established under the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

239. With reference to the 'National Pension System (NPS)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Any individual citizen of India who is a resident in the age group of 18-65 years can only join NPS.
- 2. It is only available to the central and state government employees.
- 3. It is regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority- External website that opens in a new window.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ National Pension System is opened to all the employees of the public sector, private sector, and the unorganized sector.
- ✓ Any individual citizen of India, both a resident and non-resident in the age group of 18-65 years can only join NPS.

240. In which of the following country is the "Tigray Region" recently in the news located?

- (a) Ethiopia**
- (b) Yemen
- (c) Syria
- (d) Ukraine

Answer: (a)

241. Which of the following languages are listed under the "Eighth Schedule" of the Indian Constitution?

- 1. Assamese
- 2. Kashmiri
- 3. Nepali
- 4. Marathi
- 5. Bodo
- 6. Konkani

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

List of languages in the Eighth Schedule

- ✓ The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of the following 22 languages:-
- ✓ Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri.
- ✓ Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution.
- ✓ Sindhi language was added in 1967.
- ✓ Thereafter three more languages viz., Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992.
- ✓ Subsequently Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.

242. With reference to 'Parliamentary Privileges', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The parliamentary privileges do not extend to the President who is also an integral part of the Parliament.
- 2. Attorney General of India enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a Member of Parliament.

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

Answer: (c)

243. "Naujawan Bharat Sabha" was a militant youth organization started in 1926, founded by

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (b) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (c) Bhagat Singh**
- (d) Bipin Chandra Pal

Answer: (c)

244. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>International Ports in News</u> | <u>:</u> | <u>Country</u> |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| 1. Port Blair | : | Ukraine |
| 2. Chabahar Port | : | Iran |
| 3. Mariupol Port | : | India |
| 4. Hambantota Port | : | Sri Lanka |

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

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

Answer: (d)

245. Consider following statements:

- 1. Demand pull inflation arises when aggregate demand in the economy becomes less than aggregate supply.
- 2. Cost push inflation arises when there is increase in aggregate supply of goods and services results into decrease in cost of production.

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**

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ✓ Demand pull inflation arises when aggregate demand in the economy becomes more than aggregate supply.
- ✓ Cost push inflation occurs when there is decrease in aggregate supply of goods and services results into increase in cost of production.

246. With reference to 'United Nations Security Council (UNSC)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. A total of 15 members are there in the Council, out of which 5 are permanent and 10 are non-permanent members.
- 2. India is a permanent member of the Council.
- 3. Decisions of the Security Council on matters are made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ The five permanent members include China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- ✓ The 10 non-permanent members are: Estonia, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, and Viet Nam.
- ✓ The non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ✓ India is a non-permanent member.

247. In the Indian Constitution, appointment of Governor by centre is taken from which country?

- (a) Canada
- (b) England
- (c) USA
- (d) Australia

248. The 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is the twelfth edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup, which is being held in

- (a) New Zealand
- (b) Australia
- (c) England
- (d) India

249. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Rivers</u> | <u>:</u> | <u>Origin/Source</u> |
|---------------|----------|----------------------|
| 1. Godavari | : | Brahmagiri Range |
| 2. Cauvery | : | Trimbakeshwar |

3. Narmada : Amarkantak Range
Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

250. India's first 'Non-Cooperation Movement' launched by Mahatma Gandhi was

- (a) Ahmadabad Mill Strike
- (b) **Kheda Satyagraha**
- (c) Satyagraha against Rowlatt Act
- (d) Champaran Satyagraha

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ It was a Satyagraha movement organized by Mahatma Gandhi in the Kheda district of **Gujarat**, during the period of the British Raj.
- ✓ Gandhi organized this movement to support peasants of the Kheda district since they were unable to pay the high taxes levied by the British due to crop failure and a plague epidemic.
- ✓ **Champaran Satyagraha (1917)** — First Civil Disobedience Movement led by Gandhi
- ✓ **Kheda Satyagraha (1918)** — First Non-Cooperation Movement led by Gandhi
- ✓ **Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)** — First Hunger Strike led by Gandhi
- ✓ **Satyagraha against Rowlatt Act** — First Mass Strike led by Gandhi

251. With reference to 'OPEC,' consider the following statements?

- 1. OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization of 13 oil-exporting developing nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its Member Countries.
- 2. It was founded in Baghdad with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

252. With reference to the 'Payment Banks', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Payments banks can provide ATM and debit cards, as well as online and mobile banking.
- 2. The payments banks shall maintain a minimum Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR).
- 3. It cannot accept time deposits or NRI deposits.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

253. Which of the following countries are the members of the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)**?

- 1. India
- 2. Bangladesh
- 3. Sri Lanka
- 4. Thailand
- 5. Myanmar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

254. The Sustainable Development Goal - 2 (SDG-2) deals with

- (a) Quality Education
- (b) No Poverty
- (c) **Zero Hunger**
- (d) Good Health and Well-being

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

SDG 1: No Poverty

SDG 2: **Zero Hunger**

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

SDG 4: Quality Education

255. With reference to the 'Ahom Kingdom', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The Ahom kingdom was founded by the 13th-century ruler Chaolung Sukapha.

2. The kingdom was ruled by a king called ‘Swargadeo’ who had to be from the same lineage as that of the first king Sukaphaa.
3. The Ahoms ruled the land till the province was annexed to British India in 1826 with the signing of the Treaty of Yandaboo.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

256. With reference to the ‘European Union (EU)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The European Union came into force after the signing of the Maastricht Treaty by 28 countries.
2. United Kingdom is the first country to leave the E.U.
3. European Commission acts as the executive arm of the European Union.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

257. Which of the following Article in Indian constitution deals with the “**Protection against arrest and detention**”?

- (a) Article 16
- (b) Article 18
- (c) Article 20
- (d) Article 22**

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ✓ Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained.
- ✓ Detention is of two types, namely, punitive and preventive.
- ✓ **Punitive detention** is to punish a person for an offence committed by him after trial and conviction in a court.

- ✓ **Preventive detention**, on the other hand, means detention of a person without trial and conviction by a court.

258. Which of the following cities in India are listed under the **UNESCO creative cities network (UCCN)**?

1. Jaipur
2. Delhi
3. Srinagar
4. Mumbai
5. Kolkata
6. Hyderabad

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Six Indian cities in UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) as follows:

- ✓ Jaipur - Crafts and Folk Arts (2015)
- ✓ Varanasi - Creative city of Music (2015)
- ✓ Chennai - Creative city of Music (2017)
- ✓ Mumbai – Film (2019)
- ✓ Hyderabad – Gastronomy (2019)
- ✓ Srinagar – Crafts and Folk Art (2021)

259. Which of the following have coral reefs in India?

1. Sunderbans
2. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
3. Gulf of Kachchh
4. Gulf of Mannar
5. Lakshadweep

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (a)

260. With reference to the ‘**Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The UPSC consists of a chairperson and five members only.
2. The President of India appoints the Chairman and other members of the UPSC.
3. The member of the UPSC holds office for a term of 6 years or until he attains the age of 65 years.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

261. "Operation AAHT" is an initiative of 'Railway Protection Force (RPF)' was in the news, aims to

- (a) rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers**
- (b) ensure safe and secure travel for women commuters
- (c) promote tourism and business
- (d) provide a long term perspective planning for augmenting the Railway Network

Answer: (a)

262. Which of the following international organization has issued the Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) for the first time in the world to support South Africa's efforts to conserve endangered species of Black Rhino?

- (a) World Bank**
- (b) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- (c) United Nations Environment Programme
- (d) World Wildlife Fund

Answer: (a)

263. Which of the following has organized the military exercise called "Cold Response 2022"?

- (a) Indian Armed Forces
- (b) North Atlantic Treaty Organization**
- (c) Collective Security Treaty Organization
- (d) Russian Military Forces

Answer: (b)

264. Which of the following country has suggested the name "Cyclone Asani" to the tropical cyclone which was formed in the Bay of Bengal region recently?

- (a) India

- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Sri Lanka**
- (d) Myanmar

Answer: (c)

265. With reference to 'BrahMos missile', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. BrahMos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India (DRDO) and the NPOM of Russia.
2. It is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster as the first stage and liquid ramjet as the second stage.

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

Answer: (c)

266. With reference to the 'National Small Savings Fund (NSF)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was established in 1999 within the Public Account of India for pooling the money from different small saving schemes.
2. The Fund is administered by the Reserve Bank of India.
3. The money parked in the NSF is used by the Centre and states to finance their fiscal deficit, while the balance is invested in central and state government securities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Fund is administered by the Union Ministry of Finance.

267. The "Kinzhal Missile" is a hypersonic aero-ballistic air-to-surface missile with nuclear capability, was in the news recently, developed by

- (a) Israel
- (b) Russia**

- (c) North Korea
 - (d) India
- Answer: (b)**

268. “**Running Inflation**” is a type of inflation, sometimes seen in the news, in the context of Sri Lanka's economic crisis, refers to

- (a) the rise of prices at a very slow rate of less than 3%
- (b) the rise of prices moderately at the rate of 3 to 7% (or) less than 10%
- (c) the rise of prices rapidly at a rate of 10-20%**
- (d) the rapid and unrestrained price increases in an economy, typically at rates exceeding 50% each month over time

Answer: (c)

269. With reference to indigenous technology of India, “**PARAM Shakti, PARAM Brahma, PARAM Yukti, PARAM Sanganak, PARAM Siddhi and PARAM Ganga**” are

- (a) Supersonic cruise missiles
- (b) Communication satellites
- (c) Supercomputers**
- (d) Diesel-electric submarines

Answer: (c)

270. Which of the following space agencies were developed and built the **International Space Station (ISS)**?

- 1. NASA (USA)
- 2. Roscosmos (Russia)
- 3. European Space Agency (ESA-Europe)
- 4. JAXA (Japan)
- 5. Canadian Space Agency (CSA-Canada)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

271. Which of the following **Mughal emperor abolished the religious tax ‘Jizya’** in 1579?

- (a) Akbar**
- (b) Jahangir
- (c) Shah Jahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

Answer: (a)

272. Consider the following activities:

- 1. Virtual classrooms are being used to provide immersive learning opportunities.
- 2. Buying online avatars' clothing and accessories.
- 3. Shopping in virtual shops through immersive commerce.
- 4. Purchasing virtual land and building virtual buildings.

Which of the above activities can be successfully carried out by using Metaverse technology?

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

Answer: (d)

273. Which of the following movie has got the award under the "Best Picture" category at the 94th Academy (the Oscars) Award - 2022?

- (a) CODA**
- (b) Nightmare Alley
- (c) Dune
- (d) King Richard

Answer: (a)

274. With reference to the ‘**National Pension System (NPS)**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Any individual citizen of India who is a resident in the age group of 18-65 years can only join NPS.
- 2. It is only available to the central and state government employees.
- 3. It is regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority- External website that opens in a new window.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ National Pension System is opened to all the employees of the public sector, private sector, and the unorganized sector.

- ✓ Any individual citizen of India, both a resident and non-resident in the age group of 18-65 years can only join NPS.

275. In which of the following country is the "Tigray Region" recently in the news located?

- (a) Ethiopia
- (b) Yemen
- (c) Syria
- (d) Ukraine

Answer: (a)

276. Which of the following languages are listed under the "Eighth Schedule" of the Indian Constitution?

- 1. Assamese
- 2. Kashmiri
- 3. Nepali
- 4. Marathi
- 5. Bodo
- 6. Konkani

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

List of languages in the Eighth Schedule

- ✓ The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of the following 22 languages:-
- ✓ Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri.
- ✓ Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution.
- ✓ Sindhi language was added in 1967.
- ✓ Thereafter three more languages viz., Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992.
- ✓ Subsequently Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.

277. With reference to 'Parliamentary Privileges', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The parliamentary privileges do not extend to the President who is also an integral part of the Parliament.
2. Attorney General of India enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a Member of Parliament.

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

Answer: (c)

278. "Naujawan Bharat Sabha" was a militant youth organization started in 1926, founded by

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (b) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (c) **Bhagat Singh**
- (d) Bipin Chandra Pal

Answer: (c)

279. Consider following statements:

1. India is a member of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
2. In India, there is no Intellectual Property Appellate Board.
3. There are no laws in India that allows for patenting plants.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ **Statement 2 is wrong:** Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) was constituted on September 15, 2003 by the Indian Government to hear and resolve the appeals against the decisions of the registrar under the Indian Trademarks Act, 1999 and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

- ✓ **What is NOT Patentable In India** (Section 3 of the (Indian) Patents Act, 1970 - The following are not patentable in India:-
- ✓ An invention, that is frivolous or that claims anything obviously contrary to well established natural laws;
 - ✓ An invention, the primary or intended use of which would be contrary to law or morality or injurious to public health;
 - ✓ The mere discovery of a scientific principle or the formulation of an abstract theory;
 - ✓ The mere discovery of any new property or new use for a known substance or of the mere use of a known process, machine or apparatus unless such known process results in a new product or employs at least one new reactant;
 - ✓ A substance obtained by a mere admixture resulting only in the aggregation of the properties of the components thereof or a process for producing such substance;
 - ✓ The mere arrangement or rearrangement or duplication of known devices, each functioning independently of one another in a known way;
 - ✓ A method of agriculture or horticulture;
 - ✓ Inventions relating to atomic energy.
 - ✓ Any process for the medicinal, surgical, curative, prophylactic or other treatment of human beings or animals.
 - ✓ **Plants and animals in whole or any part thereof other than microorganisms.**
 - ✓ Mathematical or business method or a computer program per se or algorithms.
 - ✓ Literary, dramatic, musical or artistic works, cinematographic works, television productions and any other aesthetic creations.
 - ✓ Mere scheme or rule or method of performing mental act or playing game.
 - ✓ Presentation of information.
 - ✓ Topography of integrated circuits.
 - ✓ An invention which in effect, is traditional knowledge or is based on the properties of traditional knowledge.
- 280. With reference to the ‘Asian Development Bank (ADB)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?**
1. ADB has more than 100 member nations.
 2. India is the largest shareholder in ADB.
 3. ADB does not have any members from outside Asia.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) **None**
- Answer: (d)**
- Explanation:**
- ✓ All the statements are wrong. So the answer is (d) None
 - ✓ ADB was established on 19 December 1966.
 - ✓ It is headquartered in — Manila, Philippines.
 - ✓ ADB got Official Observer status to the United Nations.
 - ✓ 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.
 - ✓ It is modelled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.
 - ✓ ADB's five largest shareholders are Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).
 - ✓ India is the 4th largest shareholder.
- 281. In the Indian Constitution, ‘the procedure for amendment of the Constitution’ was taken from which country?**
- (a) **South Africa Constitution**
 - (b) Irish Constitution
 - (c) US Constitution
 - (d) Soviet Constitution
- Answer: (a)**
- 282. "Winter Olympic - 2022" was frequently in the news in the context of diplomatic boycotts. Which of the following country hosted it?**
- (a) Russia
 - (b) **China**
 - (c) Japan
 - (d) South Korea

Answer: (b)

283. Consider the following pairs:

Movement/

Organization : Founder/Leader

1. Indian Independence League : VD Savarkar
 2. Ramakrishna Mission : Swami Vivekananda
 3. Abhinav Bharat Society : Rash Behari Bose
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ Indian Independence League : Rash Behari Bose
- ✓ Abhinav Bharat Society : VD Savarkar

284. Which of the following countries are the members of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**?

1. India
2. Thailand
3. Myanmar
4. Singapore
5. Philippines

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ India is not a member of ASEAN.
- ✓ ASEAN was established in 1967 with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by its founding fathers.
- ✓ **Founding members** of ASEAN are: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- ✓ **10 Member Nations:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.
- ✓ The motto of ASEAN is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”.
- ✓ ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta.

