



FEBRUARY 2021



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HIGHLIGHTS

UPSC Prelims GS-1 Practice Paper-2

UPSC Mains GS Practice Paper-32



ANALOG
IAS ACADEMY

PRELIMS TEST C.S.(P)

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

2

TEST BOOKLET SERIES

Serial No. 145221

TEST BOOKLET

D

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.

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1. Consider the following statements:

1. Wheat is grown during November-March, with harvest taking place around February-end in states such as Gujarat and March-end or early April in other parts of the country.
2. For farmers, cultivating wheat is not so easy as input costs are high and MSP is not guaranteed.
3. As on January 1, acreage is estimated at 32.5 million hectares, higher than the 5-year average of 30.3 million ha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to the recent Allahabad High Court judgement on 30-day notice for marriage, consider the following statements:

1. Special Marriage Act, 1954 provides a framework for inter-caste and inter-religious marriages and was originally enacted in 1872.
2. The court has now said a couple while giving the 30- day notice under the law can request the marriage officer to publish or not publish it for inviting objections.

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

3. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. The third phase of the government's flagship skilling scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) was launched in 600 districts across all states of the country.
2. PMKVY is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

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

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The 'US Strategic Framework for the Indo-Pacific' is one of the operational policy documents that follows the overarching strategy laid out in 'National Security Strategy (NSS) 2017'.
2. The strategy document states that China "seeks to dominate cutting-edge technologies, including artificial intelligence and bio-genetics", and use them in the "service of authoritarianism".

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

5. With reference to the Open Skies Treaty, consider the following statements:

1. It was first proposed in 1955 by former US President Dwight Eisenhower as a means to deescalate tensions during the Cold War.
2. Under the treaty, a member state can "spy" on any part of the host nation, with the latter's consent.
3. A country can undertake aerial imaging over the host state after giving notice 48 hours before, and sharing its exact flight path 24 hours before.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yajana, consider the following statements:

1. PMFBY was launched on January 13, 2015 with an aim to provide a comprehensive risk solu-

tion at the lowest uniform premium across the country for farmers.

2. Under the scheme, premium cost over and above the farmer share is subsidized by States and central government in 40:60 ratio respectively.

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

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Cuba is the only country on the “state sponsor of terrorism” list of USA.
2. The Trump administration also imposed sanctions on Venezuelan oil shipments to Cuba.

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

8. Consider the following statements with respect of Prevention of cruelty to animals (Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rules, 2017 :

1. It is the duty of the police in-charge of the station to confiscate the animals from the custody of the alleged offenders causing cruelty to the animals.
2. The opposition to Prevention of cruelty to animals (Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rules, 2017 is due to the fact that it confiscates animals before the conviction.
3. As per the government’s defence, animals are confiscated only when they are being taken to illegal slaughter houses or are transported either illegally or flouting the transportation norms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. With reference to the Bird Flue threat in India, consider the following statements:

1. Bird Flu is a caused by an Influenza Type-A virus, primarily H5N1.
2. Apart from H5N1, the other strains of Bird Flu

virus are H7N1, H8N1 and H5N8.

3. Bird Flu strain is limited to birds only and cannot be passed to humans, though it can lead to certain allergies on coming in contact with the infected bird.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the State of the Climate report, the year 2020 was the eighth warmest year India recorded.
2. Extreme weather conditions killed more than 1000 people in India during 2020.

Which of the following statements 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 is/are listed as essential commodities under the Schedule of Essential Commodities Act?

1. Fertilizers
2. Petroleum and petroleum products
3. Drugs

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

12. Consider the following statements regarding the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT):

1. It is a statutory autonomous organisation of the Government of India.
2. Its objectives include organising pre-service and in-service training of teachers.

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

13. Which of the following institution publishes the World Energy Outlook (WEO) report?

- a) International Renewable Energy Agency
- b) International Energy Agency

- c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
d) Centre for Sustainable Energy
14. The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) are announced by the Union Government for which of the following crop(s)?
1. Groundnut 2. Mustard
3. Safflower
- 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
15. Consider the following statements regarding a country's Terms of Trade (ToT):
1. It is the ratio between the index of export prices and the index of import prices.
2. A country's ToT is less than hundred percent if more capital is leaving the country than is entering into it.
- 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
16. Consider the following statements regarding the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic:
1. It governs International Driving Permits.
2. India has signed and ratified the convention.
- 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
17. Consider the following statements regarding Viruses:
1. Each virus consists of genetic material, either DNA or RNA, encapsulated in capsid.
2. Viruses cannot reproduce without the help of a host cell.
- 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
18. Consider the following statements regarding the Myelin sheath:
1. It is an insulating layer that forms around bones in the body.
2. It allows electrical impulses to transmit quickly and efficiently.
- 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
19. Consider the following statements regarding the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC):
1. China has an observer country status at SAARC.
2. South Asian University (SAU) is an international university established by the SAARC members.
- 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
20. Consider the following statements regarding the Pusa Compost/Decomposer Technology:
1. It is a microbial-based strategy which degrades the farm waste and converts into nutrient-enriched compost.
2. It has potential to reduce the need of crop residue burning in farms.
- 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
21. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Kritagya' Hackathon:
1. It is being organized by the NITI Aayog.
2. It aims to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization.
- 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
22. Consider the following statements regarding the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP):
1. It supports the education development of Agricultural Universities including State Agricultural Universities.

