

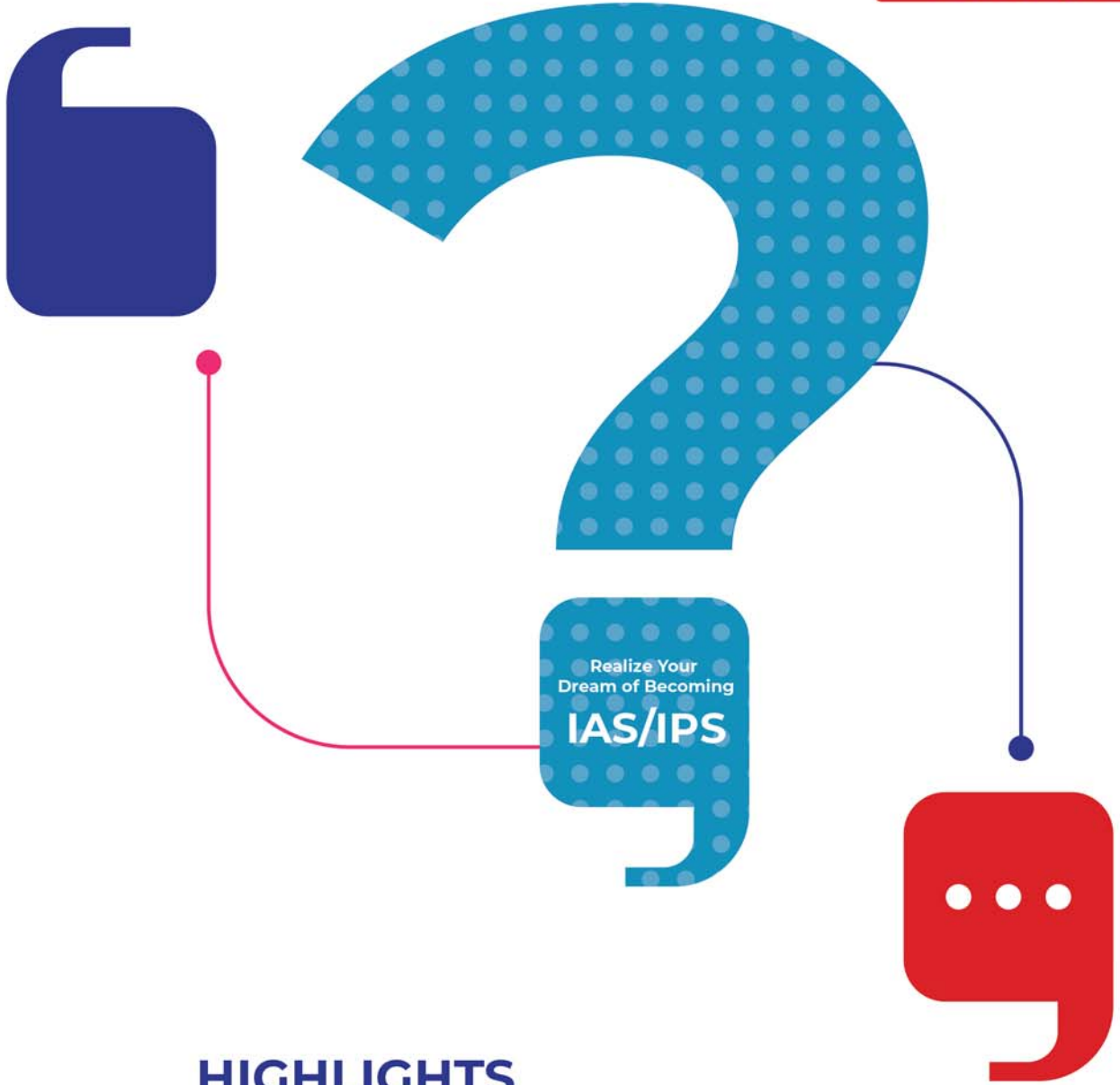


SAMIKSHA
इत्समिक्षा
Comprehensive **NEWS** Analysis



ANALOG
IAS ACADEMY

APRIL 2021



HIGHLIGHTS

UPSC Prelims GS-1 Practice Paper-2

UPSC Mains GS Practice Paper-37



ANALOG
IAS ACADEMY

PRELIMS TEST C.S.(P)

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO

T.B.C.: P-PFC-L-BJAB

4

TEST BOOKLET SERIES

Serial No. 145221

TEST BOOKLET

B

GENERAL STUDIES (PAPER – I)

Time Allowed: Two Hours

Maximum Marks: 200

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. ENCODE CLEARLY THE TEST BOOKLET SERIES A, B, C OR D AS THE CASE MAY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE ANSWER SHEET.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **DO NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. This test Booklet contains **100** items (questions). Each item is printed both in Hindi and English. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See directions in the Answer Sheet.
6. All items carry equal marks.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet the response to various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instructions sent to you will your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should handover to the Invigilator only the Answer Sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. **USE ONLY BALL BLACK OR BLUE PEN TO MARK IN THE ANSWER SHEET.**
10. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
11. **Penalty for wrong answers:**

THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS.

 - (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third (0.333)** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
 - (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a **wrong answer** even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
 - (iii) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be **no penalty** for that question.

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO



1. Consider the following statements with respect to Development Finance Institutions (DFIs)

1. It is an institution promoted or assisted by the Government mainly to provide development finance to one or more sectors or sub-sectors of the economy.
2. There is no specific use of the term DFI in either the RBI Act, 1934 or the Companies Act, 1956 or various statutes establishing DFIs.

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

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

2. Which of the following fields of Biology deals with the Study of moths and butterflies?

- (a) Serpentology (b) Batrachology
(c) Zoophytology (d) Lepidopterology

3. With respect to Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme that aims to provide remunerative and fair prices to tribal gatherers of forest produces.
2. It is a flagship scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
3. The scheme will be applicable only to the scheduled areas in eight states and for 12 minor forest produces (MFPs) only.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4. Mahendragiri Biosphere Reserve was recently proposed as the second biosphere reserve of which of the following states?

- (a) Odisha (b) Telangana
(c) Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The city, which was popularly called the Athens of the East, was visited by Greek explorer, Megasthenes in 3rd century BC.

2. The city, once traded with ancient Rome, preserves its distinct character in various arts and textiles that have been bestowed by the Pandian kings.
3. The city, which is situated on the banks of the river Vaigai, was popularly called 'Thoonga Nagaram,' the city that never sleeps.

Identify the city that correctly matches with the above description?

- (a) Hampi (b) Madurai
(c) Thanjavur (d) Malappuram

6. Consider the following statements with respect to Dust storms

1. Cyclonic circulation over Rajasthan and high temperatures over the northwest India can cause this phenomenon in Delhi.
2. Dust storms can transport iron and phosphorous to parts of the ocean that lack them.

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

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

7. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Gelatin Sticks

1. These are expensive explosive materials which can be used without a detonator.
2. In India only licensed explosive manufacturers can make gelatin sticks, which is regulated by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO).

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

8. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Hypnea variants of seaweeds

1. Hypnea indica was discovered from Diu island of Daman and Diu.
2. Hypnea bullata was discovered in Somnath Pathan and Sivrajpur in Gujarat.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

9. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Culex Mosquitoes

1. They are known carriers of Japanese encephalitis that causes “acute inflammation” of the brain.
2. They breed in clean water during rainy and winter seasons.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

10. Consider the following statements with respect to Small and Minority Shareholders

1. Small shareholders, according to the Companies Act, is a shareholder or group of shareholders who hold shares of nominal value of not more than Rs 20,000.
2. Minority shareholders are given not more than 10% shares for the limited purpose or minimum hundred shareholders whichever is less is with share capital.

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

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

11. Which of the following statements regarding Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP), is incorrect?

- (a) It is a regional initiative of Afghanistan and the Republic of Turkey launched in 2011 at Istanbul
- (b) It provides a platform for sincere and result-oriented regional cooperation by placing Afghanistan at its center
- (c) India co-hosted the 9th Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference at Amritsar, Punjab in 2021
- (d) HoA-IP comprises a Permanent chair and a Co-chair and Afghanistan will be the permanent chair

12. Consider the following statements with respect to International Ranger Award

1. The award was created in 2020 to felicitate the extraordinary work that rangers do in protected and conserved areas worldwide.
2. The award was created by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

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

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

13. How is Adjournment different from Prorogation?

1. Adjournment is done by the Presiding officer of the House whereas prorogation is done by the President of India.
2. Adjournment does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House whereas all bills and any other business pending before the House will lapse on prorogation.

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

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

14. Arrange the following lakes in Suez Canal from North to South?

1. Lake Timsah 2. Lake Manzala
3. Little Bitter Lake 4. Great Bitter Lake

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

15. With respect to Aroma Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The mission aims to bring more area under captive cultivation of aromatic cash crops particularly targeting rain-fed/degraded lands.
2. The mission has been implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

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

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

16. Consider the following statements with respect to Ad-Hoc Judges

1. President can appoint duly qualified persons as additional judges of a high court for a temporary period not exceeding two years.
2. The procedures for appointing Ad-hoc judges of Supreme Court and high court is nowhere mentioned in constitution, it is decided only by collegium.

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

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

17. World Development Report 2021 is released by which of the following organizations?

- (a) World Trade Organization
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) World Bank
- (d) Asian Development Bank

18. Consider the following statements with respect to Maharaja Chhatrasal

- 1. He was a Mughal warrior who fought under the banner of Emperor Aurangzeb.
- 2. He was father of Mastani, the wife of the Maratha Peshwa Baji Rao.

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

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

19. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Rejection of RTI Requests?

- 1. A Cooperative Society, or an Institution that is not substantially financed or controlled by the Government can deny to disclose information under RTI.
- 2. Information related to physical safety of any person, commercial confidence, Personal information which has no relationship to any public activity are not exempted from disclosure.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

20. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Garhwal Forts?

- 1. It dates back to 8th century which are built at diverse altitude zones and in the Garhwal Himalayas.
- 2. These are well networked forts, believed to be built either during or after the downfall of the Katyuri dynasty.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

21. Consider the following statements with respect to Exercise Shantir Ogroshena 2021

- 1. It is a multilateral military exercise conducted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 2. India and Pakistan is participating in the exercise along with Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

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

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

22. Consider the following statements with respect to Employees' State Insurance Corporation of India (ESIC)

- 1. It is a statutory corporate body established under an Act of Parliament.
- 2. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

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

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

23. Talcher Thermal Power Plant, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

24. Tholpavakoothu is a ritual art popular in which of the following states?

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

25. Vaccine Wastage can be occurred during which of the following reasons?

- 1. if the vaccine has been frozen
- 2. if the vaccine is exposed to heat
- 3. if the expiry date has been reached

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

26. Consider the following statements with respect to Treasury Bills

- 1. They are issued by the Government of India as a promissory note with guaranteed repayment at a later date.
- 2. They are primarily long term borrowing tools, having a maximum tenure of 5 years.
- 3. They are available at zero coupons interest rate and issued at discount to the published nominal value of government security.

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

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

27. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021

1. It is published by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
2. It has estimated that India to record an economic growth of 7% in 2021-22 and maintaining low borrowing costs will be a major challenge for the faster economic recovery.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

28. Stockholm+50 is a high level meeting that will primarily focus on which of the following area?

- (a) Arms control and disarmament.
- (b) Counter Terrorism and Cyber Security
- (c) Artificial Intelligence and Cryptocurrency
- (d) Environmental Conservation

29. World's biggest underwater neutrino telescopes Gigaton Volume Detector (GVD) is launched in which of the following lakes?

- (a) Lake Vostok, Antarctica
- (b) Lake Tanganyika, Africa
- (c) Lake Baikal, Russia
- (d) Lake O'Higgins, Argentina

30. Consider the following statements with respect to New Rules for Disbursal of Funds to States

1. Under the rule each state will be required to setup a Single Nodal Agency (SNA) for centrally sponsored schemes in which funds will be transferred.
2. All interest earned from the funds will be divided equally between centre and state, and states can voluntarily contribute to Consolidated Fund of India.

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

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

31. Consider the following statements with respect to PRISM Scheme

1. It is an initiative to promote and support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India.
2. It was launched by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology.

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

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

32. Consider the following statements with respect to AIM-PRIME Programme

1. It aims to transform an individual innovator into a successful technopreneur by supporting implementable innovations created for the society.
2. It was launched by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), in partnership with World Bank.

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

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

33. Consider the following statements with respect to Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)

1. They are large expulsions of plasma and magnetic field from the Sun's corona.
2. They expand in size as they propagate away from the Sun and can interfere with satellites and power grids on Earth.

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

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

34. Global Gender Gap Report, 2021 was released by?

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) World Bank
- (c) World Economic Forum
- (d) UN Development Programme

35. Ingenuity, often seen in the news recently, refers to?

- (a) A Robotic helicopter located on Mars
- (b) World's largest solar powered warship
- (c) World's first retail quantum computer
- (d) A Substance used to improve the effectiveness of a vaccine

36. Consider the following statements with respect to Giant Metre wave Radio Telescope (GMRT)

1. It is an indigenous project operated by the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
2. It is the first Indian facility to receive Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) milestone recognition.

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

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

37. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Giga Mesh

1. It is based on patented millimetre wave wireless technology for Mesh Architecture.
2. It could enable telecom operators deploy quality, high-speed rural telecom infrastructure at five times lower cost.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

38. Article 244 (A) of Indian Constitution deals with which of the following functions?

- (a) Grant of Special Funds to Tribal Areas
(b) Functioning of Panchayats in Tribal Areas
(c) Autonomous powers to Tribal Areas
(d) Regulations for certain Union Territories

39. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

1. IFAD is a specialized agency of the United Nations and was one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.
2. It supports Lavender and Saffron cultivation in India through financial aid.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

40. Consider the following statements with respect to Harichand Thakur

1. He served as court poet under Alivardi Khan nawab of Bengal.
2. He founded a sect of Vaishnava Hinduism called Matua with members of namasudras.

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

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

41. Which of the following statements with respect to National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021 is incorrect?

- (a) It categorizes rare diseases into three groups and its funding pattern

- (b) 95% of rare diseases have no approved treatment and less than 1 in 10 patients receive disease specific treatment

- (c) The government will notify Centres of Excellence (CoE) for management of rare diseases and provided a one-time grant to a maximum of Rs.5 crore each

- (d) The rare diseases that requires very high cost and lifelong therapy will be provided Rs. 20 lakh under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

42. India's biggest floating solar power plant will be set up at which of the following states?

- (a) Odisha (b) Telangana
(c) Jharkhand (d) Uttar Pradesh

43. Consider the following statements with respect to Millets

1. They need very little water for growing and are available almost across India.
2. China is the largest producers of millets in the world, accounting for more than 55% of the global production.
3. The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

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

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

44. Hamja is a folk dance performed by which of the following tribes?

- (a) Onges (b) Rabha
(c) Seharua (d) Kurumbas

45. The Large Hadron Collider is the World's largest and most powerful particle accelerator. What among the following has been its most prominent discovery?

- (a) Measure of mass of proton
(b) Sighting of the Higgs boson
(c) Evidence of supersymmetry
(d) Detection of gravitational waves

46. Consider the following statements with respect to Model Code of Conduct

1. It will be operational from the date that the election schedule is announced till the date that results are announced.
2. Constitution empowers Election Commission of India with judicial ability to penalise the violators of the Model Code of Conduct.

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

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

47. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Fundamental Particles

1. It is a subatomic particle with no substructure, i.e., it is not composed of other particles and cannot be broken any further.
2. The protons are type elementary particles called leptons and electrons are type of quarks.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

48. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Corticosteroids

1. They are a class of drug that lowers inflammation in the body and reduce immune system activity.
2. They resemble cortisol, a hormone naturally produced by the body's adrenal glands.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

49. Sindhudurg Biodiversity Heritage Site is in which of the following States?

- (a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Gujarat (d) Maharashtra

50. Consider the following statements with respect to Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme

1. Under the program Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) has been introduced which will uniquely identify every surveyed parcel of land and prevent land fraud.
2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs and Indian Institute of Remote Sensing.

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

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

51. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the 14th Finance Commission, grants for local bodies included only the village Panchayat, excluding the block and district panchayats.