285. The **Constituent Assembly** in addition to making the constitution had performed the function of Legislative Assembly. Which of the following

functions were performed by the **Constituent Assembly of India**?

1. Electing Dr Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India.
2. Adoption of National Anthem and National Flag.
3. Ratification of India’s membership of the commonwealth.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: All the statements are correct.

286. The “Temple 360 Portal” is a digital platform that will enable devotees to visit or do online Darshan of ‘12 Jyotirlinga’ and ‘Char Dham’ from any location. Which one of the following launched the initiative?

- (a) **Union Ministry of Culture**
- (b) Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (c) Indian Council of Historical Research
- (d) NITI Aayog

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ Temple 360 is a unique portal through which devotees can perform online darshan of prominent pilgrimage sites or temples anytime and from anywhere.
- ✓ **It was launched by the Union Ministry of Culture.** It has been launched under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

287. “NROL-87” is an intelligence satellite, recently in the news, launched by

- (a) SpaceX
- (b) ISRO
- (c) IN-SPACe
- (d) Roscosmos

Answer: (a)

- ✓ NROL-87 was launched by **SpaceX**.
- ✓ Under the mission, the company recently launched a spy satellite for the US military.
- ✓ The satellite was carried by Falcon rocket.

288. With reference to ‘Cantonment Board’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It works under administrative control of Defence Ministry of government of India.
2. Union Defence Minister appoints the executive officer of the cantonment board.
3. Military Officer commanding the station is ex-officio president of the board.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ Cantonment Boards is a civic administration body established by Municipal administration for civilian population in the cantonment area.
- ✓ It works under administrative control of Defence Ministry of government of India.
- ✓ It is directly administered by DGDE (Directorate General Defence Estates).
- ✓ DGDE an Inter Services Organisation of the Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ There are 62 cantonments in the country that were notified under the Cantonments Act, 1924, before Independence.
- ✓ The law was succeeded by the Cantonments Act, 2006.
- ✓ The station commander/military officer of the cantonment is the ex officio president of the board and an officer of the Defence Estates Organisation is the chief executive and the member-secretary.
- ✓ Executive- Officer is appointed by the President of India.

289. With reference to “Qualifications to Become a Chief Minister”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. She/he should be at least of 35 years of age or more.
2. An individual who is not an Member of Legislative Assembly can be considered as the Chief Minister provided he/she gets himself/herself elected to the State Legislature within six months from the date of his appointment.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

✓ **Qualifications to Become a Chief Minister**

- He should be a citizen of India
- He should be at least of 25 years of age or more.
- Moreover, he should be a member of the state legislature.
- An individual who is not an MLA can be considered as the CM provided he gets himself elected to the State Legislature within six months from the date of his appointment. Failing which, he would cease to be the CM.

290. The “Frontiers Report” was in the news recently, identifies and offers solutions to environmental issues of urban noise pollution, wildfires, and phenological shifts that merit attention and action from governments and the public at large to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Which of the following released the Report?

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme**
- (b) World Bank
- (c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- (d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ Recently, the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released its Annual Frontiers Report named **Noise, Blazes and Mismatches**.
- ✓ Five Indian cities have been ranked in this list of being among the noisiest cities of the world which are Asansol, Jaipur, Kolkata, New Delhi, and Moradabad (Code to remember: DJ-KAM).

291. With reference to the ‘Enforcement Directorate (ED)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Directorate of Enforcement is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
2. It is responsible for enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and

certain provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

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

Answer: (c)

292. With reference to the ‘Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is a constitutional body established under the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016.
- 2. The CBDT consists of a Chairperson and six Members.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ First statement is wrong.
- ✓ It is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.
- ✓ The CBDT consists of a Chairperson and six Members.

293. The **Laffer Curve** is a theory formalized by supply-side economist Arthur Laffer to show the relationship between

- (a) inflation and unemployment
- (b) tax rates and the amount of tax revenue**
- (c) the distribution of income and inequality
- (d) None of the Above

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Laffer curve describes the relationship between tax rates and total tax revenue, with an optimal tax rate that maximizes total government tax revenue.
- ✓ It is based on the economic idea that people will adjust their behavior in the face of the incentives created by income tax rates.
- ✓ If taxes are too high along the Laffer Curve, then they will discourage the taxed activities,

such as work and investment, enough to actually reduce total tax revenue.

- ✓ In this case, cutting tax rates will both stimulate economic incentives and increase tax revenue.
- ✓ For every type of tax, there is a threshold rate above which the incentive to produce more diminishes, thereby reducing the amount of revenue the government receives.
- ✓ At a 0% tax rate, tax revenue would obviously be zero.
- ✓ As tax rates increase from low levels, tax revenue collected by the government increases.
- ✓ Eventually, if tax rates reached 100 percent, shown as the far right on the Laffer Curve, all people would choose not to work because everything they earned would go to the government.

294. At the ‘**Haripura Session**’ in 1938, the ‘National Planning Committee’ was set-up under the chairmanship of Jawaharlal Nehru. Who among the following was the president of the historic session?

- (a) Subhas Chandra Bose**
- (b) Vallabhbhai Patel
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi
- (d) Motilal Nehru

Answer: (a)

295. With reference to the ‘**Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)**’, consider the following statements?

- 1. It is a multilateral export control regime whose members have an informal political understanding to limit the proliferation of missiles and missile technology.
- 2. It is a legally binding treaty on the members.
- 3. India became a member of the MTCR in 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Missile Technology Control Regime was started in 1987 by the G-7 industrialized countries namely, the USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, and Italy.
- ✓ It was started to check the proliferation of unmanned delivery systems for nuclear weapons

(particularly systems that could carry a payload of 500 kg to a range of 300 km).

- ✓ It is not a legally binding treaty on the members.
- ✓ It is only an informal political understanding.
- ✓ Every member is supposed to establish national export control policies for ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, space launch vehicles, drones, remotely piloted vehicles, sounding rockets, and underlying components and technologies.
- ✓ India became a member of the MTCR in 2016.

296. The “Arab Spring” was an uprising against the governments in various countries in North Africa and the Middle East that began in 2011. Which of the following was the country of origin of the “Arab Spring”?

- (a) Tunisia
- (b) UAE
- (c) Saudi Arabia
- (d) Yemen

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ **Tunisia** is known as the country of origin of the so-called Arab Spring, an uprising against the governments in various countries in North Africa and the Middle East that began in 2011.

297. Consider the following pairs:

Classical Dances of India: State

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Kuchipudi | : Andhra Pradesh |
| 2. Bharatnatyam | : Kerala |
| 3. Kathak | : Uttar Pradesh |
| 4. Mohiniyattam | : Tamil Nadu |

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

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Classical Dances : State

- ✓ **Bharatnatyam** : Tamil Nadu
- ✓ **Mohiniyattam** : Kerala

298. With reference to the ‘New Development Bank (NDB)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the BIMSTEC member countries at the 5th Summit in 2022.
- 2. It is headquartered at Shanghai, China.
- 3. In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly, establishing a firm basis for active and fruitful cooperation with the UN.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ It is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the **BRICS** countries at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil in 2014.
- ✓ It was formed to support infrastructure and sustainable development efforts in BRICS and other underserved, emerging economies for faster development through innovation and cutting-edge technology.
- ✓ It is headquartered at Shanghai, China.
- ✓ In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly, establishing a firm basis for active and fruitful cooperation with the UN.

299. Which of the following principle is often referred to the “**No First Use Policy**” in India?

- (a) Neighbourhood First Policy
- (b) Nuclear Doctrine**
- (c) Gujral Doctrine
- (d) Non-Aligned Policy

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ **Nuclear Doctrine of India:** After the successful completion of the nuclear tests in 1998, **India adopted a “no first use” policy**.
- ✓ The government had asserted then the arsenal would only be **used as a nuclear deterrent**.
- ✓ The government after the tests retaliated India’s stance that it would want a world to be “free of nuclear weapons”, but reserved the **right to retaliate if attacked by another country**.

300. With reference to the ‘**International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a 7,200 km-long multimodal transportation network encompassing sea, road, and rail routes to offer the shortest route of connectivity.
2. While India and China are the founding members, Russia is not part of this project.
3. The INSTC could be the key to India’s “Connect Central Asia” policy.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ The INSTC is a 7,200 km-long multimodal transportation network encompassing sea, road, and rail routes to offer the shortest route of connectivity.
- ✓ It links the Indian Ocean to the Caspian Sea via the Persian Gulf onwards into Russia and Northern Europe.
- ✓ It is aimed at reducing the carriage cost between India and Russia by about 30 percent and bringing down the transit time by more than half.
- ✓ It was launched in **2000** with **India, Russia, and Iran** as its **founding members** and work on actualizing the corridor began in 2002.
- ✓ Since then, INSTC membership has expanded to include **10 more countries – Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Syria, Belarus, and Oman**.

301. With reference to the ‘**Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) of India**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the authority responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding India’s nuclear weapons programme.
2. It has Executive Council and Political Council.
3. While the Executive Council of NCA is chaired by the Prime Minister, the Political Council is chaired by the National Security Advisor.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only**

- (b) 1 and 3 only

- (c) 3 only

- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) of India is the authority responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding India’s nuclear weapons programme.
- ✓ On 4 January 2003, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) constituted the Political Council and the Executive Council of the NCA.
- ✓ The Executive Council gives its opinion to the Political Council, which authorises a nuclear attack when deemed necessary.
- ✓ While the Executive Council is chaired by the National Security Advisor (NSA), the Political Council is chaired by the Prime Minister.
- ✓ This mechanism was implemented to ensure that Indian nukes remain firmly in civilian control and that there exists a sophisticated Command and Control (C2) mechanism to prevent their accidental or unauthorised use.

302. With reference to the ‘**No-Confidence Motion**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It can be moved against the entire council of ministers only.
2. It should state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
3. If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers need not resign from office.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ It can be moved against the entire council of ministers only.
- ✓ It need not state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ It is moved for ascertaining the confidence of Lok Sabha in the council of ministers.
- ✓ If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers must resign from office.

303. Consider the following statements:

1. Both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha are subject to dissolution.
2. Both Speaker and Deputy Speaker vacate their office on dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
3. Once the Lok Sabha is dissolved before the completion of its normal tenure, the dissolution is irrevocable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ It can be moved against the entire council of ministers only.
- ✓ Only the Lok Sabha is subject to dissolution. Rajya Sabha, being a permanent House, is not subject to dissolution.
- ✓ The dissolution of the Lok Sabha may take place in either of two ways:
 - 1. Automatic dissolution, that is, in the expiry of its tenure of five years or the terms as extended during a national emergency; or
 - 2. Whenever the President decides to dissolve the house, which he/she is authorised to do.
- ✓ Once the Lok Sabha is dissolved before the completion of its normal tenure, the dissolution is irrevocable.
- ✓ Only Deputy Speaker vacates his office and Speaker shall not vacate his office until immediately before the first meeting of the Lok Sabha after dissolution.

304. Consider the following statements:

1. Nominal GDP is a measurement of economic output that accounts for the effects of inflation or deflation.
2. The aggregate financial business value manufactured within a country is known as Real GDP.
3. The difference between the real and nominal GDP shows the levels of inflation in the year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ Real GDP is a measurement of economic output that accounts for the effects of inflation or deflation (Inflation-adjusted GDP).
- ✓ The aggregate financial business value manufactured within a country is known as Nominal GDP (Inflation without GDP).
- ✓ The difference between the real and nominal GDP shows the levels of inflation in the year.

305. Which of the following committee was recommended to set up the 'Payment Bank' in India?

- (a) Rangarajan Committee
- (b) Tarapore Committee
- (c) Nachiket Mor Committee**
- (d) Narasimhan Committee

Answer: (c)

306. With reference to the 'Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. ETF is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges, much like stocks.
2. The Bharat-22 ETF is the second ETF from Government of India after CPSE ETF.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ ETF is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges, much like stocks.
- ✓ An ETF holds assets such as stocks, commodities, or bonds and generally operates with an arbitrage mechanism.
- ✓ It is designed to keep it trading close to its net asset value, although deviations can occasionally occur.
- ✓ ETFs may be attractive as investments because of their low costs, tax efficiency, and stock-like features.
- ✓ Bharat-22 ETF is the second ETF from Govt. of India after CPSE ETF, hence it is attracting investors in the stock market.

307. With reference to the ‘National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT).
2. It is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ It was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT).
- ✓ It is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

308. Consider the following pairs:

Types of Precipitation : Characteristics

1. Conventional Rainfall : Give less rain to rain shadow area
2. Orographic Rainfall Port : Intense Rain
3. Frontal Rainfall : Due to movement of depressions

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

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Conventional Rainfall

- ✓ Most common in regions that are intensely heated
- ✓ When the earth’s surface is heated by conduction, the air in contact expands, become lighter and rises in convection current.
- ✓ As the air rises it cools, and when the saturation point is reached, torrential downpours occur, often accompanied by thunder and lightning.

Orographic Rainfall

- ✓ When the saturated air mass comes across a mountain, it is forced to ascend.
- ✓ As it arises, it expands; the temperature falls and the moisture is condensed.
- ✓ Windward slopes receive greater rainfall.
- ✓ After giving rain on the windward side, when these winds reach the other slope, they descend and their temperature rises. Then their capacity to take in moisture increases and hence, these leeward slopes remain rainless and dry.

Cyclonic/Frontal Rainfall

- ✓ It is the rain associated with the passage of a cyclone or depression and caused by a warm, moist air mass moving upwards over a colder heavier air.
- ✓ When the saturated air mass comes across a mountain, it is forced to ascend.

309. Consider following statements:

1. An isthmus is a narrow passage of water connecting two water bodies.
2. A strait is a narrow stretch of land separating two water bodies.

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**

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ✓ **Straits:** A narrow stretch of water connecting to large bodies of water or seas.
- ✓ **Isthmus:** A neck of land separating two seas, or a narrow strip of land that connects two larger landmasses.
- ✓ **Gulf:** A small area of the sea penetrating into the land, usually larger than bay.
- ✓ **Cape:** A prominent headland projecting into the sea.

310. This type of cloud looks like cotton wool and are generally formed at a height of 4000 to 7000 m. They exist in patches and can be seen scattered here and there. They have a flat base.

Which among the following **type of clouds is best described by the above passage?**

- (a) Stratus
- (b) Cirrus

(c) Cumulus

(d) Nimbus

Answer: (c)

311. “Urban Agglomeration” may consist of:

- (a) A town and its adjoining urban outgrowths
- (b) Two or more contiguous town with or without their outgrowths
- (c) A city and one or more adjoining town with their outgrowths together forming a contiguous spread

(d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Urban Agglomeration

- ✓ Majority of metropolitan and mega cities are urban agglomerations
- ✓ An urban agglomeration may consist of any one of the following three conditions:
 - A town and its adjoining urban outgrowths
 - Two or more contiguous town with or without their outgrowths
 - A city and one or more adjoining town with their outgrowths together forming a contiguous spread

312. Consider the following statements with regards to the “El-Nino Modoki”:

1. It is associated with strong anomalous cooling in the central tropical Pacific and warming in the eastern and western tropical Pacific.
2. It enhances cyclone formation over Arabian Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

El-Nino can be classified into two types;

- **Traditional El-Nino:** Warming in the eastern equatorial Pacific
- **El-Nino Modoki:** Warming in the central tropical Pacific

El-Nino Modoki

- ✓ It is a coupled ocean atmosphere phenomenon in the tropical Pacific.
- ✓ It is associated with strong anomalous warming in the central tropical Pacific and cooling in the eastern and western tropical Pacific.