2. The project is fully funded by the World Bank. 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
23. Consider the following statements regarding the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020:
1. The Bill will apply to New Mangalore and Mormugao ports among other the major ports of India.
 2. It provides for the creation of a Board of Major Port Authority for each major port replacing the existing Port Trusts.
- 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
24. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently conducted the flight test of ABHYAS, what is it?
- a) High-speed Expendable Aerial Target
 - b) Anti-Tank Guided Missile
 - c) Multi barrel rocket launcher
 - d) Beyond visual range air-to-air missile
25. Consider the following statements regarding carbon neutrality:
1. It refers to having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks.
 2. India has declared being carbon neutral by 2060 as its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement.
- 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
26. Consider the following statements regarding the Spanish flu:
1. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin.
 2. India was not affected by the Spanish flu pandemic.
- 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
27. Which of the following is/are punishable offence(s) under the Information Technology Act?
1. Identity theft by use of the electronic signature or password
 2. Cyber terrorism threatening the unity, integrity, security or sovereignty of India
 3. Sending offensive messages through communication service
- 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
28. Consider the following statements regarding the PM SVANidhi scheme:
1. This is a Central Sector Scheme to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan.
 2. Credit can be availed from the Scheduled Commercial Banks as well as Regional Rural Banks.
- 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
29. Consider the following statements regarding the Artemis Program:
1. It is a lunar exploration program of NASA.
 2. It aims to land the first woman and the next man on the surface of the Moon in 2024.
- 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
30. Consider the following statements regarding the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACAP):
1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 2. It is mandated to recommend the minimum support prices (MSPs) to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

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

31. Consider the following statements with respect to Project 17A

1. Under the Project, a total of seven ships are being built with enhanced stealth features.
2. Himgiri, which was launched recently, is the first ship of the Project 17A.

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. Union Ministry of Environment has recently released an advisory that allows owners of exotic live species that have been acquired illegally, or without documents, to declare their stock to the government.

Consider the following statements with respect to the scheme:

1. It is a new law which mandates the disclosure of exotic species through MoEFCC's Parivesh portal.
2. According to the advisory, exotic live species are animals named under the Appendices I, II and III of the CITES and does not include species from the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972

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 Climate Ambition Summit 2020

1. At the Summit, participating countries will set out new and ambitious commitments under the three pillars of the Paris Agreement.
2. The summit is convened by the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

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. UNESCO has recently declared 2021 as the?

- a) International Year of Indigenous Languages
- b) International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development
- c) International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements
- d) International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development

35. Consider the following statements with respect to UNESCO Award for Creative Economy.

1. It is a new international prize launched in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.
2. It will recognise exceptional initiatives taken by cultural workers and organizations in the development of the creative economy.

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

36. Consider the following statements regarding Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA).

1. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PC a) is an intergovernmental organization that resolve disputes that arise out of international agreements between member states, international organizations or private parties.
2. Human Rights Issues are the exclusive domain of United Nations Commission on Human Rights, therefore PCA does not involve in Human Rights issues.
3. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PC a) is an official United Nations Observer.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

37. Consider the following statements regarding CRISPR-Cas9.

1. CRISPR technology allows to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.
2. It can be used to correct sickle cell anemia, a genetic blood disorder.
3. Gene editing system does not occur naturally in organisms.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