2. The 15th Finance Commission has included all levels of rural panchayats and also the panchayats in scheduled areas, besides cantonment boards.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

52. Consider the following statements:

1. Human genome is made up of 24 chromosome pairs.
2. A spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 enables the virus to enter and infect human cells.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

53. Consider the following statements:

1. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq.
2. OPEC membership is open to only middle east countries.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

54. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is headquartered in

- (a) Vienna, Austria (b) Baghdad, Iraq
(c) Dubai, UAE (d) Tehran, Iran

55. Consider the following statements:

1. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is a statutory authority.
2. CBDT functions as a division of the Ministry of Finance under the Department of Revenue.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

56. Which of the following are the factors responsible for forest fires in India?

1. Climate change.
2. Friction created by rubbing of branches
3. lack of soil moisture
4. Poor monsoons
5. Wind speed and direction

Select the correct code:

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

57. Consider the following statements:

1. Sputnik V is a two-dose adenovirus based vector vaccine.
2. It can be stored at room temperature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

58. Consider the following statements:

1. He founded the All-India Depressed Classes League in 1935.
2. He worked to attain equality for untouchables, contributed to Green Revolution and organized the rural labour movement in Bihar.

Who is the leader mentioned above?

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

59. Consider the following statements:

1. A Public Provident Fund or PPF is a long-term tax-saving instrument that gives a variable rate of interest annually.
2. Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme can only be opened by the natural or legal guardian of a girl child aged below 10 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

60. Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India has a judicial power to penalise the violators of the Model Code of Conduct.
2. Expenditure incurred on electioneering by the star campaigner is not added to a candidate's poll expenditure.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

61. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign:

1. The Campaign will be undertaken across the country, in both rural and urban area.
2. It will be implemented in the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon period in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. What is the mandate of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)?

1. To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).
2. To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.
3. To undertake and/or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/formulations.

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) All of the above

63. Consider the following statements regarding the Study in India Programme:

1. It aims to attract international students to higher education institutions in India.
2. Admissions are merit based and only IITs and IIMs are partnered under the programme for student intake.

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

64. Which of the following are the Ease of Doing Business reforms for States to complete to become eligible for enhanced borrowing of 0.25 percent of Gross State Domestic Product?

1. Completion of first assessment of 'District Level Business Reform Action Plan'
2. Implementation of computerized central random inspection system
3. Implementation of the Model Land Leasing Act, 2016.

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) All of the above

65. Consider the following statements regarding National Film Awards:

1. These are administered by the Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
2. Gujarat has won the award for being Most Film Friendly State in National Film Awards 2019.

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

66. Who among the following have been awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize?

1. Mohammed bin Salman
2. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
3. Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said

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) All of the above

67. What is the objective of the recently launched Operation Thiruvallur?

- (a) Safe disposal of of unexploded ordnance
- (b) Bringing back migrants from foreign countries
- (c) Mock Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations
- (d) None of the above

68. Consider the following statements:

1. The India Medical Association (IMA) is a private organisation of registered medical practitioners.
2. The National Medical Commission (NMC) is the statutory body to regulate medical education in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

69. Consider the following statements regarding the proposed scheme of 'Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly':

1. It aims to provide nutrition support to the indigent elders, who are staying in the Old Age Homes and are victims of severe malnutrition.
2. The Gram Panchayats and Urban Municipalities are the implementing agencies of the Scheme.

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

70. Which of the following is/are objectives of the National Biopharma Mission?

1. Development of products that are at advanced stages in the product development lifecycle and relevant to the public health.
2. Developing human capital by providing specific training to address the critical skills gaps in nascent biotech companies.
3. Enhancing technology transfer and intellectual property management capabilities in private sector.

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) All of the above

71. Consider the following statements with respect to Elsa-D Mission

1. It is the world's first commercial mission to demonstrate a space debris removal system.
2. It was launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in cooperation with European Space Agency (ESA).

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

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

72. Consider the following statements with respect to International Criminal Court (ICC)

1. It is a permanent judicial body based at Hague in Netherlands.
2. It is a part of United Nations system established through Rome Statute in 1998.
3. It mainly hears disputes between nations for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

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

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

73. Which of the following is the main objective of Switch Delhi Campaign, which was launched recently by the Delhi Government?

- (a) To promote Electric Vehicle Policy in New Delhi
- (b) To transform New Delhi from power deficit to power surplus region
- (c) To replace all existing conventional transformers in to advanced version
- (d) None of the above

74. Which of the following is/are the major pollutants from coal-fired power plants?

1. Oxides of nitrogen (NOx)
2. Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)
3. Particulate matter (PM)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

75. Consider the following statements with respect to E-Courts Project

1. It is a pan-India Project, monitored and funded by Department of Justice.
2. It is one of the National e-Governance projects being implemented in District and Subordinate Courts of the Country.
3. The project has been implemented by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India along with Department of Justice and National Information Centre.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

76. Consider the following statements with respect to World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF)

1. It organizes World Cities Culture Summit which is attended by Deputy Mayors for Culture and Heads of Culture from the member cities.
2. In India Bengaluru and Delhi are only two cities which are members of WCCF

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

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

77. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Monetary Policy Committee

1. It is a statutory and institutionalized framework under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
2. An RBI-appointed committee led by Raghuram Rajan in 2013 recommended the establishment of the Monetary Policy Committee.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

78. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to ACT-Accelerator

1. It is a joint initiative of WHO, World Bank, GAVI, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
2. It aims to end the pandemic, restore full societal and economic activity globally and facilitate high-level control of Covid-19 disease.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

79. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international treaty drawn at which of the following event?

- (a) World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002
- (b) UN Climate Change Conference, Copenhagen, 2009
- (c) United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 1972
- (d) UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 1992

80. Consider the following statements with respect to Biological Diversity Act, 2002

1. According to the act only central government can notify a location as Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) in official gazette.
2. State Government in consultation with the Central Government may frame rules for the management and conservation of BHS.

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

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

81. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) recently signed a contract for purchase Light Specialist Vehicles to the Indian Army with which of the following organisation/company?

- (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- (b) Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd
- (c) Bharat Forge
- (d) Reliance Defence

82. Consider the following statements regarding the Safe City Projects:

1. These have been sanctioned under the Nirbhaya Fund scheme.
2. These projects involve identification of hot spots for crimes against women.

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

83. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Buldhana Pattern' for Water Conservation:
1. It eliminates the need of desiltation/ deepening of water bodies.
 2. The pattern envisages convergence of infrastructure creation with water conservation works.
- 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
84. Consider the following statements:
1. Indo-Nepal border is open border with visa free regime.
 2. Indo-Myanmar border is an open border with free movement regime (FMR) within 200 kms on both sides of the border.
- 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
85. The PovcalNet database is an initiative of which of the following institution?
- (a) World Bank
(b) International Monetary Fund
(c) United Nations Population Fund
(d) World Food Programme
86. What is the Kafala system?
- (a) A framework defining the relationship between migrant workers and their employers
(b) A system of granting citizenship to refugees
(c) An agricultural system exclusive to middle east countries
(d) An intergovernmental extradition arrangement
87. Consider the following statements regarding the Indus Waters Treaty:
1. It was signed after the Simla Agreement on Bilateral Relations between India and Pakistan, 1972.
 2. Under the treaty the waters of Sutlej, Ravi and Beas were allocated to India for use.
- 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
88. The World Water Development Report (WWDR) is a flagship report of which of the following institution?
- (a) World Health Organization
(b) UN-Water
(c) Global Water Challenge
(d) Stockholm International Water Institute
89. Which of the following agreements have been signed between India and USA?
1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
 2. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement
 3. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement
- 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) All of the above
90. Which of the following institution has published the International Intellectual Property Index 2021?
- (a) US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre
(b) World Intellectual Property Organization
(c) Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
(d) European Union Intellectual Property Office
91. Consider the following statements with respect to Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)
1. It is the next generation highly refined version of the presently used Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).
 2. India is the first country in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
92. Which of the following are part of E9 countries which was led by the United Nations (UN)?
1. India
 2. Egypt
 3. China
 4. Pakistan
 5. Bangladesh
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) All except 1 and 5
(b) All except 3 and 4
(c) All except 2, 3 and 4
(d) All of the above

93. Which of the following is true regarding Chaff Rocket Technology?

- (a) It is the modified form of rocket technology used in high speed rail engines
- (b) It is an advance technology to safeguard naval ships against enemy missile attack
- (c) It is a next generation cooling technology for Reusable Launch Vehicles (RLVs)
- (d) It is a technology where rocket propellants are used at extremely low temperatures to increase efficiency

94. With respect to Exercise La Perouse, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a multi-lateral maritime exercise led by the French Navy in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region.
- 2. The Indian Navy is participating in the exercise for the first time.

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

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

95. Consider the following statements with respect to Spices Board of India

- 1. It is one of the five Commodity Boards functioning under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- 2. It is an autonomous body responsible for the export promotion of the 52 scheduled spices and development of Cardamom.

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

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

96. Consider the following statements with respect to National Security Act (NSA)

- 1. Under this act a person can be detained for up to 12 months without a charge and no FIR is registered on the detained person.
- 2. A person can be held any number of days without being told the charges against them, but will be allowed a lawyer during the trial.

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

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

97. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Non-Fungible Token (NFT)

- 1. It is a unit of data on a digital ledger called a block chain, where each NFT can represent a unique digital item, and thus they are not interchangeable.
- 2. They can be used to commodify digital creations, such as digital art, video game items, and music files.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

98. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Harmonized System of Nomenclature Code (HSN code)

- 1. It is a 16 digit identification code developed by World Trade Organization.
- 2. It is used by countries as a basis to impose custom tariffs, gather trade statistics, and make trade policies.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

99. Chenab Arch Bridge is constructed between which of the following railway line?

- (a) Udhampur to Katra
- (b) Banihal to Qazigund
- (c) Qazigund to Baramulla
- (d) Katra-Banihal

100. Consider the following statements with respect to Star Campaigners

- 1. The expenditure incurred on campaigning by 'stars' is exempt from being added to the election expenditure of a candidate.
- 2. In India there is no law governing who can or cannot be made a star campaigner.

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

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

PRELIMS PRACTICE PAPER KEY

1. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ★ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has recently said that India is going to set up a new Development Financial Institution (DFI) with initial paid-up capital of around 3 billion Dollars with a lending target of 69 billion Dollars in next three years.

Development Financial Institutions (DFIs)

- ★ The vehicle for extending development finance is called development financial institution (DFI) or development bank.
- ★ A DFI is defined as “an institution promoted or assisted by Government mainly to provide development finance to one or more sectors or sub-sectors of the economy.
- ★ The institution distinguishes itself by a judicious balance as between commercial norms of operation, as adopted by any private financial institution, and developmental obligations.
- ★ It emphasizes the project approach - meaning the viability of the project to be financed - against the collateral approach.

DFIs in India

- ★ There is no specific use of the term ‘DFI’ in either the RBI Act, 1934 or the Companies Act, 1956 or various statutes establishing DFIs.
- ★ While the RBI Act defines the term ‘Financial Institution’ (FI), the Companies Act has categorised certain institutions as Public Financial Institutions (PFIs).
- ★ While the various FIs including PFIs vary from each other in terms of their business specifications, some of them perform the role of DFIs.

2. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ★ A group of lepidopterists have added a species to the expanding list of butterflies in India.
- ★ The discovery of the species *Nacaduba sinhalaramaswamii* Sadasivan, 2021 in the Agasthyamalais in the Western Ghats a decade ago has now found place in the Journal of Threatened Taxa.

Various study

- ★ Batrachology - Study of frog
- ★ Serpentology (Ophiology) - Study of snakes
- ★ Lepidopterology - Study of moths and butterflies
- ★ Zoophytology - Study of drifting micro-organisms such as diatoms

3. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ★ TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu for the implementation of the MSP for MFP Scheme and the Van Dhan Yojana.

MSP for MFP Scheme

- ★ It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- ★ It aims to provide remunerative and fair prices to tribal gatherers of forest produces.
- ★ The fair prices provided is almost three times higher than what is available to them otherwise and trebles their overall income.
- ★ Over the last year, it has succeeded in injecting 3000 crores in the tribal economy and has emerged as a beacon of change for the tribals.
- ★ Earlier, the scheme was extended only to Scheduled Areas in eight states and fixed MSPs for 12 MFPs.
- ★ Later expanded to all states and UTs.
- ★ Total number of MFPs covered under the list include 49.

Van Dhan Yojana (VDY)

- ★ It is a programme for value addition, branding & marketing of MFPs by establishing Van Dhan Kendras to facilitate creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes is a component of the same scheme.

4. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ★ The Odisha government has recently proposed a second biosphere reserve in the southern part of the state at Mahendragiri, a hill ecosystem having rich biodiversity.
- ★ The 5,569-square kilometre Similipal Biosphere Reserve is Odisha's first such reserve and was notified May 20, 1996.
- ★ The hill ecosystem acts as a transitional zone between the flora and fauna of southern India and the Himalayas, making the region an ecological estuary of genetic diversities.
- ★ The area of the proposed Mahendragiri Biosphere Reserve is around 470,955 hectares and is spread over Gajapati and Ganjam districts in the Eastern Ghats.

5. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ★ The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series held its 82nd webinar, titled "Stories of Madurai", recently.

Madurai

- ★ It is one of the oldest living cities in India and the most spectacular of these is the Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple.
- ★ Madurai once traded with ancient Rome and it preserves its distinct character in various arts and textiles that have been bestowed by the Pandian kings (4th century-16th century).
- ★ Earlier known as Madhurapuri and Thoonga Nagaram, meaning a city that never sleeps, Madurai grew around the Meenakshi Amman Temple, which was constructed 2,500 years ago by Pandian king, Kulasekhara.
- ★ Popularly called the Athens of the East, it was visited by Greek explorer, Megasthenes in 3rd century BC.
- ★ Other famous travellers who visited this ancient south Indian city included Pliny in 77 AD, Ptolemy in 140 AD, Marco Polo in 1203 AD and Ibn Batuta (1333 AD).

6. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Dust storms

- ★ Sand or dust or desert storms occur typically in the dry places of the world, where the particles of dirt are loosely bound to the surface.
- ★ They are mostly created with the help of extremely strong winds—produced by thunderstorms.
- ★ In the dry region, winds can easily lift dust rested on the ground, which swirls up to form a dust storm.
- ★ Extreme dust storms may also severely impact the yield of crops, damage plant tissue, which may reduce photosynthetic activity.
- ★ The dust deposits may lead to the filling of irrigation canals, disrupting transportation routes and polluting the river and stream water quality.
- ★ However these storms are among the best natural sources of micro-nutrients for several tropical ecosystems as they transport iron and phosphorous to parts of the ocean that lack them.
- ★ In this way, they help marine biomass production, Saharan dust particles are thought to fertilize even the Amazon rainforest.
- ★ Recently a strong desert storm whipped over the parts of Egypt's Sinai Desert, which is said to have triggered the Suez Canal crisis.

7. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Gelatin Sticks

- ★ Gelatin sticks are cheap explosive materials used by industries for the purpose of mining and construction related work, like building structures, roads, rails and tunnels etc.
- ★ They cannot be used without a detonator.
- ★ Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), formerly known as Department of Explosives, is the nodal agency for regulating safety of hazardous substances such as explosives, compressed gas and petroleum, these substances include gelatin sticks.
- ★ The PESO comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and carries out administration work of the Explosive Act 1884 and Explosives Rules 2008 etc.
- ★ As of now pack of gelatin sticks are barcoded and loose sticks are not bar coded.
- ★ The government has recently introduced a rule that individual explosives should also be barcoded.

8. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Hypnea variants of Seaweeds

- ★ The genus Hypnea consists of calcareous, erect, branched red seaweeds.
- ★ Recently, two new red algal seaweed species have been discovered along India's coastline.
- ★ They grow in the intertidal regions of the coast, namely the area that is submerged during the high tide and exposed during low tides.
- ★ Hypnea variants of seaweeds can fetch good monetary value if commercial-scale cultivation is taken up.
- ★ Hypnea contains Carrageenan, a biomolecule commonly used in the food industry.
- ★ They are the primitive, marine non-flowering marine algae without root, stem and leaves, play a major role in marine ecosystems.
- ★ Hypnea indica was discovered in Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, and Somnath Pathan and Sivrajpur in Gujarat.
- ★ Hypnea bullata was discovered from Kanyakumari and Diu island of Daman and Diu.

9. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Culex Mosquitoes

- ★ Culex mosquitoes can fly up to a distance of 1-1.5 km.
- ★ Unlike Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, which spread dengue and chikungunya and breed in clean water, culex mosquitoes breed in unclean stagnant water.

- ★ The ideal condition for mosquitoes to breed is when the temperature is between 10 degrees Celsius and 40 degrees Celsius.
- ★ Warmer temperatures are the main reason for the appearance of these mosquitoes.
- ★ In NCR their presence is especially felt more in areas around floodplains in East and South Delhi as it is an ideal condition of breeding.

10. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Small and Minority Shareholders

- ★ Unlike Small shareholders definitions of minority shareholders are not mentioned under the Companies Act, 2013.
- ★ However under Section 235 (Power to acquire shares of the dissenting shareholders) and under Section 244 (Right to apply for the oppression and mismanagement) of Companies Act, 2013 the provisions of minority shareholders are mentioned.
- ★ The minority shareholders are given 10% of shares or minimum hundred shareholders, whatsoever, is less with share capital and 1/3 of the total number of its members in case of companies without the share capital.
- ★ Thus Minority could be defined as holding not more than 10% shares for the limited purpose of agitating their rights before the appropriate forum.
- ★ In its judgment that upheld Tata Group's decision to remove Cyrus Pallonji Mistry as the Executive Chairman of Tata Sons, the Supreme Court has also held that minority shareholders do not automatically get a right to a seat on the board.
- ★ Private companies, which have minority shareholders, are free to make an enabling provision to do so if they wish to, but are under no statutory obligation to do so.
- ★ The issue of minority shareholders and their rights came into the question on allegations raised by the Mistry family and the Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) Group that removal of Cyrus Mistry meant oppression of minority shareholders.

11. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ★ External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will participate in the 9th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process on Afghanistan in Dushanbe, Tajikistan recently.

Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA IP)

- ★ It is a regional initiative of Afghanistan and the Republic of Turkey, which was launched on 2 November 2011 in Istanbul.

- ★ The process aims to promote regional security, economic and political cooperation centered on Afghanistan through dialogue and confidence building measures (CBMs).
- ★ It was founded in recognition of the fact that a secure and stable Afghanistan is vital to the prosperity of the Heart of Asia region.
- ★ Since its inception in 2011 the HOA - IP has held 9 ministerial conferences hosted by different countries of the Heart of Asia region.
- ★ HoA IP, has two chairs, Permanent chair and a Co-chair.
- ★ Afghanistan is the permanent chair.
- ★ The co-chairing shifts among the member states.
- ★ Each year one-member state volunteer to co-chair the process with Afghanistan.
- ★ India co-hosted the 6th Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in Amritsar, Punjab in December 2016.

12. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ★ Mahinder Giri, range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve has recently won the prestigious International Ranger Award for his contribution towards conservation.
- ★ He is the only ranger from Asia to win the award.

International Ranger Award

- ★ The award aims to highlight and felicitate the extraordinary work that rangers do in protected and conserved areas worldwide.
- ★ The award was created in 2020 by IUCN and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in collaboration with International Ranger Federation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Allies.
- ★ Winners of the International Ranger Award will receive a unique uniform patch along with a US\$10,000 (Rs 7,26,150) for their associated organisation to support their work.
- ★ This can include purchasing essential supplies or equipment, providing training, providing insurance, supporting the family of a deceased ranger, or other ranger welfare activities.

13. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ★ President Ram Nath Kovind has recently prorogued the fifth session of 17th Lok Sabha.

Adjournment Vs Prorogation

- ★ Adjournment only terminates a sitting and not a session of the House whereas, Prorogation not only terminates a sitting but also a session of the House.

- ★ Adjournment is done by presiding officer of the House whereas, Prorogation is done by the president of India.
- ★ Adjournment does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House and the same can be resumed when the House meets again.
- ★ Similarly, Prorogation also does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House.
- ★ However, all pending notices (other than those for introducing bills) lapse on prorogation and fresh notices have to be given for the next session.
- ★ In Britain, prorogation brings to an end all bills or any other business pending before the House.

14. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Lakes in Suez Canal from North to South

1. Lake Manzala
2. Lake Timsah
3. Great Bitter Lake
4. Little Bitter Lake

15. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ★ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu announced phase 2 of purple revolution under Aroma Mission, after the success of the phase 1 in Doda, Jammu.
- ★ Under the purple revolution, the farmers in Doda district had their incomes quadrupled after shifting from maize to lavender cultivation.

Aroma Mission

- ★ In 2016, the Centre launched Aroma Mission to boost cultivation of plants for essential oils which have aromatic medicinal properties.
- ★ The mission supports domestic aromatic crop based agro economy to move from imported aromatic oils to homegrown varieties.
- ★ Nodal laboratory - CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow.

Objectives of the mission

- ★ Bring about 5500 ha of additional area under captive cultivation of aromatic cash crops particularly targeting rain-fed /degraded land across the country
- ★ Provide technical and infrastructural support for distillation and value-addition to farmers/growers all over the country
- ★ Enabling effective buy-back mechanisms to assure remunerative prices to the farmers/growers

- ★ Value-addition to essential oils and aroma ingredients for their integration in global trade and economy

16. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Ad-Hoc Judges

- ★ Article 128 talks about “attendance of a retired judge” as the judge of the Supreme Court.
- ★ It states that the Chief Justice of India at any time, with the previous consent of the President, may request any person who has held the office of a judge of the Supreme Court or the high court to sit and act as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- ★ Under Article 224A, the retired high court judges can be appointed as ad-hoc judges to HCs.
- ★ The President can appoint duly qualified persons as additional judges of a high court for a temporary period not exceeding two years when:
 1. There is a temporary increase in the business of the high court; or
 2. There are arrears of work in the high court.
- ★ The President can also appoint a duly qualified person as an acting judge of a high court when a judge of that high court (other than the chief justice) is:
 1. Unable to perform the duties of his office due to absence or any other reason; or
 2. Appointed to act temporarily as chief justice of that high court
- ★ An acting judge holds office until the permanent judge resumes his office.
- ★ The Constitution provides that both the additional or acting judge cannot hold office after attaining the age of 62 years.
- ★ Recently, the Supreme Court has suggested that appointing ad-hoc judges in high courts would overcome the vacancy crisis in the judiciary and reduce the number of pending cases.

17. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

World Development Report 2021

- ★ The report categorizes countries as developed and least developed, the countries with high income per capita, countries with high gross domestic product (GDP) per capita would be described as developed countries.
- ★ Another economic criterion is industrialisation, countries in which the tertiary and quaternary sectors of industry dominate would thus be described as developed.

- ★ The basic difference between Human Development Report (HDR) and World development report (WDR) are as follows
1. HDR includes literacy rate, infant mortality rate etc, to determine the status of development of a particular area or country.
 2. WDR includes GDP, national income and per capita income.
- ★ The World Development Report 2021 provides a blueprint on how to harness the power of data for development, to ensure no one is left behind.

18. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Maharaja Chhatrasal

- ★ He was a medieval Indian warrior from the Bundela Rajput clan who fought against the Mughal Empire.
- ★ He was a descendant of Rudra Pratap Singh of Orchha and his ancestors were vassals of the Mughal emperor.
- ★ Chhatrasal was 12 when his father Champat Rai of Mahoba was killed by the Mughals.
- ★ Inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji's ideals he travelled to Maharashtra and sought guidance from him.
- ★ Chhatrasal raised the banner of revolt against the Mughals in Bundelkhand at the age of 22, with an army of 5 horsemen and 25 swordsmen, in 1671.
- ★ Chhatrasal was 79 years old when he led his army against Muhammad Khan Bangash, after a severe battle Chhatrasal was defeated and was forced to retreat to his fort at Jaitpur in 1728.
- ★ The Maratha Peshwa Baji Rao I's second wife Mastani was Chhatrasal's daughter born from his Muslim concubine.
- ★ Chhatrasal was a patron of literature, his eulogies written by Kavi Bhushan, Lal Kavi, Bakhshi Hansaraj and other court poets helped him gain lasting fame.

19. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Rejection of the RTI Requests

- ★ Section 8(1) deals with the exemption from disclosure of information:
1. If it is related to the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence,
 2. Information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property,
 3. Information, the disclosure of which would endanger the life or physical safety of any person,

4. Information which would impede the process of investigation or prosecution of offenders,
 5. Information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest.
- ★ Of the permissible grounds for rejection, Section 8(1) was used in around 46% of the cases.
 - ★ Section 9 - It empowers the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer to reject a request for information which involves an infringement of copyright.
 - ★ Section 24 - It exempts information related to security and intelligence organisations except allegations of corruption and human rights violations.
 - ★ Around one in five (20%) permissible rejections coming under this category.
 - ★ Rejection without Reason - Almost 40% of these rejections did not include any valid reason, as they did not invoke one of the permissible exemption clauses in the Right to Information (RTI) Act.
 - ★ These rejections are classified under the 'Others' category in the CIC data.

20. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Garhwal Forts

- ★ A majority of medieval forts in the Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand were strategically built to form clusters.
- ★ The forts, dating back to the 8th century Common Era (CE), were built at diverse altitude zones like valleys, along the ridges and prominent hilltops, some standing more than 3,000 metres above Mean Sea Level (MSL) in the Garhwal Himalayas.
- ★ Geographically, the forts were built away from one another.
- ★ But the ruler's back then ensured that they were surrounded with smaller fortalices, which primarily functioned as watchtowers.
- ★ These fortalices were erected and positioned around 15 km periphery of a major fort.
- ★ Fire, smoke or similar light signals could have been the common means to convey messages.

Katyuri Dynasty

- ★ The Katyuri kings were a medieval ruling clan of present-day Uttarakhand, India.
- ★ They ruled over the region now known as Kumaon from 700 to 1200 CE.
- ★ The Katyuri dynasty was founded by Vashudev Katyuri (sometimes spelled Vasu Dev or Basu Dev).
- ★ At its peak, the Katyuri dynasty of Kumaon extended from Sikkim in the east to Kabul, Afghanistan in

the west, before fragmenting into numerous principalities by the 12th century.

- ★ By the 15th century, King Ajaypal, the 37th king of the Parmar dynasty, consolidated all these multiple chiefdoms in the region into a single state that is present day Garhwal.

21. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

SHANTIR OGROSHENA 2021 (Front Runner of the Peace)

- ★ It is a Multinational Military Exercise to be held at Bangladesh to commemorate the birth centenary of Bangladesh 'Father of the Nation' Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and mark glorious 50 years of liberation.
- ★ Indian Army contingent from the DOGRA Regiment will participate in the exercise along with contingent of Royal Bhutan Army, Sri Lankan Army and Bangladesh Army from 04 Apr to 12 Apr 2021.
- ★ The theme of the exercise is "Robust Peace Keeping Operations".
- ★ Military observers from USA, UK, Turkey, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore will also be in attendance throughout the exercise.

22. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ★ Employees' State Insurance Corporation of India (ESIC) is an integrated social security system tailored to provide social protection to workers, immediate dependent or family, in the organised sector, in contingencies, such as, sickness, maternity and death or disablement due to an employment injury or occupational hazard.

The ESI Act, (1948) applies to following categories of factories and establishments in the implemented areas:

1. Non-seasonal factories using power and employing ten(10) or more persons
2. Non-seasonal and non-power using factories and establishments employing twenty (20) or more persons.

23. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ★ A 54-year-old coal-based thermal power plant in Odisha's Talcher, run by the government-owned National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), was shut down recently.
- ★ The Central Pollution Control Board had sent the closure deadline for the plant because of its failure to adhere to environment norms.
- ★ This might set off a power crisis in the state and cause thousands of locals who depended on the plant to lose their livelihoods, feared activists.

Talcher Thermal Power Plant

- ★ The 460-megawatt power plant was commissioned in 1967. It was under the Odisha government till 1995, when it was sold to NTPC.
- ★ In 2017, Talcher was one of the 'critically polluted industrial areas' in CPCB's Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI).
- ★ The city ranked 165 in the list of the world's most polluted cities, according to the World Air Quality Report, 2020 prepared by IQAir, a Swiss organization.

24. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ★ Tholpavakoothu is believed to be more than 350 years old.
- ★ Performed in the Bhadrakali temples, from January to June every year, the shadow puppeteers of Kerala are busy performing the story of the Ramayana as part of the rituals during temple festivals.

25. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Vaccine wastage

- ★ It is an expected component of any large vaccination drive, and a vaccine is procured from the maker with an estimated wastage.
- ★ For each vaccine type, the wastage has to be within recommended limits.
- ★ In general, high vaccine wastage inflates vaccine demand and increases unnecessary vaccine procurement and supply chain costs.

Reasons

It is broadly divided into two categories

1. Wastage in unopened vials
2. Wastage in opened vials

Wastage in unopened vials

It can occur due to six broad reasons:

1. if the expiry date has been reached
2. if the vaccine is exposed to heat
3. if the vaccine has been frozen
4. breakage
5. missing inventory and theft
6. while discarding unused vials returned from the vaccination site

Wastage in opened vials

It can occur due to five broad reasons

1. while discarding remaining doses at the end of the session

2. not being able to draw the number of doses in a vial
3. submergence of opened vials in the water
4. suspected contamination
5. poor vaccine administration practices

26. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Treasury bill

- ★ Treasury bills were first issued in India in 1917.
- ★ They are primarily short-term borrowing tools, having a maximum tenure of 364 days.
- ★ It is aimed at reducing total fiscal deficit in an economy, and also in regulating the total currency in circulation at any given point of time.
- ★ They are issued via auctions conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at regular intervals.
- ★ Individuals, trusts, institutions and banks can purchase T-Bills.
- ★ As per the regulations put forward by the RBI, a minimum of Rs. 25,000 has to be invested by individuals willing to procure a short term treasury bill.
- ★ G-Sec treasury bills don't yield any interest on total deposits.
- ★ Upon redemption, the entire par value of this bond is paid to investors, thereby allowing them to realise substantial profits on total investment.
- ★ They can be issued in a physical form as a promissory note or dematerialized form by crediting to SGL account (Subsidiary General Ledger Account).

27. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific

- ★ Produced annually since 1947, the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific is the oldest United Nations report on the region's progress.
- ★ The Survey monitors regional progress, provides cutting-edge analyses and guides policy discussion on the current and emerging socio-economic issues and policy challenges to support inclusive and sustainable development in the region.
- ★ Since 1957, the Survey has also contained a study or studies focusing on a significant aspect or challenge relevant to the economies of the Asia-Pacific region.
- ★ The Survey of 2021 studies the impact of Covid-19 pandemic and provides insights for post-Covid-19 resilient economies.
- ★ According to the report, India is estimated to record an economic growth of 7% in 2021-22, over a contraction of 7.7% witnessed in the previous fiscal on

account of the pandemic's impact on normal business activity.

- ★ The report mentions two major challenges for India on its path to faster recovery.

1. Maintaining low borrowing costs, and
2. Keeping non-performing loans in check.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

- ★ The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region, HQ in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ★ It was established in 1947, has 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members from Asia-Pacific Region including India.
- ★ Its objective is to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing results-oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member States.

28. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Stockholm+50

- ★ It is a high-level meeting that the Government of Sweden plans to hold in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the first UN conference on the human environment the 1972 Stockholm Conference.
- ★ The aim of Stockholm+50 is to leverage sustainable consumption and production patterns and nature-based solutions in order to achieve climate-neutral, resilient, circular and inclusive economies.
- ★ The 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, also known as the Stockholm Conference, was the first UN conference on the environment and was held between 5 and 16 June 1972 in Stockholm.
- ★ The meeting's outcome document the Stockholm Declaration included several principles that are still important for environmental management.
- ★ Another result of the meeting was the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Environment Day, held annually on 5 June.

29. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Gigaton Volume Detector (GVD)

- ★ The Baikal-GVD is one of the three largest neutrino detectors in the world along with the IceCube at the

South Pole and ANTARES in the Mediterranean Sea.

- ★ The construction of this telescope started in 2016, is motivated by the mission to study in detail the elusive fundamental particles called neutrinos and to possibly determine their sources.
- ★ Studying this will aid scientists' understanding of the origins of the universe since some neutrinos were formed during the Big Bang, others continue to be formed as a result of supernova explosions or because of nuclear reactions in the Sun.

30. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

New Rules for Disbursal of Funds to States

- ★ Recently union government has tightened the procedure for grant of central funds under centrally sponsored schemes.
- ★ Union government will release the funds to state's account which should be transferred to concerned SNA's account within 21 days.
- ★ States should also release its own share within 40 days of the release of centre's share.
- ★ The primary changes made under the rule includes phased and conditional funding from centre, which includes
 1. No more than 25% of total central funding in beginning of financial year.
 2. Further funding on the condition that state governments has transferred and ensured utilisation of 75% of the total released funding.
 3. All interest earned from the funds should be mandatorily remitted to the respective consolidated fund of India.
 4. All SNA's will get mapped to the centrally run Public Financial Management System (PFMS) to track and monitor fund flow.
- ★ This new rules will help in addressing issue of time lag in release of grants, poor utilisation of funding and parking of funds in states for interest.

31. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ★ Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan virtually inaugurated the Alignment and Awareness Event for Publicity of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research - Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Startups and MSMEs (DSIR-PRISM) scheme at IIT Delhi recently.