✓ During El-Nino Modoki, one of the descending limbs of the walker cell is over the Bay of Bengal which causes dry conditions not conducive for cyclone formation.

✓ On the other hand, there is large convergence of the Arabian Sea during an El-Nino Modoki explaining the large number of cyclones in that region.

313. Who among the following is known as the founder of local-self government in India?

- (a) Lord Ripon**
- (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- (c) Lord Curzon
- (d) B R Ambedkar

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ Lord Ripon was known as the Father of Local self-government.
- ✓ He had introduced local self-governance in the year 1882.

314. With reference to the ‘Food Corporation of India (FCI)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body established under the National Food Security Act 2013.
2. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
3. The main functions of FCI are Effective price support operations for safeguarding the interests of the farmers by providing them remunerative prices for their food grains and Distribution of food grains throughout the country through the Public Distribution System.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is a statutory body, was set up in 1965 following the enactment of the **Food Corporation Act, 1964** with the objective of fulfilling various aspects of the National Food Policy at the time.

- ✓ It is under the ownership of **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- ✓ The main functions of FCI are Effective price support operations for safeguarding the interests of the farmers by providing them remunerative prices for their food grains and Distribution of food grains throughout the country through the Public Distribution System.

315. Consider the following statements with regards to the '**Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**':

1. It is a national public health insurance fund of the Government of India that aims to provide free access to health insurance coverage for low-income earners in the country.
2. It provides cover of Rs.5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empaneled hospitals in India.
3. The National Health Authority (NHA) is the nodal agency responsible for the nationwide roll-out and implementation of the AB-PMJAY scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ✓ **Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** is a national public health insurance fund of the Government of India that aims to provide free access to health insurance coverage for low-income earners in the country.
- ✓ It is a centrally sponsored scheme and is jointly funded by both the union government and the states.
- ✓ It provides cover of Rs.5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empaneled hospitals in India.
- ✓ The National Health Authority (NHA) has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for the effective implementation of PM-JAY in alliance with state governments.

316. Which of the following statement is NOT correct with regards to the '**Permanent Account Number (PAN)**'?

- (a) The PAN system of identification is a computer-based system that assigns unique identification number to every Indian taxpaying entity.
- (b) It is issued under the Indian Income Tax Act, 1961 by the Indian Income Tax Department under the supervision of the Central Board for Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- (c) **PAN is a 12-digit unique identification alphanumeric number.**
- (d) PAN Card is valid for lifetime because it is unaffected by any change in address.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ PAN is a **10-digit** unique identification alphanumeric number.

317. The Export Preparedness Index is a comprehensive analysis of India's export achievements, released by

- (a) **NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Institute of Competitiveness**
- (b) Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (c) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
- (d) Department of Economic Affairs, Union Ministry of Finance

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Institute of Competitiveness, has released the second edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021.
- ✓ The first Index was launched in August 2020.
- ✓ It aims to identify the fundamental areas critical for sub-national export promotion.
- ✓ The index ranked states on four key parameters – policy; business ecosystem; export ecosystem; export performance.
- ✓ The index also took into consideration 11 sub-pillars — export promotion policy; institutional framework; business environment; infrastructure; transport connectivity; access to finance; export infrastructure; trade support; R&D infrastructure; export diversification; and growth orientation.
- ✓ Performance of various states:
- ✓ Gujarat has topped NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021 for the second consecutive time.

- ✓ Maharashtra has been ranked second and Karnataka has been ranked third.

318. With reference to ‘**Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A VVPAT is intended as an independent verification system for voting machines designed to allow voters to verify that their vote was cast correctly, and to provide a means to audit the stored electronic results.
2. It contains the name of the candidate for whom vote has been cast and symbol of the party/individual candidate.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 only
- 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2**
- Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ The VVPAT helps to detect potential election fraud or malfunction in the Electronic Voting Machine.
- ✓ It provides a means to audit the stored electronic results. It serves as an additional barrier to change or destroy votes.
- ✓ The EVMs with VVPAT system ensure the accuracy of the voting system with fullest transparency and restores the confidence of the voters.
- ✓ EVMs and VVPATs also speed up the election process as counting votes on EVMs takes much lesser time than counting paper ballots.

319. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had agreed to a \$400 million currency swap facility for Sri Lanka till November 2022 to address the economic crisis. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with regards to the **currency swap agreement**?

- (a) It is a transaction in which two countries or central banks exchange an equivalent amount of money with each other but in different currencies.
- (b) It is a loan agreement between two parties, in which parties agree to swap back these quantities of their two currencies at a specified date in the future at a specified exchange rate or market rate.

- (c) The currency swap operations carry no exchange rate or other market risks as transaction terms are set in advance.

- (d) All of the above**

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ✓ It is a transaction in which two countries or central banks exchange an equivalent amount of money with each other but in different currencies.
- ✓ It is a loan agreement between two parties, in which parties agree to swap back these quantities of their two currencies at a specified date in the future at a specified exchange rate or market rate.
- ✓ The currency swap operations carry no exchange rate or other market risks as transaction terms are set in advance.
- ✓ The currency swap arrangement will remain available till November 2022.
- ✓ Sri Lanka earlier said it was set to enter into an agreement with the RBI for a currency swap worth \$400 million under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) framework.
- ✓ The SAARC currency swap facility came into operation on 15th November, 2012.
- ✓ The revised framework is valid from 14th November, 2019 to 13th November, 2022.
- ✓ The RBI can offer a swap arrangement within the overall corpus of USD 2 billion.
- ✓ The swap drawals can be made in US dollar, euro or Indian rupee. The framework provides certain concessions for swap drawals in Indian rupee.
- ✓ The facility will be available to all SAARC member countries, subject to their signing the bilateral swap agreements.

320. With reference to the ‘**Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC)**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. JSPSC is a constitutional body.
2. The chairperson and members of a JSPSC are appointed by the President.
3. The chairperson and members of a JSPSC hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ The constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states.
- ✓ While UPSC and he SPSC can be created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislative concerned.
- ✓ JSPSC is a statutory and not a constitutional body.
- ✓ A JSPSC presents its annual performance report to each of the concerned state governors.

321. With reference to the 'National Commission for Women', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The National Commission for Women was set up as statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990
2. The commission consists of a chairperson, a member secretary and five other members.
3. The commission also has the powers that are vested upon with a civil court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

322. Every year on the last Saturday of March, people around the planet take an hour off electricity by switching off their lights at homes and offices as a show of support for conservation of energy during the **World Earth Hour**. Which of the following organization has started the initiative?

- (a) **World Wildlife Fund for Nature**
- (b) Birdlife International
- (c) United Nations Environment Programme
- (d) Wildlife Trust of India

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ **Earth Hour** is the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)'s annual initiative that began in 2007.

- ✓ It is held every year on the last Saturday of March.
- ✓ It encourages people from more than 180 countries to switch off the lights from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm as per their local time.
- ✓ The idea is to refrain from the use of non-essential lighting to save energy in a symbolic call for environmental protection.

About World Wildlife Fund for Nature:

- ✓ It is the world's leading conservation organization and works in more than 100 countries.
- ✓ It was established in 1961 and is headquartered at Gland, Switzerland
- ✓ It aims to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth.
- ✓ Other Initiatives of WWF: TX2 Goal, TRAFFIC and Living Planet Report.

323. What was the objective of the 'United Nations Security Council resolution 1540', which was adopted unanimously on 28th April 2004?

- (a) Seek to facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan
- (b) Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- (c) Maintenance of international peace and security
- (d) Protection of civilians in armed conflict

Answer: (b)

324. Which of the following country has signed the "Mahakali Treaty" with India?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) **Nepal**
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Bangladesh

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Mahakali Treaty was signed in February 1996 between India and Nepal, pertaining to sharing water of a river by the same name.
- ✓ The Mahakali Treaty basically aims at integrated development of water resources in the Mahakali River and has been finalized on the basis of equal partnership.
- ✓ The river Mahakali originates in Nepal and forms the border between the two countries for a considerable distance.
- ✓ The scope of the Treaty covers the Sarada Barrage, the Tanakpur Barrage and the proposed Pancheswar project.

325. With reference to the ‘Kalinga Architecture’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Kalinga style is identified as a sub-class under the Vesara styles of temple architecture.
2. Kalinga temple style is broadly classified into three main categories, namely Rekha, Pidha and Khakhara.
3. The famous temple of Lingaraja at Bhubaneshwar and Jagannatha at Puri are two prominent and gigantic examples of Rekha Deula.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Indian temples are broadly divided into Nagara, Vesara, Dravida and Gadag styles of architecture.
- ✓ However, the temple architecture of Odisha corresponds to altogether a different category for their unique representations called Kalinga style of temple architecture.
- ✓ **This style broadly comes under the Nagara style.**

326. Consider the following statements:

1. A caretaker Prime Minister is someone who temporarily runs the government until the appointment of the next Prime Minister.
2. Caretaker governments may be put in place when a government in a parliamentary system is defeated in a motion of no confidence or in the case when the house to which the government is responsible is dissolved, to be in place for an interim period until an election is held and a new government is formed.

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

Answer: (c)

327. With reference to the ‘National Testing Agency (NTA)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. NTA has been established by the Government in 2018 as a premier, specialized, autonomous and self-sustained testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in higher educational institutions.
2. It was set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and it is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
3. The NTA will be chaired by the Ministry of Education.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ The NTA will be chaired by an eminent educationist.

328. Which of the following natural sites in India are listed under the UNESCO World Heritage Sites?

1. Western Ghats
2. Eastern Ghats
3. Kaziranga National Park
4. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
5. Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary
6. Sundarbans National Park

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ Eastern Ghats & Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary – Not listed under UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites.

329. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the same person cannot be appointed as Governor for two or more States at the same time.

2. No states in India can have a common capital.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Incorrect?**

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ According to the **7th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956**, the same person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States at the same time.
- ✓ Chandigarh is the shared capital city of both Punjab and Haryana.

330. With regards to Indian history, which of the following were the **settlements of the Portuguese?**

1. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
2. Goa
3. Puducherry
4. Daman and Diu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

- ✓ **The Portuguese settlements: Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.**
- ✓ **Dadra & Nagar Haveli liberated and acceded to India in 1954.**
- ✓ **Goa, Daman and Diu acceded to India by means of Police action in 1961.**
- ✓ **They were constituted as a union territory by the 12th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962.**
- ✓ **Later, in 1987, Goa was conferred a statehood.**
- ✓ **Settlements of French: Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam.**
- ✓ **The French handed over this territory to India in 1954.**

331. Consider the following pairs with regards **Maratha's Administration:**

Terms : Meaning

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Asthapradhan | : Council of Ministers |
| 2. Sardeshmukhi | : Foreign affairs |
| 3. Nyayadhish | : Administration of Justice |
| 4. Sumantor Dabir | : Additional Tax |

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

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Terms : Meaning

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| ✓ Asthapradhan | : Council of Ministers |
| ✓ Sardeshmukhi | : Additional Tax |
| ✓ Nyayadhish | : Administration of Justice |
| ✓ Sumantor Dabir | : Foreign affairs and the master of Royal ceremonies |

332. Women's Day is celebrated every year around the world on March 8th. In this context, what was the theme for International Women's Day, 2022?

- (a) Empower Rural Women, End Poverty, and Hunger
- (b) Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities
- (c) Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**
- (d) Think equal, build smart, innovate for change

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ Theme for International Women's Day, 2022 (IWD 2022) is 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'.
- ✓ It attempts to recognise the "contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all".
- ✓ IWD 2022 campaign theme is '#BreakTheBias'. It intends to promote a "gender equal world", which is "free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination". "A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive", and where "difference is valued and celebrated".

- ✓ IWD has been celebrated for over a century now, but many people think of it purely as a feminist cause. Its roots, however, are found in the labour movement, wherein it was first organised in 1911 by the early 20th century Marxist from Germany Clara Zetkin.

333. Who was the chief architect of the codification of criminal laws in India?

- Lord William Bentinck
- Stafford Cripps
- Lord Auckland
- Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay**

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Criminal law in India:

- ✓ The Criminal law in India is contained in a number of sources – The Indian Penal Code of 1860, the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- ✓ The criminal law and criminal procedure are in the concurrent list of the seventh schedule of the constitution.
- ✓ **Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay** is said to be the chief architect of codifications of criminal laws in India.

334. “Rezang La” is a mountain pass, sometimes seen in the news, located in

- Line of Actual Control in Ladakh**
- Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir
- McMahon Line in Arunachal Pradesh
- Sikkim

Answer: (a)

335. Consider the following statements with regards to “Polar Vortex”:

- It is a large area of high pressure and warm air surrounding both of the Earth's poles.
- The polar vortex spins in the stratosphere, a layer of the atmosphere 10-48 km above the ground and above the troposphere, where most familiar weather patterns develop.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ The polar vortex is a large area of low pressure and cold air surrounding both of the Earth's poles.
- ✓ The polar vortex spins in the stratosphere, a layer of the atmosphere 10-48 km above the ground and above the troposphere, where most familiar weather patterns develop.

336. Which of the following countries are the members of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)?

- India
- Madagascar
- Mauritius
- Seychelles
- Comoros

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 4 and 5 only
- 1, 3 and 5 only
- 2, 3, 4 and 5 only**
- 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ India is not a member of Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).
- ✓ India was recently accepted as an observer in the IOC, getting a seat at the table of the organization that handles maritime governance in the western Indian Ocean.

About IOC:

- It is an intergovernmental organization created in 1982.
- It was institutionalized in 1984 by the Victoria Agreement in Seychelles.
- It is composed of five African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion (an overseas region of France), and Seychelles.
- Its principal mission is to strengthen the ties of friendship between the countries and to be a platform of solidarity for the entire population of the African Indian Ocean region.
- The Commission has a Secretariat which is located in Mauritius and headed by a Secretary General.

337. Consider the following statements with regards to the “Supplementary Demand for Grants”:

- The supplementary demand for grants is needed for government expenditure over and above the

- amount for which Parliamentary approval was already obtained during the Budget session.
2. Supplementary, additional or excess grants and Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants are mentioned in the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ The supplementary demand for grants is needed for government expenditure over and above the amount for which Parliamentary approval was already obtained during the Budget session.
- ✓ Constitutional provisions:
- ✓ Supplementary, additional or excess grants and Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants are mentioned in the Constitution of India 1949.
 - Article 115: Supplementary, additional or excess grants.
 - Article 116: Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants.

- 338. With reference to the ‘Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission’, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. The Commission is chaired by Chief Election Commissioner.
2. The Jammu and Kashmir delimitation was carried out based on the 2011 Census and other considerations like geographical features and access.
3. Its orders cannot be called in question before any court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Commission is chaired by Retired Supreme Court judge.

- ✓ The J&K Delimitation Commission is chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai comprising two other ex-officio members and five Lok Sabha MPs from J&K nominated by the Lok Sabha Speaker as Associate Members.

- 339. Consider the following statements with regards to the ‘European Union (EU)’:**

1. It came into force after the signing of the Maastricht Treaty by 28 countries.
2. Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union provides for a mechanism for the voluntary and unilateral withdrawal of a country from the European Union (EU).
3. United Kingdom was the first country to leave the E.U.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ✓ The European Union was formed in 1993.
- ✓ It came into force after the signing of the Maastricht Treaty by 28 countries.
- ✓ Maastricht is a city located in the Netherlands.
- ✓ **Headquarters Brussels, Belgium**
- ✓ **European Union was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2012.**
- ✓ The 7 important decision-making bodies: European Parliament, European Council, European Commission, Council of the EU, Court of Justice of the EU, European Central Bank and European Court of Auditors.
- ✓ On January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom (U.K) formally left the European Union.
- ✓ **U.K is the first country to leave the E.U.**
- ✓ The exit was in accordance with **Article 50 of the Treaty of the EU**.
- ✓ Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union provides for a mechanism for the voluntary and unilateral withdrawal of a country from the European Union (EU).

- 340. With reference to ‘The Antarctic Treaty’, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It was signed between 12 countries in Washington on 1st December 1959 for making

- the Antarctic Continent a demilitarized zone to be preserved for scientific research only.
2. The agreements are legally binding and purpose-built for the unique geographical, environmental and political characteristics of the Antarctic and form a robust international governance framework for the region.
 3. India became a member of this treaty in 1983.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ✓ It was signed between 12 countries in Washington on 1st December 1959 for making the Antarctic Continent a demilitarized zone to be preserved for scientific research only.
- ✓ It entered into force in 1961 and has since been acceded by many other nations.
- ✓ The agreements are legally binding and purpose-built for the unique geographical, environmental and political characteristics of the Antarctic and form a robust international governance framework for the region.
- ✓ The twelve original signatories are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the UK and the US.
- ✓ Currently it has 54 parties. India became a member of this treaty in 1983.

341. With reference to the ‘Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
2. India is a founding member of SCO.
3. The SCO Secretariat, based in Beijing.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation. It was created in 2001.
- ✓ **The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.**
- ✓ It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- ✓ **SCO Secretariat in Beijing.**
- ✓ **Founding Members:** Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan (Shanghai Five)
- ✓ **Member countries:** Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan and Iran (newest member)
- ✓ **India is not a founding member.**
- ✓ **India and Pakistan became members in 2017 (at Astana Summit).**

342. “The Safe Cities Index 2021” is a global policy benchmarking tool developed to measure global urban safety, released by

- (a) United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- (b) The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**
- (c) World Bank
- (d) UNESCO

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ “The Safe Cities Index 2021” is a global policy benchmarking tool developed to measure global urban safety.
- ✓ It is released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ✓ The Index was first released in 2015.
- ✓ In 2021, cities are ranked based on 76 indicators of security across five broad pillars, which are digital, health, infrastructure, personal and environmental.
- ✓ Environmental security is the new addition in the security parameters list for the year 2021.
- ✓ New Delhi is placed at 48th position. Mumbai is at 50th place.

343. Which of the following countries are the members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)?

1. India
2. China
3. Japan
4. South Korea
5. Australia

6. New Zealand.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ India is not a member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
- ✓ India withdrew from the RCEP largely because of concerns it would open it up to Chinese goods amid an already wide trade imbalance with China, and the failure of the agreement to adequately open up to services.

About RCEP:

- ✓ It is a trade deal between the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.
- ✓ It is a regional Free Trade Agreement recently signed between 15 countries.
- ✓ **It came into effect on January 1, 2022.**
- ✓ Under RCEP, around 90% of trade tariffs within the bloc will eventually be eliminated.

344. With reference to the '**International Criminal Court (ICC)**', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
2. To become a member of the ICC or State party to the Rome Statute, the countries have to sign the statute and ratify it under their respective legislatures.
3. Countries including India, China, Iraq, North Korea, and Turkey never signed the Rome Statute, while others including the US, Russia, Israel, and Syria signed, but never ratified it.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ It is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

✓ ICC is not part of the UN.

- ✓ It is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.
- ✓ **Its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, entered into force on July 1, 2002.**
- ✓ To become a member of the ICC or State party to the Rome Statute, countries have to sign the statute and ratify it under their respective legislatures.
- ✓ 123 countries are currently members of the ICC, with African countries making up the largest bloc.
- ✓ Countries including India, China, Iraq, North Korea, and Turkey never signed the Rome Statute, while others including the US, Russia, Israel, and Syria signed, but never ratified it.

345. With reference to the '**Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The OECD is an intergovernmental economic organisation, founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
2. It is an official Permanent observer to the United Nations.
3. India is a member of OECD.
4. The OECD keeps a "blacklist" of countries it considers to be uncooperative tax-havens.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ The OECD is an intergovernmental economic organisation, founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
- ✓ It is an official Permanent observer to the United Nations.
- ✓ **India is not a member of OECD yet.** As a Key Partner, India is included in OECD analysis and statistical databases.
- ✓ The OECD keeps a "blacklist" of countries it considers to be **uncooperative tax-havens**.

- ✓ The OECD's headquarters are located in Paris, France.

346. “India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021” is a global policy benchmarking tool developed to measure global urban safety, released by

- Union Ministry of Earth Sciences
- Wildlife Institute of India
- Forest Survey of India (FSI)**
- NITI Aayog

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ It is released by the Forest Survey of India (FSI)
- ✓ It is a biennial report
- ✓ IFSR provides valuable inputs for planning, policy formulation & evidence based decision making both at National & State level.
- ✓ The report has classified India's forests into four categories.
 - **Very Dense Forest** (with tree canopy density of 70 per cent or above).
 - **Open Forest** (tree canopy density of 10 per cent or above but less than 40 per cent).
 - **Moderately Dense Forest** (tree canopy density of 40 per cent or above but less than 70 per cent).
 - **Moderately dense forests** are usually close to human habitations.

347. India at UNFCCC CoP-26 announced its enhanced climate commitments — the “Panchamrit” (five-point climate action plan). In this context, which of the following is not part of the five-point climate action?

- Get its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatts by 2030
- Meet 50 per cent of its energy requirements till 2030 with renewable energy
- Reduce its projected carbon emission by one billion tonnes by 2030
- Achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030**

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ✓ PM Modi has proposed a five-fold strategy called the ‘Panchamrita’ for India to play its part in helping the world get closer to 1.5 degrees Celsius on the first day of the global climate meeting in Glasgow (COP 26).
- ✓ **The five-point climate actions are as follows:**
 - Get its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatts by 2030

- Meet 50 per cent of its energy requirements till 2030 with renewable energy
- Reduce its projected carbon emission by one billion tonnes by 2030
- Reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45 per cent by 2030
- Achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070

348. Consider the following statements with regards to the “National Education Policy (NEP) 2020”:

- It is the first major policy initiative in education since Independence.
- Under the new policy, the 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.
- The policy has emphasized mother tongue or regional language as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only**
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ **It marks the fourth major policy initiative in education since Independence.**
- ✓ The last one has undertaken a good 34 years ago and modified in 1992.
- ✓ Based on two committee reports and extensive nationwide consultations, NEP 2020 is sweeping in its vision and seeks to address the entire gamut of education from preschool to doctoral studies, and from professional degrees to vocational training.
- ✓ Under the new policy, the 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.
- ✓ The policy has emphasized mother tongue or regional language as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond.

349. With reference to the ‘Semi-Presidential System’ of Government, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- It is republican system of governance that combines elements of presidential democracy with parliamentary democracy.
- Typically, the head of state is the president, directly elected by the people; whereas the head of government is the Prime Minister is nominated by the president but who can be dismissed by the legislature.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ It is republican system of governance that combines elements of presidential democracy with parliamentary democracy.
- ✓ Typically, the head of state is the president, directly elected by the people, whereas the head of government is the PM nominated by the president but who can be dismissed by the legislature.
- ✓ France is a well-known example of semi presidential democracy, the president leads foreign policy and the prime minister leads domestic policy.
- ✓ Other examples: Sri-Lanka, Egypt etc.

350. Consider the following pairs:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Vedanta Philosophy</u> | <u>: Propounded by</u> |
| 1. Advaita Vedanta | : Adi Shankaracharya |
| 2. Dvaita Vedanta | : Madhvacharya |
| 3. Vishishtadvaita | : Ramanujacharya |

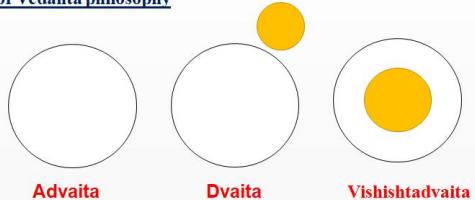
Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

School of Vedanta philosophy



Advaita Vedanta

- ✓ Advaita Vedanta is the **non-dualistic school** of thought that believes only one truth that is Brahman.
- ✓ Adi Shankaracharya propounded the Doctrine of Advaita (Monism /non-dualism).
- ✓ Advaita philosophy states that God and the living entity are in actuality eternally One.

Dvaita Vedanta

- ✓ Dvaita Vedanta identifies Atman (soul) and Brahman as separate and non-interchangeable entities.
- ✓ Propounded by Sri Madhvacharya, Dvaita Vedanta describes Brahman as superior to all souls and is perfect in aspects.
- ✓ Dvaita philosophy states that God and the living entity are eternally two.

Vishishtadvaita

- ✓ Vishishtadvaita is a non-dualistic school of Vedanta philosophy.
- ✓ It was propounded by Sri Ramanujacharya.
- ✓ It can be described as qualified monism or qualified non-dualism or attributive monism.
- ✓ It is a school of Vedanta philosophy which believes in all diversity subsuming to an underlying unity.

351. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Animal Sports</u> | <u>: State</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Bullock-Cart Races | : Maharashtra |
| 2. Kambala | : Tamil Nadu |
| 3. Jallikattu | : Karnataka |
| 4. Bulbul Fight | : Assam |

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

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

| <u>Animal Sports</u> | <u>: State</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bullock-Cart Races | : Maharashtra |
| 2. Kambala | : Karnataka |
| 3. Jallikattu | : Tamil Nadu |
| 4. Cock-Fight | : Andhra Pradesh |
| 5. Camel Race | : Rajasthan |
| 6. Dog Fight | : Delhi, Punjab and Haryana |
| 7. Bulbul Fight | : Assam |

352. Consider the following statements with regards to the “Paika Rebellion”:

- It was a non-violent agitation against the East India Company's rule in India in 1817.
- The Paika Rebellion was led by Bakshi Jagabandhu, the former Bakshi or commander of the forces of the Raja of Khurda.
- The revenue and taxation system did not change after the rebellion, hence the rebellion failed to have any effect in bringing change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Paika Rebellion also called the **Paika Bidroha** was an armed rebellion against East India Company's rule in India in 1817.
- ✓ The Paikas, were a class of military retainers had been recruited since the 16th century by kings in Odisha from a variety of social groups to render martial services in return for hereditary rent-free land and titles.
- ✓ The Paika Rebellion was led by Bakshi Jagabandhu, the former Bakshi or commander of the forces of the Raja of Khurda. They were projecting Lord Jagannath as the symbol of Odia unity.
- ✓ Raja Mukunda Deva, the last King of Khurda was another leader of the Paika rebels.
- ✓ The zamindars of Karipur, Mrichpur, Golra, Balarampur, Budnakera and Rupasa supported the Paikas. While the rebellion started from Banapur and Khurda, it quickly spread to other parts of Odisha like Puri, Pipili, Cuttack, and several remote villages, including Kanika, Kujang, and Pattamundai.
- ✓ The Rajas of Kanika, Kujang, Nayagarh and Ghumusur aided Jagabandhu and Dalabehera Mirhaidar Alli of Jadupur was an important Muslim rebel.
- ✓ The Paikas attacked British symbols of power, blazing police stations, administrative offices, and the treasury during their march towards Khurda.
- ✓ The rebels were imprisoned for life or given death sentences by the British administration. The British also appointed a commission to look into the rebellion.
- ✓ There were several smaller uprisings post the Paika rebellion, but all these were suppressed by the English.

- ✓ The revenue and taxation system did not change after the rebellion, hence the rebellion failed to have any effect in bringing change.
- ✓ Yet, the Paika rebellion was a widespread rebellion challenging British supremacy and has even been called the first war for independence before the revolt of 1857.

353. The Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index", which ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing, released by

- (a) NITI Aayog**
- (b) Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- (c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Agricultural marketing
- (d) National Institute of Agricultural Marketing

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ "The Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index" is released by NITI Aayog.
- ✓ The index ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing.
- ✓ Maharashtra achieved the first rank.
- ✓ The State has implemented most of the marketing reforms; also it offers the best environment for doing agri-business among all the States/UTs.
- ✓ Gujarat ranks second with a score of 71.5 out of 100, closely followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

354. "Poshan Vatikas", sometimes seen in the news, is an initiative of the government. Which one of the following is the purpose of this initiative?

- (a) To catalyse flow of institutional credit to Micro & Small Enterprises
- (b) To enable all states to provide supplementary education in regional languages for classes 1 to 12
- (c) To facilitate fund with blended capital to finance start-ups for agriculture & rural enterprise
- (d) To ensure supply of nutrition through organically home grown vegetables and fruits simultaneously ensuring that the soil must also remain healthy.**

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Poshan Vatikas

- ✓ In the backdrop of the month-long celebrations for **Poshan Maah** in September 2021, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has been promoting the establishment of "**Poshan Vatikas**" across the country.
- ✓ Literally translating to nutri-gardens, the ministry plans to set up Poshan Vatikas across **all anganwadi centres** with the aim to provide a fresh supply of fruits, vegetables and even medicinal plants, especially in aspirational districts.
- ✓ Plantation drives for Poshan Vatikas would be taken up by all the stakeholders in the space available at anganwadis, school premises and gram Panchayats.
- ✓ **Poshan Vatika's** main objective is to ensure supply of nutrition through organically home grown vegetables and fruits simultaneously ensuring that the soil must also remain healthy.

355. Which of the following Quad countries has signed the bilateral logistics agreement with India?

- (e) United States of America
- (f) Japan
- (g) Australia
- (h) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

What is Logistics Agreement?

- ✓ The agreements are administrative arrangements facilitating access to military facilities for exchange of fuel and provisions on mutual agreement simplifying logistical support and increasing operational turnaround of the military when operating away from India.
- ✓ India has signed military logistics agreements with several countries in the past. This includes the India-US Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), India-Japan Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) and India-Australia Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), demonstrating all the Quad countries.
- ✓ Apart from this, India maintains such military logistics agreements with France, Singapore and South Korea. It is currently in the process of finalising such an agreement with the UK and Vietnam.⁴ Signing RELOS with Russia would add to greater strategic cooperation between the two countries.

- ✓ The Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) is a long-awaited administrative agreement that would enable the militaries of both the countries (India and Russia) to access logistics and support facilities at each other's bases and ports.
- ✓ RELOS gives India access to Russian facilities in the Arctic region which is seeing increased global activity as new shipping routes open up and India's own investments in the Russian Far East.
- ✓ In addition, it comes at a time when both nations are looking at significantly scaling up the already broad military-to-military cooperation.

356. Consider following statements with regards to "White Shipping Information Exchange":

1. The white shipping information refers to the exchange of prior information on the movement and identity of commercial non-military merchant vessels.
2. Recently, a MoU was signed on the White Shipping Information Exchange between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ The white shipping information refers to the exchange of prior information on the movement and identity of commercial non-military merchant vessels.
- ✓ Recently, a MoU was signed on the White Shipping Information Exchange between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman.
- ✓ Additional Facts: Ships would be classified into white (commercial ships), grey (military vessels), and black (illegal vessels).

357. Consider the following statements with regards to the "Enforcement Directorate (ED)":

1. It is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
2. The directorate enforces the provisions of two special fiscal laws – Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

3. Recently, the government has reduced the tenure of the director of the Enforcement Directorate from five years to two years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ Directorate of Enforcement is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ The directorate enforces the provisions of two special fiscal laws – Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
- ✓ Recently, the President promulgated two ordinances that would allow the Centre to extend the tenures of the directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate from two years to up to five years.
- ✓ The ED has its headquarters in New Delhi and has many regional offices all over the country.
- ✓ It is headed by the Director of Enforcement, who is an IRS officer (Indian Revenue Service).