PRISM Scheme

- ★ Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Startups and MSMEs (PRISM) is an initiative of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ★ It aimed at transforming an individual innovator into a successful technopreneur by promoting, supporting, and funding implementable and commercially viable innovations created for the society.
- ★ Under the initiative, an innovator of Indian nationality - student, professional and common citizen - is provided technical, strategic, and financial assistance by DSIR-PRISM for idea development, prototype development and pilot scaling, and patenting.
- ★ The programme is implemented across various sectors from energy to healthcare to waste management and others.
- ★ The grant is given in two phases: Phase I and Phase II, catering to both the initial innovation stage and the advanced enterprise setup phase through DSIR outreach-cum-cluster innovation centres available throughout India.
- ★ The grant amount in Phase I is around Rs. 2.0 lakhs to Rs. 20.00 lakhs and in Phase II maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs.

32. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ★ In a major push towards deep technology and driving the country to become a digitally transformed nation, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has recently launched AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship) programme.

AIM-PRIME Programme

- ★ It is an initiative to promote and support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India.
- ★ It was launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), in cooperation with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).
- ★ The programme will be implemented by Venture Center - a non-profit technology business incubator.
- ★ The program is specifically tailored for the rapid scaling up of deep-tech science ventures in India, providing not just the necessary intellect and support but also the exposure they rightly deserve.
- ★ The program aimed at promoting science based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance over a period of 12 months.
- ★ Deep technology is an outcome of very intense research and development (R&D) with high knowledge content.

33. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- ★ Research led by scientists from Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciences (ARIES), Nainital, an autonomous institute under DST, along with their collaborators from Royal Observatory of Belgium, have led to the development of an algorithm, CMEs Identification in Inner Solar Corona (CIISCO) to detect and track the accelerating solar eruption in the lower corona.
- ★ Software named Computer Aided CME Tracking Software (CACTus) was so far used to detect and characterise such eruptions automatically in the outer corona.
- ★ However, this algorithm could not be applied to the inner corona observations due to the vast acceleration experienced by these eruptions.
- ★ This severely limited the capability to track the eruptions as CMEs accelerate in the lower corona.
- ★ The parameters determined by CIISCO are useful to characterise these eruption in the lower corona, a region where the properties of such eruptions are less known.
- ★ An implementation of CIISCO on the large volume of data available from space observatories mentioned above will be helpful to improve our understanding of eruptions in the inner corona.
- ★ As India's first solar mission, Aditya-L1, will be observing this region of the solar corona, implementation of CIISCO on the Aditya-L1 data will provide new insight into the CME properties in this less explored region.

Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)

- ★ They are large expulsions of plasma and magnetic field from the Sun's corona.
- ★ They can eject billions of tons of coronal material and carry an embedded magnetic field (frozen in flux) that is stronger than the background solar wind interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) strength.
- ★ CMEs travel outward from the Sun at speeds ranging from slower than 250 kilometers per second (km/s) to as fast as near 3000 km/s.
- ★ The fastest Earth-directed CMEs can reach our planet in as little as 15-18 hours. Slower CMEs can take several days to arrive.
- ★ They expand in size as they propagate away from the Sun and larger CMEs can reach a size comprising nearly a quarter of the space between Earth and the Sun by the time it reaches our planet.

34. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- ★ India has slipped 28 places to rank 140th among 156 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021.
- ★ Through this, India became the third-worst performer in South Asia.
- ★ According to the report, India has closed 62.5 per cent of its gender gap till date.
- ★ The country had ranked 112th among 153 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2020.

35. Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- ★ Ingenuity is a small robotic helicopter located on Mars since February 18, 2021 that is intended to make the first powered atmospheric flight on a planet beyond Earth.
- ★ Part of NASA's Mars 2020 mission, the small coaxial, drone rotorcraft will serve as a technology demonstrator for the potential use of flying probes on other worlds, with the potential to scout locations of interest and support the future planning of driving routes for Mars rovers.

36. Answer: (a)**Explanation:****Giant Metre wave Radio Telescope (GMRT)**

- ★ GMRT is an array of thirty fully steerable parabolic radio telescopes of 45 metre diameter.
- ★ Its design is based on the 'SMART' concept - for Stretch Mesh Attached to Rope Trusses.
- ★ It functions at the metre wavelength part of the radio spectrum because man-made radio interference is considerably lower in this part of the spectrum in India and there are many outstanding astrophysics problems which are best studied at metre wavelengths.
- ★ The location for GMRT, Pune meets several important criteria such as

- 1.Low man-made radio noise,
 - 2.Availability of good communication,
 - 3.Vicinity of industrial, educational and other infrastructure
 - 4.Geographical latitude sufficiently north of the geomagnetic equator in order to have a reasonably quiet ionosphere and yet be able to observe a good part of the southern sky as well.
- ★ The city-based Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) was on Tuesday bestowed with the Institute

of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) milestone recognition. GMRT is one of the largest radio telescopes in the world that has been operating in low frequencies for over two decades and has made significant contributions to astrophysics.

- ★ This is only the third time an Indian facility has received this milestone, after J C Bose's demonstration of generation and reception of radio waves in 1895 and the discovery of the Raman Effect by C V Raman in 1928, However, IEEE recognitions to these had come in 2012.
- ★ The IEEE milestone for GMRT was announced in November 2020.

IEEE

- ★ The IEEE is the world's largest technical body publishing research in engineering and computing in addition to awarding standards to institutions and organisations involved in these fields.

37. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Giga Mesh

- ★ It is an innovative wireless product that gives fibre like bandwidth at fraction of cost of fibre to help telecom operators deliver reliable low-cost internet services to suburban and rural areas.
- ★ It is a multi-beam E-band product which packs 6 point-to-point E-band radios in one, thereby distributing the cost of the device over multiple links.
- ★ It reduces network congestion and also makes the existing infrastructure 5G ready.
- ★ A single GigaMesh device can provide upto 40 links with 2+ Gbps capacity each, communicating upto a range of 10 kilometers.
- ★ The flexibility in range makes it suitable for both decongesting the dense urban networks as well as extending rural coverage.
- ★ It brings in Software Defined Networks (SDN) capability to telecom backhaul thereby reducing the operational costs significantly.

38. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Article 244 (A) of the Indian Constitution

- ★ It allows for creation of an 'autonomous state' within Assam in certain tribal areas.
- ★ It was inserted into the Constitution in 1969 by the then Congress government through 22nd Constitutional Amendment Act.
- ★ It gives the provision for a Legislature and a Council of Ministers.

- ★ Under Article 244(A)(1), the Parliament may, by law, form within the State of Assam an autonomous State comprising all or any of the tribal areas.

Difference between Article 244 (A) and Sixth Schedule Area

- ★ The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution i.e. Articles 244(2) and 275(1) is a special provision that allows for greater political autonomy and decentralised governance in certain tribal areas of the Northeast.
- ★ It allows creation autonomous councils that are administered by elected representatives.
- ★ In Assam, the hill districts of Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong and West Karbi and the Bodo Territorial Region are under this provision.
- ★ The Article 244(A) accounts for more autonomous powers to tribal areas in Assam.
- ★ In Autonomous Councils under the Sixth Schedule, they do not have jurisdiction of law and order.

39. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- ★ Founded in 1977, IFAD focuses on rural poverty reduction, working with poor rural populations in developing countries to eliminate poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.
- ★ IFAD supports initiative to revive Kodo and Kutki Millets cultivation in Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh.

Millet Revival Project

- ★ The project was started in 2013-14 with women-farmers from 40 villages mostly from the Gonda and Baiga tribes - growing these two minor millets (Kodo and Kutki) on 749 acres.
- ★ The identified farmers were supplied good-quality seeds and trained by scientists on field preparation, line-sowing (as opposed to conventional broadcasting by hand) and application of compost, zinc, bavistin fungicide and other specific plant protection chemicals.
- ★ A federation of the farmers' self-help groups undertook procurement of the produce and also its mechanical de-hulling (the traditional manual pounding process to remove husk from the grain was time-consuming).
- ★ It helped in increasing the number of farmers growing kodo-kutki in the project area to 14,301 in 2019-20.
- ★ It also helped in meeting nutritional goals (fighting malnourishment among children and in reviving

millet cultivation (crop yields are 1.5-2 times higher than before).

40. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Harichand Thakur

- ★ He was a religious reformer lived between 1812 -1878, he worked among the untouchable people of Bengal Presidency.
- ★ He was the founder of the Matua Mahasangha, which was a religious reformation movement that originated in Orakandi in present day Bangladesh in about 1860 CE.
- ★ He founded a sect of Vaishnava Hinduism called Matua, members of the sect were the namasudras who were considered to be untouchables.
- ★ The objective of Thakur's religious reform was to uplift the community through educational and other social initiatives.
- ★ Members of the community consider Thakur as God and an avatar of Vishnu or Krishna.
- ★ After the 1947 Partition, many of the Matuas migrated to West Bengal.

41. Answer: (d).

Explanation:

- ★ The Union Government has recently released the National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021.
- ★ The policy was first prepared by the Centre in 2017 but put on hold due to some implementation challenges mainly about cost sharing between Centre and States.

Rare Diseases

- ★ There are 7,000-8,000 classified rare diseases, but less than 5% have therapies available to treat them.
- ★ About 95% rare diseases have no approved treatment and less than 1 in 10 patients receive disease-specific treatment.
- ★ India has said it lacks epidemiological data on the prevalence here and hence has only classified certain diseases as 'rare.'

National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021

- ★ Accordingly, a 'rare disease' has been categorised into three groups.

Group 1 Diseases

- ★ Financial support upto Rs. 20 lakh under the Umbrella Scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi shall be provided by the Central Government for treatment, of those rare diseases that require a one-time treatment (diseases listed under Group 1).

- ★ Beneficiaries for such financial assistance would not be limited to BPL families, but extended to about 40% of the population, who are eligible as per norms of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, for their treatment in Government tertiary hospitals only.

Group 2 Diseases

- ★ State Governments can consider supporting patients of such rare diseases that can be managed with special diets or hormonal supplements or other relatively low cost interventions (Diseases listed under Group 2).

Group 3 Diseases

- ★ The new policy has absolutely no consideration for Group 3 patients, who require lifelong treatment support.
- ★ The policy states that, keeping in view the resource constraint and competing health priorities, it will be difficult for the Government to fully finance treatment of high cost rare diseases.
- ★ The gap can however be filled by creating a digital platform for bringing together notified hospitals where such patients are receiving treatment or come for treatment, on the one hand, and prospective individual or corporate donors willing to support treatment of such patients.

42. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ★ India's biggest floating solar power plant with a capacity of 100 MW will be set up at Ramagundam in Telangana.
- ★ The project, expected to be opened in May, 2021, is being set up at Ramagundam thermal power plant reservoir.
- ★ The solar project is commissioned by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).
- ★ The world's largest solar power plant with 600 MW capacity is being set up on Omkareshwar Dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh.
- ★ The project costing 3,000 crore rupees is expected to start power generation only by 2022-23.

43. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Millet Production in India

- ★ The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- ★ India, Nigeria and China are the largest producers of millets in the world, accounting for more than 55% of the global production.

- ★ Millets are available almost across India. They need very little water for growing.
- ★ For many years, India was a major producer of millets. However, in recent years, millet production has increased dramatically in Africa.
- ★ In India, pearl millet is the fourth-most widely cultivated food crop after rice, wheat and maize.
- ★ It occupies an area of 6.93 million hectare with an average production of 8.61 million tonnes and productivity of 1,243 kg/ha during 2018-19.

44. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ★ Hamja is a folk dance prevalent among the Rabha Tribes of Assam.
- ★ Rabha is a prominent tribe in Assam and they present extensively in Meghalaya, west Bengal, Manipur, and Tripura and in Nepal too.

45. Answer: (b).

Explanation:

- ★ In 2012, the Higgs boson, which gives mass to the heavy elementary particles was detected for the first time at the Large Hadron Collider.

46. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Model Code of Conduct

- ★ It is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair elections.
- ★ Key Provisions of the Model Code of Conduct are as follows -
 1. The parties must inform the local police authorities of the venue and time of any meeting in time to enable the police to make adequate security arrangements.
 2. If two or more candidates plan processions along the same route, organisers must establish contact in advance to ensure that the processions do not clash.
 1. All authorised party workers at polling booths should be given identity badges which should not contain the party name, symbol or name of the candidate.
- ★ The activities prohibited under the MCC are:
 1. Using caste and communal feelings to secure votes.
 2. Criticizing candidates based on unverified reports.
 3. Bribing or intimidation of voters.
 4. Organising demonstrations or picketing outside houses of persons to protest their opinions.

- ★ The party must avoid advertising at the cost of the public exchequer or using official mass media for publicity on achievements to improve chances of victory in the elections.
- ★ The guidelines also prohibit parties from making promises that exert an undue.
- ★ The ECI does not have a judicial ability to penalise the violators of the Model Code of Conduct.

47. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Fundamental Particles

- ★ The scientists discovered that the universe is made up of three particles i.e., protons, neutrons, and electrons.
- ★ Particles currently thought to be elementary include the:
 1. Fundamental fermions namely quarks, leptons, antiquarks, and antileptons, these are generally “matter particles” and “antimatter particles”,
 2. Fundamental bosons (gauge bosons and the Higgs boson), which generally are “force particles” that mediate interactions among fermions.
- ★ The protons (carry a positive charge) and neutrons (no charge) are types of quarks, whereas electrons (carry a negative charge) are types of leptons.
- ★ A particle containing two or more fundamental particle is called a composite particle.

Neutrinos

- ★ They are abundant in nature, with about a thousand trillion of them passing through a human body every second.
- ★ They are the second most abundant particles, after photons, which are particles of light.
- ★ They do not carry a charge because they are not easy to catch and as a result of which they do not interact with matter.

48. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Corticosteroids

- ★ Corticosteroids are a class of drug that lowers inflammation in the body and reduce immune system activity.
- ★ Corticosteroids ease swelling, itching, redness, and allergic reactions, thus used in the treatment of diseases like asthma, arthritis, lupus, allergies etc.
- ★ Corticosteroids resemble cortisol, a hormone naturally produced by the body’s adrenal glands. The body needs cortisol to stay healthy.

- ★ Cortisol is a major player in a wide range of processes in the body, including metabolism, immune response, and stress.
- ★ Covid-19 treatments across the globe aims to scale up life-saving oxygen and corticosteroids for severe disease.

49. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Sindhudurg Biodiversity Heritage Site

- ★ Maharashtra government declared an area at Amboli in Western ghats in Sindhudurg district as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS).
- ★ Sindhudurg district is accorded Biodiversity Heritage Site Status after the discovery of a new small freshwater fish species discovered near Schistura Hiranyakeshi.
- ★ BHS are areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems - terrestrial, coastal, and inland and marine waters - having rich biodiversity.
- ★ The biodiversity comprises of any one or more of the components like,
 1. Species richness - Wild and domesticated species or intra-specific categories,
 2. High endemism,
 3. Presence of rare, endemic and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance,
 4. Presence of wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or land races or their varieties,
 5. Past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having cultural or aesthetic values.
 6. Area with significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values; important for the maintenance of cultural diversity

50. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme

- ★ It is a Central Sector scheme launched in 2008 that has been extended up to 2020-21 at a total cost of Rs. 950 crores.
- ★ The Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural development) has proposed a further extension to 2023-24, to complete its original targets as well as expand its ambit with a slew of new schemes.
- ★ It attempts to build upon the commonalities that exist in the arena of land records in various States to develop an appropriate Integrated Land

Information Management System (ILIMS) across the country, on which different States can also add State-specific needs as they may deem relevant and appropriate.

- ★ New initiatives have been taken under the program like the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS), ULPIN, linking of revenue court to land records, integration of consent based Aadhar numbers with land records etc.

Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS)

- ★ The system will contain information on parcel ownership, land use, taxation, location boundaries, land value, encumbrances and many more.

Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)

- ★ It is a number that would uniquely identify every surveyed parcel of land and prevent land fraud, especially in the hinterlands of rural India, where land records are outdated and often disputed.
- ★ The identification will be based on the longitude and latitude coordinates of the land parcel, and is dependent on detailed surveys and geo-referenced cadastral maps.

National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)

- ★ It is aimed at providing one Nation one software for registration of documents & properties to 'empower citizens'.
- ★ DILRMP's next phase will include linkage of land record databases with banks.
- ★ This will enhance the service deliveries to the citizens of the country and will also function as inputs to the schemes of the other sectors like Agriculture, Finance, and Disaster Management etc.

51. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

- ★ The Finance Commission has granted Rs 4,36,361 crore from the central divisive tax pool to local governments, both rural and urban, for 2021-26.
- ★ Local governments like the village panchayat and urban municipality are the third-tier in the Indian governance system, the first being the central government and the second the state.
- ★ The RLB grants are meant for **all the tiers in the panchayat - village, block and district as well as for 5th and 6th Schedule areas in the States.**
- ★ The rural bodies implement around 70 per cent of India's rural development programmes with an annual budget over Rs 2 lakh crore.

- ★ Of the total grant, Rs 236,805 crore is for rural bodies for local governments (Panchayat institutions) while urban bodies (municipal corporations, municipalities, etc) get Rs 121,055 crore.
- ★ An additional Rs 70,051 crore is earmarked as health grants for such local governments.
- ★ Under the 14th FC, grants for local bodies included only the village Panchayat, excluding the block and district panchayats.
- ★ The 15th FC has included all levels of rural panchayats and also the panchayats in scheduled areas as mentioned above, besides cantonment boards.

52. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect

Human genome is made up of **23 chromosome pairs** with a total of about 3 billion DNA base pairs.

Like cellular life, coronaviruses themselves are surrounded by a fatty membrane known as an envelope. In order to gain entry to the inside of the cell, enveloped viruses use proteins (or glycoproteins as they are frequently covered in slippery sugar molecules) to fuse their own membrane to that of cells' and take over the cell.

The spike protein of coronaviruses is one such viral glycoprotein. Ebola viruses have one, the influenza virus has two, and herpes simplex virus has five.

53. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect

OPEC

It is a **permanent, intergovernmental organization**, headquartered in **Vienna, Austria**. ★

Founder Members: The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was **founded in Baghdad, Iraq**, with the signing of an agreement in September **1960** by **five** countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization. ★

Currently, the Organization has a total of **14 Member Countries**. ★ OPEC's **objective** is to coordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; to ensure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and to secure a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry. ★

OPEC **membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil** and which shares the

ideals of the organization.

54. Answer: (a)

Explanation: The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is headquartered in **Vienna, Austria**.

55. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

The Central Board of Direct Taxes

★ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the authority vested with the responsibility of the administration of laws related to direct taxes through the Department of Income Tax.

★ It is a **statutory authority** functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.

★ CBDT functions as a division of the **Ministry of Finance under the Department of Revenue**.

Composition and Functions of CBDT

★ The Central Board of Direct Taxes consists of a Chairman and six Members

★ Its functions include formulation of policies, dealing with matters relating to levy and collection of direct taxes, and supervision of the functioning of the entire Income Tax Department.

★ CBDT also proposes legislative changes in direct tax enactments and changes in rates and structure of taxation in tune with the policies of the Government.

56. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Forest fires can be caused by a number of natural causes, but many major fires in India are triggered mainly by human activities.

★ Fires of longer duration, increasing intensity, higher frequency and highly inflammable nature are all being linked to **climate change**.

★ Under natural circumstances, **extreme heat and dryness, friction created by rubbing of branches** with each other also have been known to initiate fire.

★ In Uttarakhand, **the lack of soil moisture** too is being seen as a key factor.

★ **Poor monsoons:** In two consecutive monsoon seasons (2019 and 2020), rainfall has been deficient by 18% and 20% of the seasonal average, respectively.

★ **Wind speed and direction** play a critical role in bringing a forest fire under control. The fire often spreads in the direction of the winds and towards

higher elevations.

57. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect

Sputnik V

- ★ Sputnik V, developed by Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, is a **two-dose adenovirus based vector vaccine**, similar in design to AstraZeneca's Covishield.
- ★ Researchers used **common cold viruses** in their vaccine prototype.
- ★ Notably, they opted for **two different adenovirus vectors** (rAd26 and rAd5) delivered separately in a first and second dose, 21 days apart.
- ★ Using the same adenovirus for the two doses could lead to the body developing an immune response against the vector and destroying it when the second dose is administered.
- ★ Two different vectors reduces the chance of this.
- ★ To make the vaccine, the **adenoviruses are combined with the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein**, which prompts the body to make an immune response to it.
- ★ It has reported an efficacy of 91% and has so far been approved for use in 59 countries.

Challenges:

- ★ **Storage:** A challenge with the vaccine is its storage and liquid form of the vaccine requires it to be stored at -18°C or colder storage facilities.
- ★ The freeze-dried version of the vaccine can be stored in 2-8°C.

58. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ★ Jagjivan Ram, popularly known as Babuji, was one of **India's greatest Dalit icons** who dedicated his life for the betterment of the poor and downtrodden
- ★ Babu Jagjivan Ram contributed greatly towards our country, as a freedom fighter, as a member of the Constituent Assembly and the first Cabinet and as a Deputy PM.
- ★ Babu Jagjivan Ram was also the **deputy prime minister of the country between 1977 and 1979**.
- ★ He worked to attain equality for untouchables, **contributed to Green Revolution and organized rural labour movement in Bihar**.

Contributions in freedom struggle

- ★ During India's Independent movement, Babu

Jagjivan Ram **founded the All-India Depressed Classes League in 1935** that worked towards equality for the 'untouchables'.

- ★ He was extremely proficient in Sanskrit and was **invited to join Banaras Hindu University by the founder Madan Mohan Malviya**.

59. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect

Public Provident Fund (PPF)

- ★ A Public Provident Fund or PPF is a long-term tax-saving instrument that gives a fixed rate of interest annually on the amount that you invested during the year.
- ★ It has a lock-in period of 15 years.
- ★ In a PPF account, the interest you earn is tax-free and the amount that is deposited during the financial year can be claimed under Section 80C.
- ★ Following the finance minister's announcement earlier in the day, the interest rate on PPF rolls back to 7.1 per cent which gets compounded annually.

National Savings Certificate (NSC)

- ★ A National Savings Certificate or NSC has a **tenure of five years** and comes with a **fixed rate of interest**.
- ★ The interest rate available on NSC is 6.8 per cent which is compounded annually but payable at maturity.

Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme

- ★ Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme also known as Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is a savings scheme launched back in 2015 as part of the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative by the government.
- ★ It can only be opened by the natural or legal guardian of a **girl child aged below 10 years**.
- ★ The account **matures on completion of 21 years from the date of opening**.
- ★ In case, where the marriage of the account holder takes place before completion of a period of 21 years, the operation of the account shall not be permitted beyond the date of her marriage.
- ★ **A minimum of Rs 1,000 and a maximum of Rs 1.5 lakh can be invested** in this scheme in a financial year.
- ★ Presently, it provides an **interest of 7.6 per cent compounded annually**.

Kisan Vikas Patra

- ★ Kisan Vikas Patra is a savings scheme available at the India Post Office in the form of certificates.

- ★ It is a fixed rate small savings scheme that doubles your investment after a predetermined period of time (presently 124 months at an interest of 6.9 per cent).

Senior Citizen Savings Scheme

- ★ Senior Citizen Savings Scheme offers a regular income with the highest safety and tax-saving benefits.
- ★ It is available for those over 60 years of age. It provides tax deduction of up to Rs 1.5 lakh under Section 80C.
- ★ At present, it offers 7.4 per cent which is compounded quarterly and paid.

60. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect

- ★ The Model Code of Conduct consists of a **set of guidelines** expected to be abiding by the political parties, their campaigners and the candidates.
- ★ **Objective:** The Election Commission brings the Model Code of Conduct into effect to **ensure free and fair elections**.
- ★ **No judicial enforcement:** Though the ECI does not have a judicial ability to penalise the violators of the Model Code of Conduct, it generally issues show-cause notice to the violators and in some cases, bars them from the poll campaign.

Star campaigner

A star campaigner is a celebrity vote seeker in an election for a party. This person can be a politician or even a film star. There is no law governing who can or cannot be made a star campaigner.

- ★ They are nominated by the concerned political parties specifying their constituencies and duration of the status.
- ★ A **'recognised' party** declared as such by the Election Commission — can nominate a maximum of 40 star campaigners.
- ★ An **unrecognised political party** can nominate a maximum of 20 star campaigners.
- ★ **Expenditure incurred on electioneering by the star campaigner is not added** to a candidate's poll expenditure giving him/her more leeway.
- ★ According to the Representation of People's Act, these expenses will be borne by the political parties.
- ★ For an individual candidate to get a relief from campaign expenditure, the star campaigner has to **limit oneself to general campaigning for the party**.

61. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" Campaign will be undertaken across the country, in both rural and urban areas, with the theme "catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls". Statement 2 is incorrect. It will be implemented from 22nd March 2021 to 30th November, 2021 - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period in the country. It will be launched as a Jan Andolan to take water conservation at grass-root level through people's participation. It is intended to nudge all stakeholders to create rainwater harvesting structures suitable to the climatic conditions and subsoil strata, to ensure proper storage of rainwater. After the event, Gram Sabhas will be held in all Gram Panchayats of each district (except in the poll bound states) to discuss issues related to water and water conservation. Gram Sabhas will also take 'Jal Shapath' for water conservation.

62. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority was set up as an attached office of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals on 29th August 1997. It has been entrusted inter-alia, with the following functions: —To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 1995/2013. —To undertake and/or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/formulations. —To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps. To collect/maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc. for bulk drugs and formulations.

63. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Study in India is a programme of the Govt of India that aims to attract international students to higher education institutions in India. Statement 2 is incorrect. It caters to NIRF Top 100 institutes in any category except medical institutes, along with a NAAC accreditation of 3.26 or above and those which have been empaneled by UGC, be it government or private. All institutes fulfilling these criteria, partner with Study in India, including Institutes of Eminence and Institutes of National Importance.

64. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Improvements in the ease of doing business will enable faster future growth of the state economy.

Therefore, the government of India had in May 2020, decided to link grant of additional borrowing permissions to States who undertake the reforms to facilitate ease of doing business. The reforms stipulated in this category are: —Completion of first assessment of ‘District Level Business Reform Action Plan’ —Elimination of the requirements of renewal of registration certificates/ approvals/ licences obtained by businesses under various Acts.

65. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) was set up under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in 1973 with the objective of promotion of India films and cultural exchange. DFF organizes and implements the various events and programmes to promote Indian cinema including the National Film Awards and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Statement 2 is incorrect. The 67th National Film Awards winners for the year 2019 have been announced recently. Sikkim has bagged the award for being Most Film Friendly State.

66. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Gandhi Peace Prize Awards are for Social, Economic and Political transformation through Non-violence was instituted in the year 1995. The Award comprises an amount of Rs. One Crore and a Citation. The Award may be divided between two persons / institutions who are considered by the Jury to be equally deserving of recognition in a given year. The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 is being conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; while for the year 2019 it is being conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman in recognition of his vision to strengthen relations with India, and his efforts to promote peace and non-violence in the Gulf region.

67. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Troops of Southern Command, Pune have launched “Operation Thiruvallur” under the aegis of “Aid to Civil Authorities”, involving the safe disposal of nearly 10 tonnes of unexploded ordnance which had possibly been collected inadvertently by some factories over a number of years located in the general area of SIPCOT Industrial Estate in Gummidipoondi in Thiruvallur district of TamilNadu. The operation involves segregation & disposal of unexploded ordnance from a metal scrap dump, now covered with undergrowth. The

dump had been unattended after a violent blast & consequent death of a factory worker a few years back.

68. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

69. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

According to the ‘Report of Government of India’s Technical Group on Population Projection for India and States’ by the year 2036, population of senior citizens would be 22.74 crore (14.9%). Statement 1 is incorrect. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment aims to launch a Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly, to provide nutrition support to the indigent elders, who are not staying in the Old Age Homes and are victims of severe malnutrition, by focusing on procuring locally available healthy food material and serving hot-cooked mid-day meals. Statement 2 is correct. The Gram Panchayats and Urban Municipalities are the implementing agencies of the Scheme. The funding for the Scheme is from the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund.

70. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Department of Biotechnology (DBT), has initiated the Cabinet approved National Biopharma Mission entitled: “Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for Accelerating Discovery Research to Early Development for Biopharmaceuticals - Innovate in India Empowering biotech entrepreneurs & accelerating inclusive innovation”. The approved objectives of the Mission are: — Development of products from leads that are at advanced stages in the product development lifecycle and relevant to the public health. — Strengthening and establishing shared infrastructure facilities for both product discovery validation and manufacturing — Developing human capital by providing specific training to address the critical skills gaps in researchers, nascent biotech companies across the product development value chain, including in business plan development and market penetration. — Creating and enhancing technology transfer and intellectual property management capacities and capabilities in public and private sector

71. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

★ ELSA-d the world’s first commercial mission to demonstrate a space debris removal system was launched recently from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

End-of-Life Services by Astroscale demonstration Mission (Elsa-d)

- ★ It was developed by Astroscale, a Japanese-UK company.
- ★ The mission will be operated from the UK's in-orbit servicing control centre (IOCC) at Satellite Applications Catapult in Harwell, near Oxford.
- ★ ELSA-d is a small satellite designed to find, rendezvous and clamp on to an unwanted satellite.
- ★ It will then push it into the Earth's atmosphere, where it will burn up.
- ★ The removal of space debris is the key to space sustainability, which will ensure that new satellites can be operated without the risk of colliding with old ones.
- ★ The European Space Agency estimates 3,600 working satellites are in orbit, and more than 28,000 pieces of debris are being tracked by the US Space Surveillance Network.

72. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ★ US has recently lifted sanctions and visa restrictions imposed by Donald Trump's administration on officials of the International Criminal Court (ICC), who are investigating American military and intelligence officials for potential war crimes in Afghanistan and had also opened a probe against alleged crimes by American ally Israel in Palestinian territories.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

- ★ The ICC is a permanent judicial body based at The Hague in the Netherlands.
- ★ It was created by the 1998 Rome Statute (ICC's founding and governing document).
- ★ The ICC began functioning on 1 July 2002 when the Statute came into force.
- ★ The forum was established as a court of last resort to prosecute offences that would otherwise go unpunished.
- ★ Unlike the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the ICC is not part of the United Nations system.
- ★ International Court of Justice (ICJ) mainly hears disputes between nations, ICC, on the other hand, prosecutes individuals.

It has jurisdiction over four main crimes:

1. Genocide
2. Crimes against humanity
3. War crimes
4. Crime of aggression

- ★ 123 nations are States Parties to the Rome Statute and recognise the ICC's authority.

- ★ The notable exceptions to this are the US, China, Russia, and India.

73. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Switch Delhi campaign

- ★ To promote the use of electric vehicles in the Capital, Delhi Government has launched the 'Switch Delhi' campaign.
- ★ It will educate people about the benefits of electric vehicles (EV) and urge them to make a switch.
- ★ Under the campaign, awareness will be created about the benefits of electric vehicles and how it can contribute to making Delhi clean and pollution-free.

74. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ★ India has recently pushed back its deadlines for coal-fired power plants to adopt new emission norms by up to 3 years and allowed utilities that miss the new target to continue operating after paying a penalty.
- ★ Previously, the Environment Ministry has ordered that the deadline for these plants to install Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) units, it includes
 1. Plants near populous regions and New Delhi will have to comply by 2022,
 2. Utilities in less polluting area shave up to 2025 to comply or retire units.

Thermal Power Plants

- ★ Thermal power companies produce 3/4th of the country's electricity.
- ★ They account for 80% of industrial emissions of particulate matter, sulphur- and nitrous-oxides - Causes lung diseases, acid rain and smog.
- ★ According to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Thermal power plants account for more than 60 per cent of total industrial emissions of particulate matter; 45 per cent of SO₂; 30 per cent of NO_x; and more than 80 per cent of mercury, in the country.
- ★ These are also responsible for 70 per cent of the total freshwater withdrawal by all industries, according to an analysis by the green think tank.

75. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ★ The e-Committee Supreme Court has prepared the draft vision document for Phase III of the e-Courts

Project under the auspices of the Supreme Court of India.

E-Courts Project

- ★ The e-Courts Project was conceptualized on the basis of the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary - 2005” submitted by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India with a vision to transform the Indian Judiciary by ICT enablement of Courts.
- ★ It is one of the National e-Governance projects being implemented in District and Subordinate Courts of the Country.
- ★ The project is visioned and implemented by the eCommittee, Supreme court of India along with Department of Justice and NIC(National Information Centre).
- ★ It is a Pan-India Project, monitored and funded by Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.
- ★ The objectives of the project is to provide designated services to litigants, lawyers and Judiciary through universal computerisation of district and subordinate courts, as well as the upgradation of ICT infrastructure of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

76. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF)

- ★ WCCF was established in London in 2012 with eight cities, it has 43 participating member cities.
- ★ Participating member cities include London, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Lisbon, San Francisco, Shanghai, etc.
- ★ Delhi is invited this year but it is not a part of member cities.
- ★ The Chief Minister of Delhi will represent Delhi and India at the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).
- ★ It enables the policy makers of member cities to share research and intelligence, and explores the vital role of culture in their future prosperity.
- ★ The activities of the World Cities Culture Forum are organised and delivered by BOP Consulting, a specialist consulting firm, on behalf of the Greater London Authority, London’s Municipal Government.
- ★ Delhi will also be part of the World Cities Culture Report - the most comprehensive global dataset on culture in cities.
- ★ World Cities Culture Report is published by the forum every three years, with data and details on innovative projects from cities across the world.

77. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Monetary Policy Committee

- ★ An RBI-appointed committee led by the then deputy governor Urjit Patel in 2014 recommended the establishment of the Monetary Policy Committee.
- ★ The government moved the interest rate-setting role from the RBI governor to the six-member MPC in 2016.
- ★ As per the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the central bank is required to organise at least four meetings of the MPC in a year.
- ★ The Governor of RBI is ex-officio Chairman of the committee.
- ★ The committee comprises six members (including the Chairman) - three officials of the RBI and three external members nominated by the Government of India.
- ★ Decisions are taken by majority with the Governor having the casting vote in case of a tie.
- ★ The MPC determines the policy interest rate (repo rate) required to achieve the inflation target (4%).
- ★ Recently RBI announced that (MPC), which decides on key interest rates, will meet six times during the financial year 2021-2022.

78. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

ACT-Accelerator

- ★ It was launched in the month of April, 2020 at an event co-hosted by the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), the President of France, the President of the European Commission, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ★ It brings together governments, scientists, businesses, civil society, and philanthropists and global health organizations.
- ★ The participants include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CEPI, Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Gavi, The Global Fund, Unitaid, Wellcome Trust (London), the WHO and the World Bank.
- ★ The ACT-Accelerator is organized into four pillars of work:
 1. Diagnostics.
 2. Treatment.
 3. Vaccines.
 4. Health system strengthening.
- ★ Each pillar is vital to the overall effort and involves innovation and collaboration.

79. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- ★ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is an international environmental treaty addressing climate change.
- ★ It signed by 154 states at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, informally known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- ★ It established a Secretariat headquartered in Bonn and entered into force in 1994.
- ★ The Kyoto Protocol, which was signed in 1997 and which entered into force in 2005, was the first implementation of measures under the UNFCCC until 31 December 2020.
- ★ The protocol was superseded by the Paris Agreement, which entered into force in 2016.
- ★ As of 2020, the UNFCCC has 197 signatory parties, its supreme decision-making body, the Conference of the Parties (COP), meets annually to assess progress in dealing with climate change.

80. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- ★ The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is an Act implemented by the Parliament of India for the preservation of biological diversity in India.
- ★ It provides mechanism for equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of traditional biological resources and knowledge.
- ★ According to the act
 1. State Governments can notify in the official gazette, in consultation with 'local bodies', areas of biodiversity importance as BHS.
 2. State Governments can frame schemes for compensating or rehabilitating anyone economically affected by such notification.
 3. State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) may invite suggestions for declaration of BHSs, through the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and other relevant community institutions.

81. Answer: (b)

82. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Safe City Projects have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Nirbhaya Fund scheme in 8 cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru,

Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow & Mumbai). These projects involve identification of hot spots for crimes against women and deployment of various components including infrastructure, technology adoption, and capacity building in community through awareness programmes. The project implementation is regularly reviewed by the State Level Apex Committee.

83. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Buldhana pattern relates to synchronization of national highway construction and water conservation. (Statement 2 is correct)

84. Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders are open borders with visa free regime. Statement 2 is incorrect. India and Myanmar have an arrangement called Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows locals on both sides to go upto 16 km across the other side and stay up to 14 days. # India sealed all entry points along the border with following the February 1 coup when the Myanmar military overthrew the democratically elected government.

85. Answer: (a)

86. Answer: (a)

87. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Indus Waters Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in September 1960 in Karachi by the then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan President Ayub Khan. Statement 2 is correct. Under the treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of the three eastern rivers- Sutlej, Ravi and Beas, averaging around 33 million acre-feet (MAF), were allocated to India for exclusive use.

88. Answer: (b)

89. Answer: (d)

90. Answer: (a)

91. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ★ The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare has virtually launched the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) recently.
- ★ The Integrated Health Information Platform is the next generation highly refined version of the presently used Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).
- ★ India is the first country in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system.

- ★ It was termed as the world's biggest online disease surveillance platform.
- ★ The new version of IHIP will house the data entry and management for India's disease surveillance program.
- ★ In addition to tracking 33 diseases now as compared to the earlier 18 diseases, it shall ensure near-real-time data in digital mode, having done away with the paper-mode of working.
- ★ It is in sync with the National Digital Health Mission and fully compatible with the other digital information systems presently being used in India.
- ★ The refined IHIP with automated -data will help in a big way in real time data collection, aggregation & further analysis of data that will aid and enable evidence-based policy making

92. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ★ Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre has recently attended a consultation meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries.
- ★ The consultation is the first of a three-phased process to co-create an initiative on digital learning and skills, targeting marginalised children and youth, especially girls.

E9 Initiative

- ★ The initiative aims to accelerate recovery and advance the Sustainable Development Goal 4 agenda by driving rapid change in education systems.
- ★ Spearheaded by the UN, the E9 countries includes Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan.
- ★ The E9 countries will have the opportunity to benefit from this global initiative and accelerate progress on digital learning.

93. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ★ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard the naval ships against enemy missile attack.
- ★ Defence Laboratory Jodhpur (DLJ), a DRDO laboratory, has indigenously developed three variants of this critical technology namely Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR) and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR) meeting Indian Navy's qualitative requirements.

- ★ The successful development of Advanced Chaff Technology by DLJ is another step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ★ Recently, Indian Navy conducted trials of all three variants in the Arabian Sea on Indian Naval Ship and found the performance satisfactory.

Chaff

- ★ It is a passive expendable electronic countermeasure technology used worldwide to protect naval ships from enemy's radar and Radio Frequency (RF) missile seekers.
- ★ The importance of this development lies in the fact that very less quantity of chaff material deployed in the air acts as decoy to deflect enemy's missiles for safety of the ships.

94. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ★ The three-day multi-lateral maritime exercise 'La Perouse', led by the French Navy, was recently kick-started in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region.
- ★ The exercise involves the French Navy, Indian Navy, Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and United States Navy (USN).
- ★ For the first time, the Indian Navy has deployed INS Satpura (with an integral helicopter embarked) and INS Kiltan alongwith P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft in the three-day naval exercise.
- ★ The first edition of La Perouse joint exercise, initiated by France in 2019, included ships from Australia, Japan and the US.

95. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ★ Spices Board India under Ministry of Commerce and Industry and UNDP India's Accelerator Lab recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with the aim to build a blockchain based traceability interface for Indian spices to enhance transparency in supply chain and trade.
- ★ Blockchain is a decentralized process of recording transactions on an open and shared electronic ledger.
- ★ This allows for ease and transparency in data management across a complex network, including, farmers, brokers, distributors, processors, retailers, regulators, and consumers, thus simplifying the supply chain.
- ★ It will allow farmers just as all other members of the supply chain to access the information which further makes the entire supply chain more efficient and equitable.

Spices Board of India

- ★ It is one of the five Commodity Boards functioning under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- ★ It is an autonomous body responsible for the export promotion of the 52 scheduled spices and development of Cardamom (Small & Large).

The main functions of the Spices Board are the following

1. Research, Development and Regulation of domestic marketing of Small & Large Cardamom
2. Post-harvest improvement of all spices
3. Export promotion of all spices and assisting exporters in technology upgradation, quality management, brand promotion, research & product development
4. Development of spices in the North East
5. Regulation of quality of spices for exports through its quality evaluation services; etc.

96. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

National Security Act (NSA)

- ★ The former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi brought the National Security Act in 1980.
- ★ The maximum period of detention under National Security Act is:
 1. A person can be detained for up to 12 months without a charge.
 2. A person can be held for 10 days without being told the charges against them.
 3. The person can appeal before a high court advisory board but will not be allowed a lawyer during the trial.
- ★ Article 22 (1) of the Indian Constitution says an arrested person cannot be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice.
- ★ According to Section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), any person arrested has to be informed of the grounds of arrest and has the right to bail.
- ★ Under National Security Act, none of these rights are available to the person detained.
- ★ The government holds the right to conceal information which it considers to be against public interest to disclose.
- ★ The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which collects crime data in India, does not include cases under the NSA as no FIRs are registered.

97. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Non-Fungible Token (NFT)

- ★ A non-fungible token (NFT) is a unit of data on a digital ledger called a block chain, where each NFT can represent a unique digital item, and thus they are not interchangeable.
- ★ NFTs can represent digital files such as art, audio, videos, items in video games and other forms of creative work.
- ★ The NFTs can be bought on an NFT market, it has access to any copy of the original file, however, is not restricted to the owner of the token.
- ★ While the digital files themselves are infinitely reproducible, the NFTs representing them are tracked on their underlying block chains and provide buyers with proof of ownership of the NFTs.
- ★ NFTs can be used to commodify digital creations, such as digital art, video game items, and music files.
- ★ NFTs mostly run on a proof-of-work block chain, which is less energy efficient than a proof-of-stake block chain.
- ★ Indian artists can place their digital assets including art pieces, audio files, videos, and even tweets, for auction over the block chain-based NFT marketplace to earn royalty thereafter.
- ★ Indian cryptocurrency exchange, WazirX has launched a non-fungible tokens (NFT) marketplace for Indian artists and creators.
- ★ Indian artists can place their digital assets including art pieces, audio files, videos, and even tweets, for auction over the blockchain-based NFT marketplace to earn royalty thereafter.

98. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Harmonized System of Nomenclature Code (HSN code)

- ★ It is a 6 digit identification code developed by World Customs

Organization

- ★ Of the six digits, the first two denote the HS Chapter, the next two give the HS heading, and the last two give the HS subheading.
- ★ It is called the “universal economic language” for goods, a multipurpose international product nomenclature.
- ★ The system currently comprises of around 5,000 commodity groups.

- ★ It has been made mandatory for a GST taxpayer having a turnover of more than Rs 5 crore in the preceding financial year, to furnish 6 digits HSN Code (Harmonized System of Nomenclature Code).
- ★ Over 200 countries use the system as a basis for their customs tariffs, gathering international trade statistics, making trade policies, and for monitoring goods.
- ★ The system helps in harmonising of customs and trade procedures, thus reducing costs in international trade.

World Customs Organization (WCO)

- ★ It was established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.
- ★ As the global centre of Customs expertise, the WCO is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters and can rightly call itself the voice of the international Customs community.
- ★ The WCO has divided its Membership into six Regions, Each of the six Regions is represented by a regionally elected Vice-Chairperson to the WCO Council.
- ★ Besides the vital role played by the WCO in stimulating the growth of legitimate international trade, its efforts to combat fraudulent activities are also recognized internationally.
- ★ WCO has also been responsible for administering the World Trade Organization's Agreements on Customs Valuation, which provide a system for placing values on imported goods, and the Rules of Origin, which are used to determine the origin of a given commodity.

99. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Chenab Arch Bridge

- ★ It is a 1.3 km-long bridge that is being built across the Chenab River, which is being constructed at a height of 359 metres from the riverbed.
- ★ It will be at a height 35 meters more than the Eiffel Tower in Paris and at five times the height of the Qutab Minar in Delhi.
- ★ It is being built on the Katra-Banihal railway line at village Kauri in the Reasi district.

- ★ The bridge forms the crucial link in the 111-km stretch between Katra and Banihal which is part of the Udhampur- Srinagar-Baramulla section of the Kashmir Railway project.
- ★ At present, the Kashmir link means a 25-km stretch from Udhampur to Katra, an 18-km stretch from Banihal to Qazigund in the Valley and thereafter the 118-km Qazigund to Baramulla line.
- ★ The only missing piece in the link is the Katra-Banihal stretch, and the bridge over Chenab was the main engineering hurdle holding up the progress all these years.
- ★ The bridge will be able to withstand earthquakes with a magnitude of up to eight and high-intensity blasts.

100. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Star Campaigner

- ★ A star campaigner is a celebrity vote seeker in an election for a party.
- ★ They are nominated by the concerned political parties specifying their constituencies and duration of the status.

★ Provisions for Star Campaigners

1. The expenditure incurred on campaigning by 'stars' is exempt from being added to the election expenditure of a candidate.
 2. It only applies when a star campaigner limits herself to a general campaign for the political party she represents.
 3. A recognised political party can have up to 40 star campaigners while an unrecognised party (but registered) political party can have 20.
 4. The list of star campaigners has to be communicated to the Chief Electoral Officer and Election Commission within a week from the date of notification of an election.
- ★ The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) guidelines say when a prime minister or a former prime minister is star campaigner, the expenditure incurred on security will be borne by the government.
 - ★ The Election Commission has the right to decide whether a star campaigner can further campaign or not.

UPSC CIVILS MAIN TEST

TOPIC: GENERAL STUDIES

Time allowed: 180 Minutes Maximum Marks: 250

Question Paper Specific Instructions

Please read the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

- ★ There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
- ★ All the questions are compulsory.
- ★ The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- ★ Answer must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answer written in medium other than the authorized one.
- ★ Answers to Questions No.1 to 10 should be in 150 words, whereas answers to Questions No.11 to 20 should be in 250 words.
- ★ Each question carries 12.5 marks.
- ★ Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer booklet must be clearly struck off.

MAINS QUESTION PAPER

1. Recently, Prime Minister of Bangladesh has described Dhaka's ties with India and engagements with New Delhi as 'organic' and 'beyond a few billions of dollars of trade'. Critically discuss.
2. What were the reasons for which Fundamental Duties have repeatedly been called ineffective? Highlight the need and importance of incorporating FDs in Indian Constitution
3. Do you think adultery law in India is in contravention to the Constitutional Provisions under Art 14 and 15. Critically analyze, with special emphasis on various governmental reports and committees' views on the issue
4. Discuss the factors behind poor health of the private Industrial Training Institutes of India? In your opinion what measures should be taken to improve their quality?
5. What is meant by social constraints? Are constraints of any kind necessary for enjoying freedom? What is the difference between the negative and positive conception of liberty?
6. Health care in India is obviously not egalitarian and becoming increasingly dependent on the private sector to deliver health care. Discuss and suggest measures for equitable medical care.
7. Discuss the factors behind India's ailing indigenous defense manufacturing. How new Strategic Partnership guidelines would be able to transform defense manufacturing in India?
8. Power loom sector, which contributes to 40 per cent of the nation's man-made fabric demand, is in a shutdown mode in Surat, discuss the challenges faced by the sector and steps taken by government to deal with them.
9. Enumerate the land-use categories as maintained in the Land Revenue Records and highlight the patterns of land use changes that have taken place in last few decades in India.
10. While safeguard duty on solar panels from China, Malaysia may benefit domestic manufacturers, it will do a lot of damage to existing solar projects. Explain. And discuss the other factors that are hurting the development of solar power in India
11. Invasive species have contributed to 40% of all animal extinctions since the 17th century, discuss the implications of the invasive species on the local environment and economy. What international mechanisms are available to deal with them?
12. What are the reasons of urban flooding in India? Discuss the mechanism available to deal with urban flooding and why it has proved to be ineffective in times of need?
13. Highlight the need for National security reforms and restructuring in India and discuss the steps taken by government towards this goal.

14. Is morality important to lead a happy life? Support your answer with examples
15. Citizen's Charter helps maintaining a healthy work culture. Do you agree? Explain with Examples.
16. Differentiate between dilemma and ethical dilemma with suitable examples. How does conscience act as a source of ethical guidance?
17. What do you understand by corporate social responsibility? What relationship does corporate governance share with corporate social responsibility?
18. While preparing for civil services, an aspirant come across many new legal and social concepts as natural justice, rule of law, equality, fraternity, maintenance of dignity of individual, etc. But as he enters the service, the concepts or ideal principles take a back seat.
 - (a) What can be the reasons behind this change?
 - (b) Is it true to quote "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely"?
19. There comes a case of molestation against a very senior officer by a woman employee in an office where you are the incharge of women welfare. In view of the fact that these days molestation charges are levied against many upright officers by the instigation of peers due to rivalry or by women workers who are not allowed undue advantages with regard to punctuality, promotion and annual performance evaluation thus, you as a Woman Welfare Officer need to be extra cautious in judgment.

As an upright woman government officer what are the moral and professional issues that would you like to enquire during the process of enquiry against the officer charged with the allegation of molestation? Give reasons.