358. Who among the following originally drafted the “Sedition Law” in India?

- (a) Henry H. Fowler
- (b) Thomas Raleigh
- (c) **Thomas Babington Macaulay**
- (d) William Wilson Hunter

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Sedition Law was originally drafted in 1837 by Thomas Macaulay, the British historian-politician, but was inexplicably omitted when the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was enacted in 1860.
- ✓ Section 124A was inserted in 1870 by an amendment introduced by Sir James Stephen when it felt the need for a specific section to deal with the offence.
- ✓ The Sedition is a crime under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- ✓ In the 19th and early 20th centuries the sedition offense was used primarily to suppress the writings and speeches of prominent Indian nationalists and freedom fighters.

- ✓ The first known instance of the application of the law was the trial of newspaper editor Jogendra Chandra Bose in 1891.
- ✓ More prominent examples include the trials of Indian nationalists Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ Gandhi, who was charged under the sedition law in relation to the publication of three articles in a magazine, commented on the law during the proceedings, saying: “Section 124A under which I am happily charged is perhaps the prince among the political sections of the IPC designed to suppress the liberty of the citizen.”
- ✓ The Constituent Assembly did not agree to include sedition in the Constitution. The members felt it would curtail freedom of speech and expression.
- ✓ They argued that the sedition law can be turned into a weapon to suppress people's legitimate and constitutionally guaranteed right to protest.
- ✓ Underlining a constitutional court's duty to protect civil liberties, recently the Supreme Court put on hold the 152-year-old colonial-era penal provision of sedition in India.

359. Consider the following statements with regards to “Bond Yields”:

- 1. A rise in bond yields in the market will bring the price of the bond down.
- 2. A drop in bond yield would benefit the investor as the price of the bond will rise, generating capital gains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ Bond yield is the return an investor realizes on a bond.
- ✓ The mathematical formula for calculating yield is the annual coupon rate (interest rate promised by the bond issuer) divided by the current market price of the bond.
- ✓ Movements in yields depend on trends in interest rates; it can result in capital gains or losses for investors.
- ✓ **A rise in bond yields in the market will bring the price of the bond down.**

- ✓ A drop in bond yield would benefit the investor as the price of the bond will rise, generating capital gains.
- ✓ A yield curve is a line that plots yields (interest rates) of bonds having equal credit quality but differing maturity dates.
- ✓ The slope of the yield curve gives an idea of future interest rate changes and economic activity.

360. The planet is often described as the “twin sister” of the Earth because of the similarities in size, mass, density, bulk composition and gravity. It is believed that both planets share a common origin, forming at the same time out of a condensing nebulosity around 4.5 billion years ago. Unlike the other planets in our solar system, this planet spins clockwise on its axis. It is the hottest planet in the solar system because of the high concentration of carbon dioxide which works to produce an intense greenhouse effect.

Which of the following planet is correct with regards to the above description?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

About Venus

- ✓ Venus is often described as the “twin sister” of the Earth because of the similarities in size, mass, density, bulk composition and gravity.
- ✓ It is believed that both planets share a common origin, forming at the same time out of a condensing nebulosity around 4.5 billion years ago.
- ✓ Venus is around 30 per cent closer to the Sun as compared to Earth resulting in much higher solar flux.
- ✓ Unlike the other planets in our solar system, Venus (also Uranus) planet spins clockwise on its axis.
- ✓ It is the hottest planet in the solar system because of the high concentration of carbon dioxide which works to produce an intense greenhouse effect.
- ✓ Venus has the highest Albedo of any major planet in our solar system.

Shukrayaan-I

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has short-listed 20 space-based

experiment proposals for its proposed Venus orbiter mission ‘Shukrayaan’.

- ✓ The orbiter, depending on its final configuration, would have a science payload capability of approximately 100 kilograms with 500 W available power.
- ✓ The initial elliptical orbit around Venus is expected to have 500 km at periapsis and 60,000 km at apoapsis.
- ✓ The satellite is planned to be launched onboard the GSLV Mk II rocket.

361. The “Palli village” has become the nation’s first carbon-neutral panchayat, fully powered by solar energy. The village is located in which of the following states?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Jammu and Kashmir
- (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ Palli village is located in Samba Tehsil of Samba district in Jammu & Kashmir has become the country’s first panchayat to become carbon neutral, fully powered by solar energy and with all its records digitised and saturation of benefits of all the Central schemes.

362. "Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) - Sarmat" was recently in the news. Which one of the following countries developed and tested the Missile?

- (a) Russia
- (b) United States
- (c) North Korea
- (d) India

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Criminal law in India:

- ✓ Amidst harsh sanctions imposed by the West due to the Ukraine invasion, Russia has tested its new Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Sarmat on 20th April 2022.
- ✓ This was the first test launch of the ICMB Sarmat after having been delayed earlier in 2021.
- ✓ It was launched from Plesetsk in North West Russia with the intended target in the Kamchatka peninsula almost 6,000 km away.
- ✓ It is a liquid fuelled missile as compared to US ICBMs which have moved on to solid fuel systems.

363. Consider the following statements with regards to the “**Second World War (1939-1945)**”:

1. The World War two officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.
2. The International Labour Organization (ILO) was formed after the world war two.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Treaty of Versailles

- ✓ The major causes of World War II were numerous.
- ✓ They include the impact of the **Treaty of Versailles** following WWI, the worldwide economic depression, failure of appeasement, the rise of militarism in Germany and Japan, and the failure of the League of Nations.
- ✓ The Treaty of Versailles was a peace document signed between Imperial Germany and the Allied Powers on 28th June 1919.
- ✓ The treaty ended the state of war that had existed between Germany and the Allies from 1914 and brought World War I to an end.
- ✓ Under this treaty, Germany had to accept guilt for the war and to pay reparations. Germany lost territory and was prohibited from having a large military.
- ✓ The humiliation faced by Germany under this treaty, paved the way for the spread of Ultra-Nationalism in Germany.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- ✓ The International Labour Organization was created in 1919 by Part XIII of the Versailles Peace Treaty ending World War I.
- ✓ It grew out of nineteenth-century labor and social movements which culminated in widespread demands for social justice and higher living standards for the world’s working people. In 1946, after the demise of the League of Nations, the ILO became the first specialized agency associated with the United Nations.

364. The aim of the Ramsar convention was to conserve wetlands and promote sustainable use of their natural resources. Which of the following wetlands in India are listed under the **Ramsar Sites**?

1. Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary

2. Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Haiderpur Wetland
4. Sultanpur National Park
5. Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary
6. Wadhvana Wetland

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Ramsar Sites in India

- ✓ **Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary** in Gujarat and **Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary** in Uttar Pradesh were announced as Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) on the occasion of World Wetland day 2022 (2nd January 2022).
- ✓ **Haiderpur Wetland** in Uttar Pradesh has been added as the 47th Ramsar Site in December 2021. It is a **human-made wetland** formed in 1984 and is located within the boundaries of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ Four new sites have been added to the list of Ramsar Sites in India in August 2021. These are: **Sultanpur National Park** – Gurugram, Haryana, **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary** – Jhajjar, Haryana, **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary** – Near Ahmedabad, Gujarat, **Wadhvana Wetland** – Vadodara, Gujarat

365. Consider the following statements with regards to “**Indian Presidential Election**”:

1. The President’s election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is by secret ballot.
2. The vote value of each MLA differs from State to State based on a calculation that factors in its population vis-a-vis the number of members in its legislative Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Indian President is elected through **an Electoral College system**, wherein the votes are cast by **national and State-level lawmakers**.
- ✓ The elections are conducted and overseen by the **Election Commission (EC) of India**.
- ✓ The Electoral College is made up of all the **elected members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament** (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha MPs), and the **elected Members** of the Legislative Assemblies of States and Union Territories (MLAs).
- ✓ The President's election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is by secret ballot.
- ✓ A vote cast by each MP or MLA is not calculated as one vote.
- ✓ The value of the vote of an MP in a presidential election is based on the number of elected members in legislative assemblies of states and union territories, including Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The fixed value of each vote by an MP of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha is 708.
- ✓ The value of the vote of a Member of Parliament is likely to go down to 700 from 708 in the presidential polls scheduled in July due to the absence of a legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The vote value of each MLA differs from State to State based on a calculation that factors in its population vis-a-vis the number of members in its legislative Assembly.

366. Consider the following statements:

1. In organic farming, neither chemical nor organic fertilizers are added to the soil.
2. In natural farming, decomposition of organic matter by microbes and earthworms is encouraged right on the soil surface itself, which gradually adds nutrition in the soil, over the period

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ In organic farming, organic fertilizers and manures like compost, vermicompost, cow dung

manure, etc. are used and added to farmlands from external sources.

- ✓ In natural farming, neither chemical nor organic fertilizers are added to the soil. In fact, no external fertilizers are added to soil or give to plants whatsoever.
- ✓ Organic farming still requires basic agro practices like ploughing, tilting, mixing of manures, weeding, etc. to be performed.
- ✓ In natural farming there is no ploughing, no tilting of soil and no fertilizers, and no weeding is done just the way it would be in natural ecosystems.
- ✓ Organic farming is still expensive due to the requirement of bulk manures, and it has an ecological impact on surrounding environments; whereas, natural agriculture is an extremely low-cost farming method, completely moulding with local biodiversity.
- ✓ In natural farming, decomposition of organic matter by microbes and earthworms is encouraged right on the soil surface itself, which gradually adds nutrition in the soil, over the period.
- ✓ **Zero Budget Natural Farming** is a method of chemical-free agriculture drawing from traditional Indian practices.

367. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, abortion is completely prohibited under the existing laws.
2. Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021, the gestational limit for termination of pregnancy has been increased from 20 to 24 weeks for exceptional categories of women in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021

- ✓ The Act permits abortion to be allowed up to 20 weeks on the opinion of just one medical practitioner.
- ✓ Under the new rules, the gestational limit for termination of pregnancy has been increased from 20 to 24 weeks for exceptional categories of women in India.

- ✓ Women for whom the limit has been increased comprise of minors; survivors of sexual assault, rape or incest; those having physical disabilities and those whose marital status changes during pregnancy that is in case of widowhood or divorce.
- ✓ It also includes cases of foetal malformation where there is risk of physical or mental abnormalities, mentally ill women and women in disasters or emergency situations, declared by the government.

368. With reference to the '**Martial Law in India**', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The concept of martial law has been borrowed in India from the English common Law.
2. The expression 'martial law' has clearly defined in the Indian Constitution.
3. It refers to a situation where civil administration is run by the military authorities according to their own rules and regulations framed outside the ordinary law.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ The concept of martial law has been borrowed in India from the English common Law. **1st statement is correct.**
- ✓ The expression 'martial law' has not been defined anywhere in the Indian Constitution. So the **statement 2 is incorrect.**
- ✓ It refers to a situation where civil administration is run by the military authorities according to their own rules and regulations framed outside the ordinary law. **3rd is statement is correct.**

369. Which of the following is/are the **disqualification for being elected members of the parliament under the provisions mentioned in the Indian Constitution?**

1. If he/she is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a court.
2. He/she must not have been found guilty of certain election offences or corrupt practices in the election.

3. He/she must not be a director or managing agent nor hold an office of profit in a corporation in which the government has at least 25 % share.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Under the constitution, a person shall be disqualified for being elected as a members of parliament:

- ✓ If he/she holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder;
- ✓ **If he/she is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;**
- ✓ If he is an undischarged insolvent;
- ✓ If he is not a citizen of India, or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State, or is under any acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State;
- ✓ If he is so disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament.

A person shall be disqualified for being a member of either House of Parliament if he is so disqualified under the Tenth Schedule.

Criteria for disqualifications under RPA, 1951:

- ✓ He/she must not have been found guilty of certain election offences or corrupt practices in the election.
- ✓ He/she must not have been convicted for any offence resulting in imprisonment for two or more years (except for the detention under a preventive detention law).
- ✓ Has failed to lodge an account of his/her election expenses within the time.
- ✓ Has any interest in government contracts, works or services.
- ✓ **He/she must not be a director or managing agent nor hold an office of profit in a corporation in which the government has at least 25 % share.**
- ✓ Has been dismissed from government service for corruption or disloyalty to the State.

- ✓ Has been convicted for promoting enmity between different groups or for the offence of bribery.
- ✓ Has been punished for preaching and practicing social crimes such as untouchability, dowry and sati.

370. With reference to the ‘**Adjournment Motion**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is introduced in the parliament to draw attention of the Houses to a definite matter of urgent public importance.
2. Lok Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device.
3. It needs the support of 50 members to be admitted in the House.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ **Adjournment Motion** is introduced in the parliament to draw attention of the Houses to a definite matter of urgent public importance.
- ✓ **It involves an element of censure against the government and hence Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device. So the statement 2 is incorrect.**
- ✓ It needs the support of 50 members to be admitted in the House.
- ✓ The discussion on an adjournment motion should last for not less than two hours and thirty minutes.

371. With reference to the “**Open Market Operations**”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the market operations conducted by RBI by way of sale or purchase of government securities to/from the market with an objective to adjust the rupee liquidity conditions in the market on a durable basis.
2. To increase the money supply, the RBI will sell the bonds to the banks.
3. To reduce the money supply, the RBI will purchase the bonds from the banks.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ Open Market Operations (OMOs) are market operations conducted by RBI by way of sale/purchase of government securities to/from the market with an objective to adjust the rupee liquidity conditions in the market on a durable basis.
- ✓ If there is excess liquidity, RBI resorts to sale of securities and sucks out the rupee liquidity.
- ✓ Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, RBI buys securities from the market, thereby releasing liquidity into the market.

372. With reference to the ‘**Classification of Non-Performing Assets (NPA)**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Doubtful Assets are the assets which have remained NPA for a period of less than or equal to 12 months.
2. Substandard Assets are the remaining NPAs for more than 12 months.
3. Loss assets are of little value; it can no longer continue as a bankable asset, there could be some recovery value.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

NPAs

- ✓ Generally speaking, NPA is any asset of a bank which is not producing any income.
- ✓ In other words, a loan or lease that is not meeting its stated principal and interest payments.
- ✓ On a bank’s balance sheet, loans made to customers are listed as assets. The biggest risk to a bank is when customers who take out loans stop making their payments, causing the value of the loan assets to decline.

Categories of NPAs

- ✓ Sub-standard: When the NPAs have aged <= 12 months.
- ✓ Doubtful: When the NPAs have aged > 12 months.
- ✓ Loss assets: When the bank or its auditors have identified the loss, but it has not been written off.

373. With reference to the ‘**Types of Budgets**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A Budget is in deficit when the expected revenues exceed the estimated expenditure for a particular financial year.
2. Zero-based budgeting is a method of budgeting in which all expenses are evaluated each time a Budget is made and expenses must be justified for each new period.
3. Outcome Budget analyses the progress of each ministry and department and what the respected ministry has done with its Budget outlay.
4. The gender-budgeting is defined as “gender-based assessment of Budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality”.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Types of Budgets

- ✓ **Balanced Budget** – A government Budget is assumed to be balanced if the expected expenditure is equal to the anticipated receipts for a fiscal year.
- ✓ **Surplus Budget** – A Budget is said to be surplus when the expected revenues surpass or exceed the estimated expenditure for a particular business year. Here, the Budget becomes surplus, when taxes imposed, are higher than the expenses.
- ✓ **Deficit Budget** - A Budget is in deficit if the expenditure surpasses or exceed the revenue for a designated year.
- ✓ **Zero-based budgeting** is a method of budgeting in which all expenses are evaluated each time a Budget is made and expenses must be justified for each new period. Zero budgeting starts from the zero base and every function of

the government is analysed for its needs and cost. Budget is then made based on the needs

- ✓ **Outcome Budget** analyses the progress of each ministry and department and what the respected ministry has done with its Budget outlay. It measures the development outcomes of all government programs. It was first introduced in the year 2005.
- ✓ **Gender-budgeting:** The gender-budgeting is defined as “gender-based assessment of Budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality”. It is actually budgeting for gender equity. Through Gender Budget, the Government declares an amount to be spent over the development, Welfare, Empowerment schemes and programmes for Females.

374. With reference to the ‘**Money Bill under Article 110**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It can be introduced only on the recommendation of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
2. If any question arises whether a bill is a money bill or not, the decision of President of India is final.
3. The Rajya Sabha cannot reject or amend, but can only make recommendations.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Money Bill (under Article 110):

- ✓ Only be introduced in the Lok Sabha
- ✓ Can be introduced only on the recommendation of the **President of India**
- ✓ Every such bill is considered to be a government bill and can be introduced only by a minister.
- ✓ If any question arises whether a bill is a money bill or not, the decision of **Speaker of the Lok Sabha is final**
- ✓ His decision in this regard cannot be questioned in any court of law.

- ✓ Rajya Sabha cannot reject or amend, but can only make recommendations
- ✓ Within 14 days, the bill deemed to have been passed by both the Houses.

375. With reference to the Union Government consider the following statements:

1. The Department of Economic Affairs is responsible for the preparation of Union Budget that is presented to the parliament.
2. No amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India without the authorization of Parliament of India.
3. The voting of demands for grants is the exclusive privilege of the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Department of Economic Affairs is responsible for the preparation of Union Budget that is presented to the parliament.
- ✓ No amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India without the authorization of Parliament of India.
- ✓ The voting of demands for grants is the exclusive privilege of the Lok Sabha.

376. Which of the following documents are mandated to be submitted along with the Union budget under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act 2003?

1. Macroeconomic Framework Statement.
2. Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement.
3. Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM Act), 2003, established to make financial discipline to reduce fiscal deficit.

- ✓ The FRBM Bill was introduced by the then finance minister, Yashwant Sinha, in 2000. The Bill, approved by the Union Cabinet in 2003, became effective from July 5, 2004.

- ✓ The FRBM Act aims to introduce transparency in India's fiscal management systems. The Act's long-term objective is for India to achieve fiscal stability and to give the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) flexibility to deal with inflation in India. The FRBM Act was enacted to introduce more equitable distribution of India's debt over the years.

- ✓ **Mandated by FRBM Act, 2003:** following must be placed along with the Budget documents annually in the Parliament:

- ✓ 1. Macroeconomic Framework Statement.
- ✓ 2. Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement.
- ✓ 3. Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement.

- ✓ **FRBM Act exemptions:** On grounds of national security, calamity, etc, the set targets of fiscal deficits and revenue could be exceeded.

377. The “Kavach” Technology was recently mentioned in the Union Budget 2022-23, aims to

- (a) enhance efficiency and reducing the cost of logistics in India by creating a transparent, single window platform to provide real-time information to all stakeholder
- (b) **provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at danger and avoid a collision.**
- (c) provide information to citizen in compliance with the right to information Act
- (d) digitize and modernizing land records and developing a centralized land record management system

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Kavach Technology

- ✓ It is India's very own automatic protection system in development since 2012, under the name Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), which got a new name to "Kavach".
- ✓ It can prevent two trains from colliding.
- ✓ It is a set of electronic devices and Radio Frequency Identification devices installed in locomotives, in the signaling system as well the tracks, that talk to each other using ultra high radio frequencies to control the brakes of trains and also alert drivers

- ✓ Automatic system applied brakes 200 meters apart, thus avoiding a collision.
- ✓ The devices also continuously relay the signals ahead to the locomotive, making it useful for loco pilots in low visibility, especially during dense fog.

378. “Ecological Threat Report 2021”, includes the most recent and respected scientific research on population growth, water stress, food insecurity, droughts, floods, cyclones, and rising temperature. Which of the following organization released the Index?

- (a) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- (b) Institute of Economics and Peace**
- (c) World Economic Forum
- (d) United Nations Environment Programme

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ Recently, the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), an international think tank released: The Ecological Threat Report (ETR) 2021: Understanding ecological threats, resilience and peace.
- ✓ This is the second edition of the ETR, which covers 178 independent states and territories.
- ✓ The ETR includes the most recent and respected scientific research on population growth, water stress, food insecurity, droughts, floods, cyclones, and rising temperature.

379. With reference to the ‘Adjournment in the Parliament’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Adjournment terminates the sitting of the House which meets again at the time appointed for the next sitting.
2. It is done by the President of India.
3. It does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the house and the same can be resumed when the house meets again.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Adjournment

- ✓ It refers to postponing the further transaction of the business for a specified time.
- ✓ It terminates the sitting of the House which meets again at the time appointed for the next sitting.
- ✓ It is done by presiding officer of the house.**
- ✓ The power of adjournment as well as adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) of the House.
- ✓ It does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the house and the same can be resumed when the house meets again.

Prorogation:

- ✓ It is not only terminates a sitting but also a session of the House.
- ✓ It is done by the President of India
- ✓ It does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House.
- ✓ However, all pending notices lapse on prorogation and fresh notices have to be given for the next session.

380. With reference to the ‘Types of Majority in the Parliament’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Absolute Majority as per article 368 requires a majority of 2/3rd members present and voting supported by more than 50% of the total strength of the house.
2. Special majority refers to a majority of more than 50% of the total membership of the house.
3. Simple Majority refers to the majority of more than 50% of the members present and voting.
4. Effective Majority of the house means more than 50% of the effective strength of the house.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ Special majority as per article 368 requires a majority of 2/3rd members present and voting supported by more than 50% of the total strength of the house.
- ✓ Absolute Majority refers to a majority of more than 50% of the total membership of the house.
- ✓ Simple Majority refers to the majority of more than 50% of the members present and voting.

- ✓ Effective Majority of the house means more than 50% of the effective strength of the house.

381. Which of the following committee has recommended for the merging of Railway Budget with General Budget in India?

- (a) Bibek Debroy committee
- (b) NK Singh Committee
- (c) Nachiket Mor Committee
- (d) Acworth Committee

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ NITI Aayog appointed a Committee headed by economist and NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy.
- ✓ **Bibek Debroy committee** recommended that a separate Railway budget should be phased out progressively and merged with the General Budget and eventually also integrate the Ministry of Railways with Ministry of Transport.

382. The term “Blended Finance”, recently mentioned in the Union Budget 2022-23 is refers to

- (a) the strategic use of concessional capital and private capital in projects where the perceived risks are too high for private players to participate alone
- (b) the funds which are obtained majorly from taxes, borrowing from banks or insurance companies
- (c) the rupee-denominated bonds issued outside India by Indian entities
- (d) the funds allocated to certain schemes of the government, which have to be spent within the current fiscal year of allocation, if not then the fund will be evaporated and cannot be used in the next fiscal

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ The term “Blended Finance”, recently mentioned in the Union Budget 2022-23 is refers to the strategic use of concessional capital and private capital in projects where the perceived risks are too high for private players to participate alone.
- ✓ Blended finance is the strategic use of development finance for the mobilization of additional finance towards sustainable development.

383. With reference to the ‘Energy Conservation (EC) Act, 2001, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Act provides for the legal framework, institutional arrangement and a regulatory mechanism at the Central and State level to embark upon energy efficiency drive in the country.
2. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) was set up as the statutory body in 2002 at the central level to facilitate the implementation of the EC Act.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

- ✓ Considering the vast potential of energy savings and benefits of energy efficiency, the Government of India enacted the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- ✓ The Act provides for the legal framework, institutional arrangement and a regulatory mechanism at the Central and State level to embark upon energy efficiency drive in the country.
- ✓ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) was set up as the statutory body in 2002 at the central level to facilitate the implementation of the EC Act. The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2010- Main Amendments
- ✓ The Central Government may issue the energy savings certificate to the designated consumer whose energy consumption is less than the prescribed norms and standards in accordance with the procedure as may be prescribed.
- ✓ The designated consumer whose energy consumption is more than the prescribed norms and standards shall be entitled to purchase the energy savings certificate to comply with the prescribed norms and standards.
- ✓ The Central Government may, in consultation with the Bureau, prescribe the value of per metric ton of oil equivalent of energy consumed.
- ✓ Commercial buildings which are having a connected load of 100 kW or contract demand of 120 kVA and above come under the purview of ECBC under EC Act.

384. Consider following statements with regards to “Green Bonds”:

1. It is a type of fixed-income instrument that is specifically earmarked to raise money for climate and environmental projects.
2. Sovereign green bonds can support the proliferation of electric buses and allied charging infrastructure in India by providing cost-effective financing options.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Green Bonds

- ✓ It is a type of fixed-income instrument that is specifically earmarked to raise money for climate and environmental projects.
- ✓ The first green bond was issued in 2007 by the European Investment Bank, the EU's lending arm.
- ✓ This was followed a year later by the World Bank. Since then, many governments and corporations have entered the market to finance green projects.
- ✓ They are aimed at energy efficiency, pollution prevention, sustainable agriculture, fishery and forestry, the protection of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, clean transportation, clean water, and sustainable water management.
- ✓ Sovereign green bonds can support the proliferation of electric buses and allied charging infrastructure in India by providing cost-effective financing options.

385. Recently “Parvatmala” Project was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23. Which of the following is the objective of the project?

- (a) To promote port-led direct and indirect development and to provide infrastructure to transport goods to and from ports quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively
- (b) To develop Ropeways in hilly areas of the country in a Public-Private Partnership mode**
- (c) To provide quality medicines at an affordable rate to the common man especially the poor

- (d) To promote Minor Forest Products centric livelihood development of tribal gatherers and artisans

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Parvatmala Project:

- ✓ It is the National Ropeways Development Programme
- ✓ It aims to develop Ropeways in hilly areas of the country in a Public-Private Partnership mode.
- ✓ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is responsible for development.
- ✓ It aims to improve connectivity, besides promoting Tourism.
- ✓ The scheme is being presently started in regions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir and the other North Eastern states.

386. Consider the following statements:

1. Fiscal deficit is defined as excess of total receipts over total expenditure excluding borrowings during a fiscal year.
2. Revenue Deficit refers to the excess of total revenue expenditure of the government over its total revenue receipts
3. Primary deficit is defined as fiscal deficit minus interest payments on previous borrowings.

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

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Fiscal Deficit

- ✓ Fiscal deficit is defined as excess of total expenditure over total receipts excluding borrowings during a fiscal year.
- ✓ $\text{Fiscal deficit} = \text{Total budget expenditure} - \text{Total budget receipts excluding borrowings}$ OR $\text{Fiscal Deficit} = (\text{Revenue expenditure} + \text{Capital expenditure}) - (\text{Revenue Receipts} + \text{Capital receipts excluding borrowings})$
- ✓ Fiscal deficit shows the borrowing requirements of the govt. during the budget year.
- ✓ Fiscal deficit reflects the borrowing requirements of the govt. for financing the expenditure including interest payments.

Revenue Deficit

- ✓ It refers to the excess of total revenue expenditure of the government over its total revenue receipts.
- ✓ Revenue deficit = Total Revenue expenditure – Total Revenue receipts. OR Revenue deficit = Total Revenue expenditure – (Tax Revenue + Non-Tax Revenue)

Primary Deficit

- ✓ Primary Deficit: Primary deficit is defined as **fiscal deficit minus interest payments on previous borrowings**.
- ✓ Primary deficit shows the borrowing requirements of the govt. for meeting expenditure excluding interest payment.
- ✓ Gross Primary deficit = Fiscal deficit – Interest payments.

387. Which of the following body recommends the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution?

- (a) Department of Economic Affairs
- (b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- (c) **Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices**
- (d) NITI Aayog

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices

- ✓ The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- ✓ The minimum support prices are a guarantee price for their produce from the Government. The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution.

388. What is the objective of the “Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP)” which is a sub-mission under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)?

- (a) It is aimed at promoting traditional indigenous practices which reduces externally purchased inputs
- (b) It aims to provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases

- (c) It aims to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities
- (d) It aims to provide income support to all farmer families having cultivable land

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP)

- ✓ **Natural farming** is promoted as BPKP under a centrally sponsored scheme- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).
- ✓ It is aimed at promoting traditional indigenous practices which reduces externally purchased inputs.
- ✓ The scheme mainly emphasizes the exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling.
- ✓ It stresses biomass mulching; use of cow dung urine formulations; plant-based preparations and time to time working of soil for aeration.
- ✓ Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building, and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification, and residue analysis.

389. During the Union Budget presentation, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that 2022-23 will be considered the International Year of Millets. In this context, consider the following statements with regards to the “Millets in India”:

1. The millets are group of small grained cereal food crops which are highly tolerant to drought and other extreme weather conditions and are grown with low chemical inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides.
2. The millets are a rich source of Protein, fibre, minerals, iron and calcium.
3. India is the largest importer of millets due to less domestic production.
4. The millets are gluten-free with a low glycemic index which constitutes good food for people suffering from diabetes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Millets in India

- ✓ The United Nation General Assembly adopted an India-sponsored resolution to mark 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- ✓ India is the largest producer and second largest exporter of millets in the world.
- ✓ Rajasthan the top millet-producing state, catering to over 40 per cent of total production in the country.
- ✓ The Millets are group of small grained cereal food crops which are highly tolerant to drought and other extreme weather conditions and are grown with low chemical inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides.
- ✓ The millets are a rich source of Protein, fibre, minerals, iron and calcium.
- ✓ The millets are gluten-free with a low glycemic index which constitutes good food for people suffering from diabetes.

390. “PARIVESH Portal”, sometimes seen in the news, aims to

- (a) encourage high-end scientific research and prepare scientific manpower which will lead to research careers and will develop a knowledge economy
- (b) serve as a ‘one-stop site’ to provide all the information related to the adoption of electric vehicles in India
- (c) provide free online career skills training for job-seekers
- (d) **provide various types of clearances like Environment, Forest, Wildlife and Coastal Regulation Zone Clearances from Central, State and district-level authorities**

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ✓ **PARIVESH Portal**
- ✓ It is an environmental single window hub for Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ clearances.
- ✓ This Single-Window Integrated Environmental Management System has been developed in pursuance of the spirit of ‘Digital India’ initiated by the Prime Minister and capturing the essence of Minimum Government and Maximum Governance.

391. Consider the following statements:

1. Surcharge is a charge on any tax, charged on the tax already paid.

2. A Cess imposed by the central government is a tax on tax, levied by the government for a specific purpose.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ A Cess imposed by the central government is a tax on tax, levied by the government for a specific purpose.
- ✓ Generally, Cess is expected to be levied till the time the government gets enough money for that purpose.
- ✓ Surcharge is a charge on any tax, charged on the tax already paid.
- ✓ As the name suggests, surcharge is an additional charge or tax.
- ✓ The main surcharges are that on personal income tax (on high income slabs and on super rich) and on corporate income tax.

392. Recently, the Union Budget 2022-23 proposed to reduce the Minimum Alternative Tax to 15% for co-op societies, at par with corporate. In this context, which of the following is the purpose of the Minimum Alternative Tax?

- (a) **It aims to bring the ‘zero-tax paying companies’ within the ambit of income tax and make them pay a minimum amount in tax to the government**
- (b) It is a tax levy on the profits from the sale of assets held for more than a year.
- (c) It is a tax that is levied on the funding received by start-ups from an external investor
- (d) It is a tax imposed by one country on the goods and services imported from another country

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Minimum Alternative Tax:

- ✓ Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) was created to bring these ‘zero-tax paying companies’ within the ambit of income tax and make them pay a minimum amount in tax to the government.