20. There was a residential school situated in the remote part of the country in which approximately 250 class IXth and Xth level boys used to study and stay. School principal had his residence in the school premises only. The principal used to attend and participate in the daily morning prayers and take his two meals along with students. He was a kind hearted and empathetic person who used to provide also the moral education. The students liked and admired him because not only he preached, he used to set personal examples.

On the basis of above, answer the following questions.

- (a) **What could be contribution of school principal in attitude formation of the students?**
- (b) **If one of the students gets into civil services at a later stage, what impact and influence does the school will make on his attitude and behaviour?**

MAINS KEY PAPER

1. **Recently, Prime Minister of Bangladesh has described Dhaka's ties with India and engagements with New Delhi as 'organic' and 'beyond a few billions of dollars of trade'. Critically discuss.**

Hints:

- ★ India was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh and establish diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in December 1971. India - Bangladesh relationship is anchored in history, culture, language and shared values of secularism, democracy and countless other commonalities between the two countries.
- ★ India's 'neighbourhood policy' has focussed on Bangladesh, which has emerged as a key interlocutor in India's 'Act East Policy' and sub-regional groupings like Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Initiative.
- ★ In Bangladeshi geopolitics, India has always been at the center while the United States has had leverage. Other regional powers such as China used to be on the periphery. Historically Bangladesh has more cultural and societal links with India. India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are collectively known as a subcontinent.

However, India's hegemonic posture and coercive tactics created deep resentment among ordinary Bangladeshis, especially when contrasted with China's model of non-interference in domestic affairs coupled with lavish spending.

- ★ Bangladesh could work as a bridge to access the Indian markets for its products. Again, Bangladesh' strategic location, especially, close proximity to Siliguri Corridor, a narrow strip of land connecting India's Northeast region to the rest of the country also motivating factors.

2. **What were the reasons for which Fundamental Duties have repeatedly been called ineffective? Highlight the need and importance of incorporating FDs in Indian Constitution**

42nd Constitutional Amendment to the constitution added a new part IVA to the Constitution. This part contained the Fundamental duties. Why FDs are called ineffective:

- ★ They are non-justiciable as the constitution does not provide for their direct enforcement by the courts.

- ★ There is no legal sanction against their violation life in the case of Fundamental Rights.
- ★ The list of duties is not exhaustive as it does not cover other important duties like casting vote, paying taxes, family planning and so on.
- ★ Some of the duties are vague, ambiguous and difficult to be understood by the common man. They are used to abuse people who choose to interpret the duties differently.
- ★ Though Swaran Singh Committee had suggested for penalty or punishment for the non-performance of Fundamental Duties, it was not incorporated.

Need for incorporating FDs in constitution:

- ★ Swaran Singh committee felt that citizens should become conscious that in addition to the enjoyment of rights, they also have certain duties to perform as well.
- ★ They serve as a reminder to the citizens that while enjoying their rights, they should also be conscious of duties they owe to their country, their society and to their fellow citizens.
- ★ They serve as a source of inspiration for the citizens and promote a sense of discipline and commitment among them. They create a feeling that the citizens are not mere spectators but active participants in the realisation of national goals.

Importance of FDs in constitution:

- ★ Cherishing noble ideals of freedom struggle is a moral precept and respecting the Constitution, National Flag and National Anthem is a civic duty.
- ★ They contain a codification of tasks integral to the Indian way of life.
- ★ They serve as a warning against the anti-national and antisocial activities like burning the national flag, destroying public property and so on.
- ★ They help the courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law. In 1992 SC ruled that in determining the constitutionality of any law, if a court finds that the law in question seeks to give effect to a FD, it may consider such law to be 'reasonable' in relation to Article 14 (equality before law) or Article 19 (six freedoms) and thus save such law from unconstitutionality.
- ★ The moral value of fundamental duties would be not to smother rights but to establish a democratic balance by making the people conscious of their duties equally as they are conscious of their rights.

3. Do you think adultery law in India is in contravention to the Constitutional Provisions under Art 14 and 15. Critically analyze, with special emphasis on various governmental reports and committees' views on the issue.

Adultery refers to extra-marital voluntary sexual intercourse. Provisions in Section 497 of IPC mandates a punishment of 5 years in prison for the man who had consensual sexual intercourse with a married woman. But it does not punish the woman who had consensual sexual intercourse with a married man. Contravention to Art 14 and 15:

- ★ As it considers that women could not be punished as they were vulnerable.
- ★ By punishing only a man for adultery, the law is discriminating against citizens based on “sex”, covered under Article 15.
- ★ Section 198 (1) of CrPC says only “aggrieved party” can bring forth a complaint on cases of adultery. Section 198 (2) clarifies that only the husband can be the “aggrieved party”.
- ★ It is discriminatory against men as it presumes the morality of man and judges his behavior. It is in violation of Article 14 and 15 which prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, caste, sex.

Committees:

- ★ The 42nd Law Commission of India Report and the Malimath Committee on Criminal Law Reforms suggested that the section be amended to ensure both the erring wife and the husband be held equally liable for adultery.
- ★ Law Commission rendered liable only the male offender considering the condition of women in this country and law’s duty to protect it.
- ★ SC in Yusuf Abdul Aziz v. The State of Bombay (1954) case held that Section 497 did not violate the right to equality in Articles 14 and 15 of Constitution. Constitution itself provides for special provisions with regard to women and children.
- ★ Fifth Law Commission made suggestions as to changes in the provision, including making the law gender-neutral

4. Discuss the factors behind poor health of the private Industrial Training Institutes of India? In your opinion what measures should be taken to improve their quality?

The recent parliamentary report on private ITIs has exposed a scam on the Quality Council of India’s approval for thousands of private ITIs. The number of private ITIs has grown from under 2,000 to over

11,000 in five years. Sharda Prasad committee points to the poor state of skill training going on in these institutes. Other Problems with private ITIs:

- ★ Failure to align with global standards.
- ★ Lack of regulation and monitoring to keep a check on the quality of training.
- ★ Policy changes make the governmental affiliation mandatory to start operation and ministry often introduces new conditions.
- ★ The complex set of rules, regulations and laws governing the sector makes it difficult to setup and run an institute in India.
- ★ Huge entry restrictions life working capital requirements.
- ★ Poor results in the form of placements of trained candidates. This can be due to lack of industry tie ups and also due to adoption of poor skill standards. Placement in NSDC training has been less than 15%.
- ★ Lack of a regulator with teeth, for skill development has led to poor quality affiliation, assessment and certification.
- ★ A national survey by the research institute (NIL-ERD) of Planning Commission in 2011 about private ITIs: they offered training in less than five trades; had fewer classrooms and workshops for practice; and their teachers were very poorly paid.
- ★ NILERD nationwide survey, 2011 found that ITIs have many internal issues such as staffing and salaries.

Measures for improving the quality of ITIs:

- ★ More industry – institute tie ups can be promoted to cater to the skills demanded by industry.
- ★ Simplifying red tape to enable private sector participation in the skill development industry.
- ★ The Sharada Prasad Committee recommended that the number of SSCs should correspond to the National Industrial (Activity) Classification.
- ★ Periodic surveys through National Sample Survey Office, to collect data on skill providers and skill gaps by sector to guide evidence-based policy-making.
- ★ We need better oversight, with a national board for all skill development programmes. The core work of accreditation, assessment, certification and course standards cannot be outsourced.
- ★ Mandatory rating system for the ITIs can be published periodically. A ranking of ITIs on several parameters such as the National Assessment and Accreditation Council in tertiary education can be

replicated.

- ★ We need a unified national vocational system where the ITIs, NSDC private vocational trainers work with each other. 12th Five Year Plan recommends a national vocational act that replaces all scattered regulations.
- ★ Need to reskill ITI teachers and maintain the student-teacher ratio.
- ★ Since technology obsolescence is a continuous challenge, financial support envisaged through NSDC should be extended to the ITIs.
- ★ A reimbursable industry contribution (RIC) — a 1-2% payroll tax that will be reimbursed when employers train using public/private infrastructure and provide data. It is implemented in 62 other countries and was recommended in the 12th Plan

5. What is meant by social constraints? Are constraints of any kind necessary for enjoying freedom? What is the difference between the negative and positive conception of liberty?

Social constraints : Given the diverse interests and ambitions of people any form of social living requires some rules and regulation. These rules may impose some constraints to on the freedom of individuals and are called social constraints. Constraints are needed for freedom:

- ★ Some constraints may free us from insecurity and provide us with the conditions in which we can develop ourselves.
- ★ We need some constraints or else society would descend into chaos. Differences may exist between people regarding their ideas and opinions, they may have conflicting ambitions, they may compete for scarce resources.
- ★ Sme legal and political restraints ensure that differences may be discussed and debated without one group coercively imposing its views on the other

Constraints not needed for freedom:

- ★ In South Africa, the constraints imposed by the apartheid regime discriminated between citizens based on their race.
- ★ Constraints on freedom from social inequality like in the caste system and based on economic inequalities are not desirable.
- ★ Constraints limit an individual from enjoying equality of status and opportunity.
- ★ Also state most of the times limits the freedom of individual in the name of larger public interest. Here the check should be the extent of compromise

of individual freedom and the importance of national interest. The debate between Fundamental Rights and DPSPs is an example.

As freedom is at the core of human society, is so crucial for a dignified human life, it should only be constrained in special circumstances. The 'harm caused' must be 'serious'. Difference between +ve and -ve liberty: Negative liberty' seeks to defend an area in which the individual can 'do, be or become' whatever he wants. This is an area in which no external authority can interfere. It recognises that human nature and dignity need an area where the person can act unobstructed by others. 'Positive liberty' is concerned with looking at the conditions and nature of the relationship between the individual and society. It recognises that one can be free only in society (not outside it) and hence tries to make that society such that it enables the development of the individual.

6. Health care in India is obviously not egalitarian and becoming increasingly dependent on the private sector to deliver health care. Discuss and suggest measures for equitable medical care.

Of the total health spending in India, the government contributes just 29%. In the UK, the government's share is 83%. The health care services in India are not egalitarian. The out-of-pocket expenses for medical care are about 70% of all medical expenditure, enough to push a family into poverty. Problems with present healthcare system:

- ★ Poor government spending in healthcare is resulting in deteriorated standards in service provision from public sector. Indian government only spends about 1.4% of the GDP on the sector
- ★ The gap between what is technologically possible and what government hospitals generally provide widened appreciably after the technological leaps in medical care – this can be called “medical rationing”.
- ★ The deteriorating state of public healthcare in India means that an increasingly larger percentage of its citizens are being driven to the private sector for their medical needs.
- ★ Mounting costs and decreasing availability of drugs is a major issue
- ★ Medical rationing has other detrimental effects like creating distrust of the public in government hospitals.

Measures for equitable health care:

- ★ The new Ayushman Bharat health scheme to provide secondary and tertiary care to those who are socioeconomically deprived.
- ★ NITI Aayog's document recommends the government to prioritise preventive care rather than provide curative care.
- ★ AIIMS like institutions in every state to make tertiary care accessible.
- ★ Generic medicines should be mandated and be made available.
- ★ Niti Aayog suggested a model that provides for a greater role for private players in the India's health-care sector.

7. Discuss the factors behind India's ailing indigenous defense manufacturing. How new Strategic Partnership guidelines would be able to transform defense manufacturing in India?

India continues to remain in the strategically-vulnerable position of being the world's largest arms importer, accounting for 12% of the global imports from 2013-2017. Factors behind poor indigenous industry

- ★ Ordnance Factories : Dependence only on the government owned defence public sector units (PSUs) and ordnance factories which failed to produce cutting edge technologies.
- ★ R&D: Researching and developing new military systems is the job of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). The DRDO consumes 20% of the Indian government's total R&D funding. Its inherent problems and contradictions led to the gross failure of indigenous production.
- ★ Rama Rao Committee on DRDO says that it requires passionate and inspiring leadership. IT points to poor HR management with only 3% of its scientists have PhDs in engineering-related subjects. It warns that DRDO's "biggest challenge" is to attract, nurture and retain talent.
- ★ Bias against private sector participation – Kelkar committee had suggested nominating more than a dozen Indian private sector companies Raksha Udyog Ratnas, with a status equivalent to that of the defence.

Strategic Partnership guidelines – Recently the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the implementation of Strategic Partnership guidelines.

- ★ **4 segments – The model has four segments** — submarines, single engine fighter aircraft, helicopters and armoured carriers/main battle tanks. These would be specifically opened up for the private sector.

vate sector.

- ★ **Global Equipment Manufacturers** – One Indian private company would be selected in each segment which would tie-up with shortlisted global equipment manufacturers to manufacture the platforms in India under technology transfer.

- ★ **Procurement** – All procurements would be executed by specially constituted Empowered Project Committees for timely execution.

How they can help:

- ★ The model aims to revitalise defence industrial ecosystem and build indigenous capabilities in the private sector to design, develop and manufacture complex weapon systems.
- ★ They lay emphasis on incentivisation of transfer of niche technology and higher indigenous content.
- ★ This creates scope for innovation transfer from foreign companies.
- ★ Private sector participation can attract more investments into the sector.

8. Power loom sector, which contributes to 40 per cent of the nation's man-made fabric demand, is in a shutdown mode in Surat, discuss the challenges faced by the sector and steps taken by government to deal with them.

The decentralized powerloom sector is the lifeline of Indian Textile Industry. 60% of Indian cloth is produced through decentralized power loom sector, provides employment to more than 7 million workers.

Major issues faced by Powerloom sector:

- ★ Poor infrastructure - Most of the powerloom clusters face common problems like poor roads, effluent issues, frequent power cuts, non-availability of water, no warehouses & logistic issues etc.
- ★ Obsolete Technology - Modernisation in looms is less, There are less than 15,000 modern looms, whereas traditional looms are in large numbers.
- ★ Value addition and the manufacturing of fabrics according to customer's compliances, is not possible due to obsolete technology of looms.
- ★ Loom's depreciation & maintenance cost is very high. It results in increase in the operating cost and the overall cost of production also increases.
- ★ The productivity of plain powerloom is very low as compared to automatic, shuttleless and semi-automatic looms
- ★ Unskilled labour - Most of the labors lack good technical knowledge. They are not been trained for increasing productivity & efficiency. Lack of mar-

keting support - Mostly, the weavers are uneducated or less educated and are unable to estimate the demand of their products according to the need of the market. d. The middlemen exploit the powerloom owners and gain the main surplus. e. The merchants and agents are united while the powerloom owners are dispersed. So, the buyers have more bargaining power and sellers are dependent on the buyers.

- ★ Finance - The majority of the weavers start their business with the self-finance. They don't have adequate supply of finance to modernize their power looms. They don't have sufficient capital to pile up the stock of raw material when the prices are low.

Government initiatives:

- ★ Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) - nodal agency for development and promotion of exports of powerloom products by promotional activities such as participation in international trade shows, sending and hosting trade delegations, and sustained image-building exercises through advertisements abroad, publications and audio visuals.
- ★ Comprehensive Powerloom Cluster Development Scheme (CPCDS) by Ministry of Textiles - for development of Powerloom Mega Clusters.
- ★ Telangana State government announced incentives, provided training and marketing facilities and had been promoting handloom textiles in a big way by placing bulk orders for school uniforms, Ramzan gifts and Bathukamma sarees.

9. Enumerate the land-use categories as maintained in the Land Revenue Records and highlight the patterns of land use changes that have taken place in last few decades in India.

Land use categories mentioned : The land-use categories as maintained in the Land Revenue Records are as follows :

- ★ **Forests** : Area under actual forest cover is different from area classified as forest. There may be an increase in this category without any increase in the actual forest cover.
- ★ **Barren and Wastelands** : The land which may be classified as a wasteland such as barren hilly terrains, desert lands, ravines, etc. normally cannot be brought under cultivation with the available technology.
- ★ **Land put to Non-agricultural Uses** : Land under urban and rural settlements, infrastructure, industries etc., are included in this category.

- ★ **Area under Permanent Pastures and Grazing Lands** : Most of this type land is owned by the village 'Panchayat' or the Government. Only a small proportion of this land is privately owned.

- ★ **Area under Miscellaneous Tree Crops and Groves** : The land under orchards and fruit trees are included in this category.

- ★ **Culturable Wasteland** : Any land which is not cultivated for more than five years is included in this category.

- ★ **Current Fallow** : it is the land which is left without cultivation for one or less than one agricultural year.

- ★ **Fallow other than Current Fallow** : This is also a cultivable land which is left uncultivated for more than a year but less than five years.