Capital Gains Tax:

- ✓ Capital gains tax applies to the profits from the sale of a capital asset only.
- ✓ The rate of tax on capital gains depends on the type of capital gain. Income Tax Act, 1961

- divides the capital gains tax into the following two types: Short-Term Capital Gains Tax and Long-Term Capital Gains Tax
- ✓ **Long-term Capital Gains Tax:** It is a levy on the profits from the sale of assets held for more than a year. The rates are 0%, 15%, or 20%, depending on tax bracket.
 - ✓ **Angel Tax:** It is a 30% tax that is levied on the funding received by start-ups from an external investor
 - ✓ **A tariff** is a tax imposed by one country on the goods and services imported from another country.

393. Consider the following statements with regards to the “**Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**”:

1. The resolution process can be initiated only by the debtors or the creditors.
2. The IBC in India currently does not allow for automatic recognition of any insolvency proceedings in other countries
3. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) model is the most widely accepted legal framework to deal with cross-border insolvency issues.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016

- ✓ It is a comprehensive insolvency code encompassing all companies, partnerships and individuals.
- ✓ The resolution process can be initiated only by the debtors or the creditors.
- ✓ The IBC in India currently does not allow for automatic recognition of any insolvency proceedings in other countries.
- ✓ Current provisions do not allow Indian courts to address the issue of foreign assets of a company being subjected to parallel insolvency proceedings in other jurisdictions
- ✓ United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) model is the most widely accepted legal framework to deal with cross-border insolvency issues.

✓ The Union Budget 2022-23 proposed to amend the IBC to facilitate the “Cross-border insolvency proceedings”.

✓ Cross-border insolvency proceedings are relevant for the resolution of distressed companies with assets and liabilities across multiple jurisdictions.

394. Which of the following statements about the Drone Rules, 2021 is not correct?

- (a) **Remote pilot certificate is required for flying small to medium size drones of up to 2kg for non-commercial purposes**
- (b) Import of drones and drone components to be regulated by Directorate General of Foreign Trade
- (c) Coverage of drones under Drone Rules, 2021 increased from 300 kg to 500 kg
- (d) Issuance of Certificate of Airworthiness delegated to Quality Council of India

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Drone Rules 2021

- ✓ After the government banned the import of drones in India, the civil aviation ministry has made another major change to the new drone laws in the country.
- ✓ It has, in fact, made it easier for people to fly small drones legally for non-commercial purposes.
- ✓ The government has now announced the Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022 which says that remote pilot certificate (earlier it was called licence) will not be required for flying small to medium size drones of up to 2kg for non-commercial purposes.

Key changes:

- ✓ Digital sky platform shall be developed as a business-friendly single-window online system.
- ✓ No flight permission required upto 400 feet in green zones and upto 200 feet in the area between 8 and 12 km from the airport perimeter.
- ✓ No restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India.
- ✓ Import of drones and drone components to be regulated by Directorate General of Foreign Trade
- ✓ Coverage of drones under Drone Rules, 2021 increased from 300 kg to 500 kg
- ✓ Issuance of Certificate of Airworthiness delegated to Quality Council of India

- ✓ No security clearance required before any registration or licence issuance.
- ✓ No requirement of certificate of airworthiness, unique identification number, prior permission and remote pilot licence for R&D entities.
- ✓ Coverage of drones under Drone Rules, 2021 increased from 300 kg to 500 kg. This will cover drone taxis also.
- ✓ Issuance of Certificate of Airworthiness delegated to Quality Council of India and certification entities authorized by it.
- ✓ Manufacturer may generate their drone's unique identification number on the digital sky platform through the self-certification route.
- ✓ Maximum penalty under Drone Rules, 2021 reduced to INR 1 lakh. This shall, however, not apply to penalties in respect of violation of other laws.
- ✓ Drone corridors will be developed for cargo deliveries.
- ✓ Drone promotion council to be set up to facilitate a business-friendly regulatory regime.

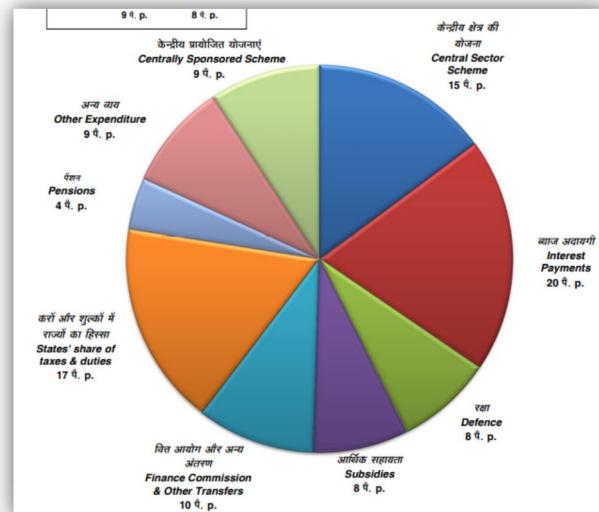
395. Which one of the following has the highest share of expenditure allocation in the Budget estimates of 2022-23?

- (a) Centrally Sponsored Schemes
- (b) Defence
- (c) Subsidies
- (d) Central Sector Schemes**

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Central Sector Schemes: 15%**
- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme: 9%**
- **Defence: 8%**
- **Subsidies: 8%**



396. Consider the following statements with regards to the “PM-DevINE Scheme” proposed in the Union Budget 2022-23:

1. The scheme aims to fund infrastructure and need-based social development in the North East region.
2. The scheme will be implemented through North Eastern Council (NEC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Treaty of Versailles

PM-DevINE scheme

- ✓ It stands for “Prime Minister’s Development Initiative for North-East”.
- ✓ In Union Budget 2022-23, a new “PM-DevINE scheme” was proposed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ✓ PM-DevINE will fund infrastructure, in the spirit of PM GatiShakti, and social development projects based on felt needs of the North-East states.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented through North Eastern Council (NEC).

397. Consider the following statements with regards to “Mission Shakti”:

1. The Mission Shakti will consist of the schemes and policies for the empowerment and protection of women.

2. It has two sub-schemes ‘Sambal’ and ‘Samarthya’.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Mission Shakti Scheme

- ✓ The Mission Shakti will consist of the schemes and policies for the empowerment and protection of women.
- ✓ It has two sub-schemes ‘Sambal’ and ‘Samarthya’.
- ✓ SAMBAL: This category will include schemes such as One Stop Centre, Mahila Police Volunteer, Women’s Helpline, Swadhar, Ujjawala among others.
- ✓ SAMARTHYA: This category will include schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PM Matru Vandana Yojana among others.

398. Consider the following statements with regards to the “e-SHRAM Portal”:

1. It is intended to create a national database of Unorganized Workers.
2. It was launched by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
3. An e-Shram Card will be issued to workers who successfully register for the e-Shram Portal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ✓ On August 26, 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) launched the E-Shram, the web portal for creating a National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW), which will be seeded with Aadhaar.
- ✓ **Aim:** Welfare of workers in the unorganized sector who are not members of the EPFO or ESIC.
- ✓ Registered members will be eligible for a variety of benefits after signing up for the Shramik Yojana and receiving an e-Shram card.

- ✓ An eShram Card will be issued to workers who successfully register for the e-Shram Portal. On that card, there will be a 12-digit UAN number.

Who is Unorganised Worker?

- ✓ Any worker who is a home based-worker, self-employed worker or a wage worker in the unorganised sector including a worker in the organised sector who is not a member of ESIC or EPFO or not a Govt. employee is called an Unorganised Worker.

399. "Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative sometimes seen in the news, related to

- (a) Biodiesel
- (b) Ethanol Blending Programme
- (c) **Compressed Biogas production**
- (d) Battery swapping policy for electric vehicles

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT):

- ✓ SATAT is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in October 2018.
- ✓ It is an initiative aimed at setting up of Compressed Bio-Gas production plants and makes it available in the market for use in automotive fuels by inviting Expression of Interest from potential entrepreneurs.
- ✓ It is an initiative by the Government of India to promote Compressed Bio-Gas as an alternative, green transport fuel.
- ✓ The objective of SATAT initiative is to boost the availability of more affordable transport fuels, better use of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste as well as to provide an additional revenue source to farmers.

400. Consider the following pairs:

Convention/Agreement : Deals with

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Stockholm Convention | : Persistent Organic Pollutants. |
| 2. Basel Convention | : Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals |
| 3. Rotterdam Convention | : Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides |
| 4. Cartagena Protocol | : Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. |

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

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

| <u>Convention/Agreement</u> | <u>: Deals with</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Stockholm Convention | : Persistent Organic Pollutants. |
| 2. Basel Convention | : Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. |
| 3. Bonn Convention | : Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals |
| 4. Rotterdam Convention | : Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides |
| 5. Cartagena Protocol | : Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity |

401. Consider the following statements with regards to the “**Great Green Wall (GGW) Project**”:

- 1. It was launched by World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- 2. The project aims to address desertification, land degradation and climate change in the Sahel region of Africa.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Great Green Wall project

- ✓ The Great Green Wall project is conceived by 11 countries located along the southern border of the Sahara and their international partners, is aimed at limiting the desertification of the Sahel zone.
- ✓ It was launched in 2007 by the African Union, the game-changing African-led Great Green Wall initiative aims to restore the continent’s degraded landscapes and transform millions of lives in the Sahel.
- ✓ The initiative aims to transform the lives of millions of people by creating a mosaic of green and productive landscapes across North Africa.
- ✓ The initial idea of the GGW was to develop a line of trees from east to the west bordering the Saharan Desert.

- ✓ Its vision has evolved into that of a mosaic of interventions addressing the challenges facing the people in the Sahel and the Sahara.
- ✓ It aimed to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030; only four million hectares had been restored between 2007 and 2019.

402. Which of the following countries are the members of the “**Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)**”?

- 1. India
- 2. Bangladesh
- 3. Sri Lanka
- 4. Thailand
- 5. Myanmar
- 6. Bhutan
- 7. Nepal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 5, 6 and 7 only
- (c) 2, 3, 6 and 7 only
- (d) All of the above**

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

BIMSTEC

- ✓ It was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.
- ✓ **Founding Members:** Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- ✓ **Members:** Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan and Nepal
- ✓ Major countries of South Asia, except Maldives, Afghanistan and Pakistan
- ✓ **India is a founding member.**
- ✓ For India, it is a natural platform to fulfil our key foreign policy priorities of ‘Neighbourhood First’ and ‘Act East’.

403. Consider the following statements with regards to “**New Development Bank (NDB)**”:

- 1. It is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the BRICS countries at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil in 2014.
- 2. Each of the five BRICS member countries will have equal shareholding in the New Development Bank.
- 3. New Development Bank’s membership is only open to the members of BRICS.

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

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

New Development Bank (NDB)

- ✓ It is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the BRICS countries at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil in 2014.
- ✓ It was formed to support infrastructure and sustainable development efforts in BRICS and other underserved, emerging economies for faster development through innovation and cutting-edge technology.
- ✓ Each of the five BRICS member countries will have equal shareholding in the New Development Bank.
- ✓ New Development Bank's membership is open to all the members of the United Nations.
- ✓ It is headquartered at Shanghai, China.
- ✓ In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly, establishing a firm basis for active and fruitful cooperation with the UN.

404. The Economic Survey provides a summary of annual economic development across the country during the financial year. Every year, it is presented in the Parliament just before the Union Budget. Which of the following prepare the Economic Survey?

- (a) Chief Economic Advisor (CEA)
- (b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- (c) Department of Revenue
- (d) Department of Expenditure

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Economic Survey

- ✓ Economic Survey is a two-volume document prepared by the Chief Economic Advisor of the department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ Economic Survey gives a detailed account of the various sectors of the economy and overall economic scenario of the country in the past years and provides an outline for the year ahead.

- ✓ The Economic Survey, even though a government document, provides an opportunity for the Chief Economic Adviser to provide a disinterested, economic objective analysis.

405. Which of the following is the correct meaning/definition of the "Agile approach" mentioned in the Economic Survey 2021?

- (a) It refers to deliberate collaboration among various stakeholder groups and sectors jointly achieve a policy outcome.
- (b) It is a framework for project and policy implementation that is considered highly efficient for getting work done
- (c) It is a sequential development process that flows like a waterfall through all phases of a project.
- (d) It is a regional local approach which facilitates sustainable growth in small and socially cohesive rural areas.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Agile approach

- ✓ The Agile approach was mentioned in the Economic Survey 2021
- ✓ It is a framework for project and policy implementation that is considered highly efficient for getting work done
- ✓ As per the Agile approach, short-term policy responses can be tailored to an evolving situation rather than what a model may have predicted.
- ✓ The short-term policy response is possible because of the explosion of real-time data that allows for constant monitoring. Such information includes GST collections, digital payments, satellite photographs, electricity production, cargo movements, internal/external trade, infrastructure roll-out, delivery of various schemes, mobility indicators etc.
- ✓ The "Agile approach" is based on feedback loops, real-time monitoring of actual outcomes, flexible responses, safety-net buffers and so on.
- ✓ Planning is not done in the Agile approach as a deterministic prediction of the flow of events. Still, planning is relevant in the framework – mostly for scenario analysis, identifying vulnerable sections, and understanding policy options.

406. What is the objective of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana?

- (a) To facilitate easy access to credit for street vendors
- (b) To boost employment in formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid-19 recovery phase**
- (c) To provide 100 “Kisan drones” in different cities in India in order to help farmers spray pesticides on their farms
- (d) To develop capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary care health systems even in the last miles of the nation

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana

- ✓ It was launched in November 2020 to boost employment in the formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid-19 recovery phase under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0.
- ✓ It provides subsidy for provident fund contribution for adding new employees to establishments registered with the Employees’ Provident Fund Organization (EPFO).
- ✓ The organizations of up to 1000 employees would receive employee’s contribution (12% of wages) & employer’s contributions (12% of wages), totalling 24% of wages, for two years.
- ✓ Employers with over 1,000 employees will get employees’ contribution of 12%, for two years.
- ✓ The subsidy amount under the scheme will be credited upfront only in Aadhaar-seeded EPFO accounts (UAN) of new employees.

407. Consider the following statements:

1. The Revenue receipts have grown at a much higher pace during the current financial year as compared to the corresponding periods during the last two years.
2. Corporate income tax registered a growth of 90.4 per cent over April-November 2020 due to improved profitability of corporate, formalization of economy and improved compliance due to tax reforms.
3. Over the last four years, the Goods and Service Tax (GST) revenues have steadily decreased.

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

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Economic Survey Data:

- ✓ The Revenue receipts have grown at a much higher pace during the current financial year as compared to the corresponding periods during the last two years.
- ✓ Corporate income tax registered a growth of 90.4 per cent over April-November 2020 due to improved profitability of corporate, formalization of economy and improved compliance due to tax reforms.
- ✓ Over the last four years, the Goods and Service Tax (GST) revenues have steadily increased.

408. Consider the following statements with regards to “**RBI’s Retail Direct Scheme**”:

1. Under the scheme, small investors can buy or sell government securities or bonds, directly without an intermediary like a mutual fund.
2. Under the scheme, retail investors will have the facility to open and maintain the ‘Retail Direct Gilt Account’ with the RBI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

RBI’s Retail Direct Scheme

- ✓ Recently, the Prime Minister has launched the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)- Retail Direct Scheme to open up the Government bond market for the retail investors.
- ✓ Under the scheme, small investors can buy or sell government securities or bonds, directly without an intermediary like a mutual fund.
- ✓ Under the scheme, retail investors will have the facility to open and maintain the ‘Retail Direct Gilt Account’ with the RBI.
- ✓ **Retail Investor** is a non-professional investor who buys and sells securities or funds that contain a basket of securities such as mutual funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).
- ✓ **A Gilt Account** can be compared with a bank account, except that the account is debited or credited with treasury bills or government securities instead of money.

409. With reference to the ‘**MPLAD (Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) Scheme**’, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide a mechanism for the Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature for creation of durable community assets and for provision of basic facilities including community infrastructure, based on locally felt needs.
2. Under the scheme, nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select works for implementation anywhere in the country.
3. The district authority is empowered to examine the eligibility of works, sanction funds and select the implementing agencies, prioritise works, supervise overall execution, and monitor the scheme at the ground level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

410. With reference to ‘The Census’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Census was first started under British Viceroy Lord Canning in 1861.
2. The first synchronous census in India was held in 1881.
3. The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

411. Which of the following Article in Indian constitution deals with the “right to move freely throughout the territory of India”?

- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 19**
- (c) Article 21
- (d) Article 23

Answer: (b)

412. Which of the following is the correct name of the Indian Air Force helicopter which crashed near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu on 8th December 2021?

- (a) Mi 26
- (b) MK 1A
- (c) Mi 17V5**
- (d) MQ - 9

Answer: (c)

413. Who among the following artists was originally drew the painting of “**Bharat Mata**”?

- (a) Raja Ravi Varma
- (b) Amrita Sher-Gil
- (c) Abanindranath Tagore**
- (d) Nandalal Bose

Answer: (c)

414. With reference to the ‘**Judicial Disqualification or Recusal**’, consider the following statements.

1. Judicial disqualification, referred to as recusal, is the act of abstaining from participation in an official action such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official or administrative officer.
2. There are no definite rules on recusals by Judges in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

415. With reference to the ‘**Drone Rules 2021**’, consider the following statements:

1. No flight permission is required up to 400 feet in green zones and up to 200 feet in the area between 8 and 12 km from the airport perimeter.
2. No Pilot licence is required for micro drones for non-commercial use, nano drones and for the Research & Development organisations.
3. No restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

416. The “Malimath Committee”, was sometimes seen in the news, is associated with

- (a) **Reforming Criminal Justice System**
- (b) Reforming Higher Education
- (c) Good and Service Tax Reforms
- (d) Textile Sector Reforms

Answer: (a)

417. With reference to the ‘National Education Policy (NEP) 2020’, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the first education policy of the 21st century and replaces the thirty-four-year-old National Policy on Education, 1986.
- 2. This policy envisages that the extant 10+2 structure in school education will be modified with a new pedagogical and curricular restructuring of 5+3+3+4 covering ages 3-18.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

418. Who among the following is/are included in the committee constituted for the appointment of the **National Human Rights Commission?**

- 1. The President
- 2. Prime Minister as a Chairperson
- 3. Speaker of Lok Sabha
- 4. Chairman of Rajya Sabha
- 5. Union Home Minister
- 6. Leaders of the Opposition in both Houses of the Parliament

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b)

419. The first e-court in India was opened at the high court of

- (a) Delhi
- (b) **Hyderabad**
- (c) Calcutta

(d) Mumbai

Answer: (b)

420. With reference to the ‘**National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was established under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
- 2. The Constitution 102nd Amendment Act, 2018 gave constitutional status to the NCBC, and empowered the President to notify the list of socially and educationally backward classes for any state or union territory for all purposes.

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

Answer: (c)

421. With reference to the ‘**Foreigners Tribunal**’, consider the following statements:

- 1. Foreigners’ Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies established as per the Foreigners’ Tribunal Order, 1964 and the Foreigners’ Act, 1946.
- 2. The powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.
- 3. A member can be a retired judicial officer of the Assam Judicial Service, a retired civil servant not below the rank of secretary and additional secretary with judicial experience, or a practising advocate not below the age of 35 years and with at least seven years of practice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

422. ‘A2+FL’ and ‘C2’ costs, sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to

- (a) **Minimum Support Price of crop**
- (b) Covid 19 Vaccination
- (c) Measuring of Fiscal Deficit
- (d) WTO Agreement on Agriculture

Answer: (a)

423. With reference to the ‘**James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)**’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an orbiting infrared observatory that will complement and extend the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope, with longer wavelength coverage and greatly improved sensitivity.
2. James Webb orbits around the Earth at an altitude of about 570 km.
3. It is a joint venture between the NASA, European Space Agency and Canadian space agencies

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

424. With reference to the ‘**Geographical Indication (GI) tag**’, Consider the following statements:

1. A Geographical Indication is used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
2. This tag is valid for a period of 100 years following which it can be renewed.
3. The first product in India to be accorded with GI tag was Darjeeling tea in the year 2004-05.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

425. “**Global Gender Gap Report 2021**” is released by which of the following?

- (a) Global Fund for Women
(b) World Economic Forum
(c) World Justice Project
(d) United Nations Women

Answer: (b)

426. With reference to the ‘**Delimitation Commission**’, consider the following statement:

1. According to the Delimitation Commission Act, 2002, the Delimitation Commission will have six members.
2. The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
3. The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President with the help of the Election Commission in 1950-51.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

427. “**Paray Shikshalaya**”, an open-air classroom initiative, was sometimes seen in the news, launched by

- (a) **West Bengal**
(b) Assam
(c) Utter Pradesh
(d) Odisha

Answer: (a)

428. ‘**The Opportunity Index 2021**’ report is released by

- (a) LinkedIn**
(b) Indeed
(c) Ministry of Labour and Employment
(d) National Statistical Office

Answer: (a)

429. Which of the following international organization is governed by an international treaty called the ‘**Rome Statute**’?

- (a) International Criminal Court**
(b) International Court of Justice
(c) International Labour Organization
(d) International Development Law Organization

Answer: (a)

430. The “**FAME India Scheme**”, was sometimes seen in the news, is aims to

- (a) provide financial, technical and business support to upgrade existing micro food processing enterprise
(b) encourage electric vehicles by providing subsidies

- (c) preserve and revitalize the rich cultural heritage of the country
- (d) create a national database for Persons with Disability and to issue a Disability Identity Card to such persons

Answer: (b)

431. Consider the following pairs:

| <u>Ramsar sites</u> | <u>State</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Sultanpur NP | : West Bengal |
| 2. Khijadia WS | : Gujarat |
| 3. Bakhira WS | : Uttar Pradesh |
| 4. Haiderpur Wetland | : Andhra Pradesh |

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

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

Answer: (d)

432. Which of the following commission has recommended that the Governor should be someone from outside the respective State so that he would not have any personal interest to protect?

- (a) Punchhi Commission
- (b) Sarkaria Commission**
- (c) Justice V. Chelliah Commission
- (d) Administrative Reforms Commission

Answer: (b)

433. The “Industrial Park Ratings System (IPRS) Report” is released by

- (a) Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency
- (b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Bureau of Indian Standards

Answer: (b)

434. Which of the following international institution is listing the countries that support terror financing and money laundering activities to the 'black' and 'grey list'?

- (a) Financial Action Task Force**
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- (d) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Answer: (a)

435. Which one of the following countries is not a member of the quadrilateral security dialogue (QUAD grouping), which India is part of

- (a) Japan
- (b) United States
- (c) Australia
- (d) South Korea**

Answer: (d)

436. With reference to the ‘North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty of April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
2. Ukraine is the latest country to join NATO in 2020.

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

Answer: (a)

437. Consider the following statements with regard to the ‘National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)’:

1. It is the entrance examination for entry to all undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental courses in the country.
2. It is conducted by the National Medical Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

438. With reference to the “Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)”, consider the following statements’:

1. The IPEF seeks to strengthen economic partnership amongst participating countries with the objective of enhancing resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth,

- fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.
2. All the ASEAN member countries are part of this framework.
 3. All the Quad Member countries are part of the Framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ The **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)** seeks to strengthen economic partnership amongst participating countries with the objective of enhancing resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- ✓ The grouping, which includes **seven out of 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), all four Quad countries**, and New Zealand, represents about 40% of global GDP. **Statement 3 is correct.**
- ✓ **India** will work together with other IPEF countries to build an inclusive and flexible Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.
- ✓ Three ASEAN countries considered closer to China — **Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos** — are not members of the IPEF. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

439. Which of the following organization created the World Network of Biosphere Reserve?

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- (b) **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**
- (c) Wetlands International
- (d) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

World Network of Biosphere Reserve

- ✓ The World Network of Biosphere Reserves was created in 1971 by UNESCO.
- ✓ Biosphere reserves are places where humans live in harmony with nature, and where there is

an effective combination of sustainable development and nature conservation.

- ✓ The Indian government has established 18 biosphere reserves to protect larger areas of natural habitat than a typical national park or animal sanctuary, and that often include one or more national parks or reserves, along with buffer zones that are open to some economic uses.
- ✓ In India, the first biosphere reserve was designated by UNESCO in 2000 within the blue mountains of the Nilgiris. It stretches across the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.
- ✓ The network has gone from strength to strength, and it now counts 12 sites, with Panna, in the State of Madhya Pradesh, as the latest inscription in 2020.

440. With reference to the ‘Border Road Organisation (BRO)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a modern and transnational construction organization that is committed to meeting the strategic requirements of the Indian armed forces.
2. It is being managed and is functional under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

About Border Road Organisation (BRO)

- ✓ Border Road Organisation (BRO) was formed on 7th May 1960 to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and north east states of the country. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru conceptualized BRO in 1960.
- ✓ The organization has been able to construct roads in areas covered with snow for 6 months in a year.
- ✓ It is a modern and transnational construction organization that is committed to meeting the strategic requirements of the Indian armed forces.
- ✓ **Initially, BRO was functional under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.**

But since 2015, it is being managed and is functional under the Ministry of Defence.

- ✓ BRO is operational in 21 Indian states and 1 union territory. And also, functional in our neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

441. “International Day of Biodiversity” is a United Nations-sanctioned international day for the promotion of biodiversity issues. It is observed and celebrated every year on

- (a) 22nd May
- (b) 2nd February
- (c) 5th June
- (d) 21st June

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

International Day of Biodiversity

- ✓ The International Day for Biological Diversity is a United Nations-sanctioned international day for the promotion of biodiversity issues.
- ✓ It is observed on 22nd May every year to increase awareness and understanding of the issues of biodiversity.
- ✓ The theme in 2022 is “Building a shared future for all life”.
- ✓ The International Day for Biological Diversity falls within the scope of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals.

442. Consider the following statements with regards to the “Green Hydrogen”:

1. Green hydrogen is defined as hydrogen produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable electricity.
2. Green hydrogen has significantly higher carbon emissions than grey hydrogen.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (e) 1 only
- (f) 2 only
- (g) Both 1 and 2
- (h) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Green Hydrogen

- ✓ Green hydrogen is defined as hydrogen produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable electricity.

- ✓ Green hydrogen has significantly lower carbon emissions than grey hydrogen. Statement 2 is wrong.

443. Consider the following statements with regards to the “Inter-State Council”, recently in the news:

3. The Inter-State Council is a non-permanent constitutional body enshrined in Article 263 of the Constitution of India.
4. Union Home Minister is the chairperson of the Inter-State Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ✓ The Inter-State Council is a non-permanent constitutional body enshrined in Article 263 of the Constitution of India. Statement 1 is correct.
- ✓ Article 263 states: If at any time the President deems it necessary to do so by forming a Council in the public interest:
 - Investigate and advise on potential disputes between States; OR
 - To inquire into and discuss matters of common interest to some or all States or Union to one or more States; OR
 - Make recommendations on any such issue, especially recommendations for better coordination of policy and action on that issue.
- ✓ The Inter-State Council can be defined as a recommendation committee that investigates and discusses issues of common interest to one or more states, for better coordination of policy and action on the issue.
- ✓ The Prime Minister of India is the chairperson of the Inter-State Council. Statement 2 is wrong.

444. Consider the following statements with regards to “Goods & Services Tax (GST)”:

1. It is a comprehensive direct tax on manufacture, sale, and consumption of goods and services throughout India.
2. It is a destination-based taxation system.
3. It has been established by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act.

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

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ✓ GST is a comprehensive **indirect tax** on manufacture, sale, and consumption of goods and services throughout India. It is an indirect tax for the whole country on the lines of “One Nation One Tax” to make India a unified market. **Statement 1 is wrong.**
- ✓ **It is a destination-based taxation system.**
- ✓ **It has been established by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. Statement 2 and 3 are correct.**
- ✓ It is a single tax on supply of Goods and Services in its entire product cycle or life cycle i.e. from manufacturer to the consumer.
- ✓ It is calculated only in the “Value addition” at any stage of a goods or services.
- ✓ The final consumer will pay only his part of the tax and not the entire supply chain which was the case earlier.
- ✓ There is a provision of GST Council to decide upon any matter related to GST whose chairman in the finance minister of India.

445. The “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index 2020-21” was recently in the news, developed by

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) United Nations Development Programme
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Ministry of Earth Sciences

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index 2020-21

- ✓ The SDG India Index is developed by NITI Aayog.
- ✓ The NITI Aayog launched its index in 2018 to monitor the country’s progress on the goals through data-driven assessment, and foster a competitive spirit among the States and Union Territories in achieving them.

- ✓ NITI Aayog has the twin mandate to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the SDGs in the country, and also promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and UTs.

446. Which of the following organization created the World Network of Biosphere Reserve?

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- (b) **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**
- (c) Wetlands International
- (d) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

World Network of Biosphere Reserve

- ✓ The World Network of Biosphere Reserves was created in 1971 by UNESCO.
- ✓ Biosphere reserves are places where humans live in harmony with nature, and where there is an effective combination of sustainable development and nature conservation.
- ✓ The Indian government has established 18 biosphere reserves to protect larger areas of natural habitat than a typical national park or animal sanctuary, and that often include one or more national parks or reserves, along with buffer zones that are open to some economic uses.
- ✓ In India, the first biosphere reserve was designated by UNESCO in 2000 within the blue mountains of the Nilgiris. It stretches across the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.
- ✓ The network has gone from strength to strength, and it now counts 12 sites, with Panna, in the State of Madhya Pradesh, as the latest inscription in 2020.

447. According to India’s National Policy on Bio-fuels, which of the following can be used as raw materials for the production of bio-fuels?

1. Damaged wheat grains
2. Sugar beet
3. Rotten potatoes
4. Cassava
5. Broken rice

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

National Policy on Bio-fuels

- ✓ The National Policy on Bio-fuels, 2018, allows production of ethanol from **damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, etc.**, which are unfit for human consumption.
- ✓ The Policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of sugarcane juice, sugar containing materials like **sugar beet**, sweet sorghum, starch containing materials like corn, **cassava, damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, and rotten potatoes**, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.

448. The term ‘two Plus two dialogue’ in diplomatic level is refers to

- (a) informal and unofficial backchannel diplomacy
- (b) people-to-people diplomacy undertaken by individuals and private groups
- (c) mechanism between two countries’ defence and external affairs ministries**
- (d) official and unofficial conflict resolution efforts

Answer: (c)

449. ‘Kiribati Island’ is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- (a) Civil war
- (b) Climate change**
- (c) Earthquake
- (d) Rohingya refugee crisis

Answer: (b)

450. With reference to ‘Value-Added Tax (VAT)’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is a consumption tax levied on a commodity whenever it adds value at any point in the supply chain, from production to sale.
- 2. It is a regressive tax that places an undue economic burden on lower-income consumers.
- 3. It is collected and retained by the state where the tax is collected.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

- (d) 1, 2 and 3**

Answer: (d)

451. With reference to ‘the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012,’ which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It aims to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography and provide for establishment of Special Courts for trial of such offences and related matters and incidents.
- 2. The Act defines a child as any person below 16 years of age.

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

452. Which one of the following is the best description of ‘INS Vela’, that was in the news recently?

- (a) Amphibious warfare ship
- (b) Scorpene-class submarine**
- (c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- (d) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

Answer: (b)