- ★ **Net Area Sown**: The physical extent of land on which crops are sown and harvested is known as net sown area

Broad patterns of land use changes:

- ★ The rate of increase is the highest in case of area under non-agricultural uses. This is due to the changing structure of Indian economy, which is increasingly depending on the contribution from industrial and services sectors
- ★ The increase in the share under forest could be by increase in the demarcated area under forest rather than an actual increase in the forest cover
- ★ The increase in net area sown is a recent phenomenon due to use of culturable waste land for agricultural purpose.
- ★ As the pressure on land increased from agricultural and nonagricultural sectors, the wastelands and culturable wastelands have witnessed decline over time.
- ★ The decline in land under pastures and grazing lands can be explained by pressure from agricultural land.

10. While safeguard duty on solar panels from China, Malaysia may benefit domestic manufacturers, it will do a lot of damage to existing solar projects. Explain. And discuss the other factors that are hurting the development of solar power in India.

The government implemented a 25% safeguard duty on solar cell imports from China and Malaysia for the period between July 30, 2018 and July 29, 2019. This import duty has been placed in order to encourage local solar panel manufacturers in the country in a push to the 'Make in India' effort. Thus

it may encourage local manufacturers of solar panels.

How it damages existing solar projects?

- ★ Majority of top solar projects are using these imported panels especially from China.
- ★ More than 10,000 MW capacity of solar panels are imported annually from China and Malaysia and this duty would adversely impact the commercial viability of some solar power projects
- ★ The increased tariffs will be ultimately passed on to the customers, hampering the adoption of clean energy.
- ★ The duty does not provide any relief to developers in SEZs.
- ★ It would increase cost of solar power and make it less attractive to buying utilities. Thus it could jeopardise the pace of growth of development of solar power. Tariffs are likely to rise 30-35 paise per unit due to the duty.
- ★ There could also be short term delays in project completion.

Factors hurting development of solar power in India:

- ★ Solar projects require land and lack of availability of land is a challenge.
- ★ Lack of grid connectivity to sites of solar power production.
- ★ Huge dependence on imports of solar panels make the production expensive if there are any changes in international market.
- ★ During daytime, the weather may be cloudy or rainy, with little or no sun radiation. Hence, this makes solar energy panels less reliable as a solution.
- ★ Solar panels also require inverters and storage batteries to convert direct electricity to alternating electricity so as to generate electricity. While installing a solar panel is quite cheap, installing other equipment becomes expensive.
- ★ Energy production is quite low compared to other forms of energy.
- ★ The renegotiation of existing Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) in the light of falling solar prices is a trouble for the producers.

11. Invasive species have contributed to 40% of all animal extinctions since the 17th century, discuss the implications of the invasive species on the local environment and economy. What international mechanisms are available to deal with them?

An invasive species can be any kind of living organism that is not native to an ecosystem and causes harm. They can harm the environment, the economy, or even human health. Implications on local environment:

- ★ Widespread loss of habitat
- ★ Some invaders can physically alter the habitat. Eg., change in the nature of trees that survive depending on the new species
- ★ Invading species destroy endemic species diversity as, often, they do not have any predators.

Impact on the economy:

- ★ Invasive species can also impact human health. Sometimes, invasive animals can also be vectors for disease.
- ★ As they impact the local habitat, they affect the livelihoods of people depending on local resources like trees, ponds, fishes etc., In Tamil Nadu the Seemai karuvelam tree was blamed for affecting groundwater resources.
- ★ The introduction and spread of an invasive species can have major trade implications. There is the prospect of losing a competitive advantage in exports because unaffected countries will either prohibit import of goods from affected countries or establish costly precautionary measures

Mechanisms to deal them:

- ★ IUCN has formulated guidelines for managing invasives specifically in islands. The mechanism involves data collection, community engagement, policy measures and management plans.
- ★ The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – Article 8(h) of the CBD states that parties shall prevent the introduction of alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.
- ★ Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures – It provides an international legal basis for all sanitary and phytosanitary measures that affect international trade.
- ★ CITES – The aim of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species is to ensure that international trade of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
- ★ Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS or Bonn Convention) – it aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species.
- ★ Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) – COP 7 resolution addresses threats of invasive species to wetland ecosystems.
- ★ International Convention for the Control and

Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments – Not yet in force. It provides guidance and strategies to minimize and eliminate the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens from ballast water and sediments.

- ★ International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) – it aims to prevent introduction of pests of plants and plant products in international trade.
- ★ United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) – States are required to protect and preserve the marine environment from intentional or unintentional introduction of alien species.
- ★ World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Agreement – to guarantee the safety of international trade in animals and animal products and to control animal diseases and zoonoses worldwide while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers

12. What are the reasons of urban flooding in India? Discuss the mechanism available to deal with urban flooding and why it has proved to be ineffective in times of need?

Urban flooding is the inundation of land or property in more densely populated areas, caused by rainfall overwhelming the capacity of drainage systems, such as storm sewers. Reasons for urban flooding: Leaving aside the natural causes like torrential rainfall and lack of natural water bodies in many urban areas, man-made factors play a major role in urban floods. These are:

- ★ Urbanisation and increasing pressure on land. The urban areas are highly dense making them more vulnerable to disasters like floods.
- ★ Land use changes like levelling, deforestation.
- ★ Settlements along flood plains
- ★ Poor infrastructure to dispose municipal solid wastes and for drainage of sewage water.
- ★ Urban heat islands and micro-climate changes in urban areas

Mechanisms to deal with urban floods:

- ★ The NDMA has the responsibility of laying down policies, plans and guidelines for DM and coordinating their enforcement and implementation for ensuring timely and effective response to disasters.
- ★ The DM Act 2005 has mandated the constitution of NDRF for the purpose of specialised response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster.
- ★ All States and UTs will be required to train some personnel of their existing armed police battalions in DM, as they are critical first responders.
- ★ Ministry of Water Resources and Central Water

Commission have been the nodal ministry and agency for dealing with Floods, focusing on riverine floods affecting large extents of rural areas.

- ★ NDMA decided to address urban flooding as a separate disaster de-linking it from Floods and evolved separate guidelines. Taking into consideration the fact that stormwater drainage system is one of the important components of UFD, it is allotted to Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD).

- ★ IMD is the custodian of rainfall data in India

Why it is not effective:

- ★ Most of the times, urban infrastructure does not include risk planning. Many local bodies fail to meet the infrastructure requirements, leave aside the disaster preparedness.
- ★ The communication networks often fail due to lack of sufficient awareness and preparedness among the officials from top to the local levels.
- ★ The NDRF teams are not sufficiently manned to meet the emergencies across the country. Most of the state governments failed to develop their own standalone forces as instructed by the DM Act.
- ★ The IMD data is at a more broader level and not specific to localities. This creates challenges in assessing the risks at a particular location at a time.
- ★ Rapid urbanisation has made the urban planning limited and inefficient in response.

13. Highlight the need for National security reforms and restructuring in India and discuss the steps taken by government towards this goal.

Need for national security reforms and restructuring:

- ★ Increasing threats from the northern and western border. This is understood from the Doklam crisis and cross border infiltration and attacks at Pathankot and Uri.
- ★ Rising cyber threats and need for a cyber warfare in times of contingency.
- ★ Failure to build a robust defence-industrial base.
- ★ Lack of long term strategic planning to build military capabilities.
- ★ India's growing geopolitical presence and super power ambitions need a different set of defence infrastructure.

Steps taken so far:

1. The new Defence Planning Committee(DPC) was created to create a coherent plan for national defence which integrates all national forces and addresses all threats.

2. The new Defence Procurement Policy gives a boost to domestic production of arms and enables technology transfer.
3. The reform initiatives in army were recommended by a committee headed by Shekatkar.

They include:

- a) Better utilization of Supply and Transportation echelons and Animal Transport Units.
- b) Closure of Military Farms and Army Postal Establishments in peace locations.
- c) Enhancement in standards for recruitment of clerical staff and drivers in the Army.
- d) Improving the efficiency of the National Cadet Corps.
- e) Redeployment of Ordnance echelons to include Vehicle Depots, Ordnance Depots and Central Ordnance Depots apart from streamlining inventory control mechanisms.
- f) Optimization of Signals Establishments to include Radio Monitoring Companies, Corps Air Support Signal Regiments, Air Formation Signal Regiments, Composite Signal Regiments and merger of Corps Operating and Engineering Signal Regiments.

14. Is morality important to lead a happy life? Support your answer with examples.

Morality can be defined as principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior. In our day to day lives we often face situations where we have to choose between options and moral character of a person plays big part in it. Morality is definitely a very important value to lead a happy life. A person with high integrity and moral character will choose the right and we know that the path of truth will lead to happiness in the long term even at the cost of short term sufferings.

In his childhood, Gandhi Ji once stole some money from his father's pocket. He knew that his father would never come to know about it. However, showing high moral character, he confessed his mistake. The rest is history and we know Mohan Das became father of the nations.

There are numerous examples in our daily life where a moral life can lead to happiness. Some of them are explained below:

1. Corrupt vs. Honest Officers – Former CAG Mr. Vinod Rai unearthed big scams and was at the receiving end of the then government. However,

now he is respected by all. At the same time, a dishonest officer can accumulate huge wealth but will always live in fear

2. Tax Evasion – People who pay taxes honestly are living happily without any fear versus tax evading people are always in fear of raid or penal action
3. Every day scenarios such as jumping red light, bribing traffic police, cheating in exams test out morality and people who are at the right side are always happy in the long term

There are many other ethical values in addition to morality such as honesty, integrity, truthfulness which are required to lead a happy and satisfying life. It is the responsibility of a society to teach them to our childrens so that overall we became a happy world.

15. Citizen's Charter helps maintaining a healthy work culture. Do you agree? Explain with Examples.

Citizen's charters' main objective is to improve the quality of public services. This is done by letting people know the mandate of the concerned Organisation, how one can get in touch with its officials, what to expect by way of services and how to seek a remedy if something goes wrong.

How they help maintain healthy work culture:

1. They maintain a clear communication between various employees because they are together answerable to the people.
2. It enables a clear accountability mechanism for each employee and thus reduces the scope for subjectivity in assessing their performance. For example, an employee who caters to many citizens' requests can be clearly identified due to clearly specified duties.
3. It aligns the personal goals of each employee to the organisations goals and thus creates a spirit of service for the organisation.
4. Citizen charters streamline the processes of the organisation to reduce time lag in service delivery. Hence, employees do not find it burdensome to fulfil their mandated duties. For example, the current physical filing system in time taking and cumbersome. It does not incentivise the employee to speed up his work.
5. It centers the administration around citizen and makes employees more citizen-friendly.
6. It improves the efficiency of work by putting to use the available resources wisely.

7. It encourages fairness of treatment and reduces scope for nepotism, corruption at workplace.

16. Differentiate between dilemma and ethical dilemma with suitable examples. How does conscience act as a source of ethical guidance?

A dilemma can be regarding any decision man takes in his life. It can be over which dress to choose or which ice cream to eat. Ethical dilemma is more specific. It is a dilemma about which is the “right” way to act. Whether to reach office on time or help a victim in accident is an ethical dilemma as, here, both the choices seem right.

In such cases conscience acts as a clear source for guiding the ethical action of individual. This is how:

1. Conscience tells a man what is right and wrong. Though it is considered wrong by others or rules, it guides him.
2. A man feels pleasure when he does something good. He suffers pain on doing bad. Conscience compels a man to pursue pleasure and discard pain. Thus it guides him to act ethically.
3. Conscience is formed from the learnings, experiences and beliefs of an individual. Even for a bad person, his conscience guides him to do correct as that is what he has learnt over time.
4. Immanuel Kant expressed the idea of the critical conscience which was rather like a court of law in our minds where the prosecutors or conscience excuse or accuse thoughts and actions.

17. What do you understand by corporate social responsibility? What relationship does corporate governance share with corporate social responsibility?

Corporate social responsibility is a business approach to contributes to sustainable development by delivering economic, social and environmental benefits for all stakeholders.

IT is generally understood that following the principles of corporate governance will eventually lead to CSR. The Companies Act prescribes a mandatory CSR spend of 2% of average net profits for companies.

Relation between CG and CSR:

Similarities:

1. CG is usually incorporated in the company's governance mechanisms.
2. Both these concepts focus on the ethical aspects of doing business.
3. They lead to better image of the company and

thus affects its performance positively.

Differences:

1. Fulfilling CSR norms but faulting on Corporate Governance is usually seen. Here, CSR is used as a marketing strategy than genuine intention in helping all round development.
2. CG is related to profit maximisation while CSR is about sharing the profits for others' welfare.
3. The officials of an organisation who are hired with due technical qualifications may not fulfil its CSR mandates.

18. While preparing for civil services, an aspirant come across many new legal and social concepts as natural justice, rule of law, equality, fraternity, maintenance of dignity of individual, etc. But as he enters the service, the concepts or ideal principles take a back seat.

(a) What can be the reasons behind this change?

Thinking line:

- ★ When a person enters a job it usually comes across the external obstacles as political interference, rigid rules, social ideologies, continuous pressure from media and civil society.

These obstacles are stated as the reason for change in behaviour but this can be handled by being emotional intelligent.

- ★ But the other reason is erosion of internal values.

(b) Is it true to quote “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely”?

Thinking line:

- ★ Power is authority and strength, which is any form of motive force or energy, ability to act, or control.

- ★ When someone possesses control and authority over others, they become infected with evil and wicked behaviours which begin to dominate and destroy their minds. Like Hitler, Mussolini, and Saddam Hussein who all desired absolute power, Their “vaulting ambition” led to many unfortunate incidents which resulted in the death of innocent lives. Power is evil unless used appropriately.

- ★ In case of civil services they have discretionary powers. These powers are absolute in sense and civil servants in welfare state have impacts on society from womb to tomb. Handling discretionary powers requires a sound value system.

19. There comes a case of molestation against a very senior officer by a woman employee in an office where you are the incharge of women welfare. In view of the fact that these days molestation charges are levied against many upright

officers by the instigation of peers due to rivalry or by women workers who are not allowed undue advantages with regard to punctuality, promotion and annual performance evaluation thus, you as a Woman Welfare Officer need to be extra cautious in judgment.

As an upright woman government officer what are the moral and professional issues that would you like to enquire during the process of enquiry against the officer charged with the allegation of molestation? Give reasons.

Thinking line:

In cases when molestation charges are levied against the upright officers by the instigation of peers due to rivalry or by women workers who are not allowed undue advantages with regard to punctuality and promotion, a woman welfare officer examining such cases needs to be extra cautious in judgement and need to analyse the cases from ethical and moral angles both.

The woman officer while holding the position of welfare officer and arbiter in a molestation case should desist from having a bias against the male officer. She should try to segregate the professional differences and frictions from moral and ethical issues. She should first analyse the past record of the senior officer with regard to his treatment of women. And also the past personal and professional record of the woman in question while enquiring the case so that unbiased decision may be taken.

It is necessary to analyse the role played by the peer rivalry and office politics. For such allegations which have repercussions for the personal and official reputation, hearing should be kept secret as long as enquiry is on.

Ample opportunity should be given to both the parties to explain their points without any prejudice. Such an issue might lead to loss of job and strict disciplinary punishments therefore any decision should be taken after due consideration of the gravity of the allegation.

It is important to make space for bonafide human misconceptions or confusions as any wrong judgement may lead to a wrong decision. Such cases need to be examined after thorough investigations.

20. There was a residential school situated in the remote part of the country in which approximately 250 class IXth and Xth level boys used to study and stay. School principal had his residence in the school premises only. The principal

used to attend and participate in the daily morning prayers and take his two meals along with students. He was a kind hearted and empathetic person who used to provide also the moral education. The students liked and admired him because not only he preached, he used to set personal examples.

On the basis of above, answer the following questions.

(a) What could be contribution of school principal in attitude formation of the students?

(b) If one of the students gets into civil services at a later stage, what impact and influence does the school will make on his attitude and behaviour?

Thinking line:

(a) The attitude of students has been influenced by the school principal. The principal has influenced the student and developed an attitude which will help them in later life. He has set personal examples by attending prayers, taking meal with students. His teachings will enable the students to be empathetic, kind hearted, down to earth and be more disciplined.

Since, he has been able to do so by setting personal examples and not by preaching, the students will remember his lessons. There is no doubt the school students will become early risers, will be able to mixup with others and be morally responsible to various sections of society.

(b) The attitude of any individual is shaped in his early life. Our habits and behaviour are affected by the people we live with, the activities we do and the things we practice. When one of them enters into civil services these activities will help him. By rising early, he will get extra time and will be able to finish his work within time. He will develop kind and considerate attitude to other people. Since from the school time, they have been doing things in groups, it will help him to work with his other team mates. The behaviour of the civil servant towards all sections of society will be of cooperation and one with positive approach.

He will be able to utilize the teachings he has learnt for the ultimate welfare of the society.

This will be reflected in various policies and programmes and the civil servant will also be able to set example for others in the organization.