38. Central Ground Water Authority (CGW a) has been constituted under :
- Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
 - Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
 - Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
 - Hazardous waste Handling and management act, 1989
39. Consider the following statements with respect to the government securities or G-secs
- These are tax free debt instruments.
 - G-secs are completely risk free, since they are not subjected to fluctuations in interest rates.
- Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
40. The over-the-top (OTT) platforms in India comes under the overall purview of the
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
 - Ministry of Home Affairs
 - None of the above
41. Consider the following statements with respect to the Commission to Examine Sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)
- It was constituted in 2017 under the chairmanship of G Rohini.
 - It was constituted under the provision of Article 340 of the Indian Constitution which empowers the Parliament to constitute a commission to look into the matters concerning OBCs and suggest measures to improve the condition.
- Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
42. Consider the following statements with respect to the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council
- It is a new intergovernmental organisation consisting of organisations from ten countries including India and United States of America dedicated to radio astronomy.
 - It oversees the operation, maintenance and construction of the Square Kilometer Array telescope, proposed to be the largest radio telescope in the world.
- Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
43. Consider the following statements with respect to the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme
- To encourage indigenous and specialized products in the state, the Tamil Nadu government has first launched the One District One Product (ODOP) programme.
 - The initiative is operationally merged with Districts as an Export Hub initiative being implemented by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce.
- Which of the above statement/s is/are incorrect?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
44. Consider the following statements in context of hate speech:
- Section 69A of Information Technology Act was struck down by the Supreme Court in the Shreya Singhal vs Union of India (2015).
 - The govt. can direct an intermediary to block any information for public access in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
45. Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana:
- PMMVY is under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
 - The PMMVY is targeted only at women delivering their first child.
- Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
46. Consider the following statements with respect to Oceanus Procellaru
- It is a vast lunar mare on the western edge of the Moon, accounting for 10.5% of the total lunar surface area.

2. ISRO's Chandrayaan 2 will be the first lunar mission to collect samples from this region.

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

47. Consider the following statements with respect to Prithvi Missile

1. It is a tactical surface-to-surface Long-Range Ballistic Missile developed by DRDO.
2. Prithvi-II is powered by Solid fuel propulsion twin engines.

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

48. Consider the following statements with respect to Golden Peacock Environment Management Award

1. World Environment Foundation (WEF) instituted this Annual Award in 1998.
2. Indian Railways has been awarded with the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020.

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

49. Consider the following statements with respect to Vigyanika 2020

1. It is one of the prominent events of India International Science Festival (IISF), 2020.
2. The event will deliberate on the challenges of science communication and also critically evaluate scientific literature.

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

50. Consider the following statements with respect to DakPay

1. It is a new digital payment app launched by the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to provide digital financial and assisted banking services.
2. The app will also provide interoperable bank-

ing services to the customers with any bank in the country.

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

51. Consider the following statements with respect to Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

1. Union Finance Minister is the Chairman of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).
2. Its member includes heads of SEBI and RBI.

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

52. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Cabomba Furcata

1. It is a submerged perennial aquatic plant that grows in stagnant to slow-flowing freshwater.
2. It is endemic to Western Ghats.

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

53. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Himalayan Griffon

1. It can only be found within Sino-Himalaya and Central Asia.
2. It is listed as 'Near Threatened' under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

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

54. Consider the following statements with respect to Biomass Co-firing

1. The method will use Biomass as a primary fuel in coal boilers by partly reconstructing it.
2. It is an option to convert biomass to electricity, in an efficient and clean way, and to reduce GHG emissions of the power plant.

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

55. Consider the following statements with respect to Institute of Excellence

1. They are exempted from reservation policies under the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act of 2019.
2. In India, all Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) and Indian Institute of Managements (IIMs) comes under the category of Institutes of Excellence.

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

56. Which of the following schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs is specifically meant for women beneficiaries only?

1. Seekho aur Kamao Scheme
2. NaiManzil Scheme
3. NaiRoshni Scheme

Choose the correct option using the codes given below

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

57. Consider the following statements with respect to the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme

1. The programme was launched in 2003.
2. The programme sought to promote the use of alternative and environment friendly fuels and to reduce import dependency for energy requirements by supply of 10% ethanol blended Petrol.

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

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

58. Which of the following are eligibility conditions for a 'National Political Party of India'?

1. It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly.

2. It wins at least four seats in the House of the People from any State or States.
3. It should secure at least six percent of the total valid votes polled during the general election to a State Legislative Assembly.

Select the correct code:

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

59. Consider the following statements:

1. The amended RBI Act provides for the inflation target to be set by the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.
2. The interest rate at which RBI lends long term funds to banks is referred to as the repo rate.

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 with respect to Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

1. Union Finance Minister is the Chairman of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).
2. Its member includes heads of SEBI and RBI.

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

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Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only b) 2 Only
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2. It is listed as 'Near Threatened' under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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 2. In India, all Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) and Indian Institute of Managements (IIMs) comes under the category of Institutes of Excellence.
- 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
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1. Seekho aur Kamao Scheme
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 3. NaiRoshni Scheme
- Choose the correct option using the codes given below
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1. The programme was launched in 2003.
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 3. It should secure at least six percent of the total valid votes polled during the general election to a State Legislative Assembly.
- Select the correct code:
- a) 1 and 2 b) 2 and 3
c) 1 and 3 d) 1, 2 and 3
- 68.** Consider the following statements:
1. The amended RBI Act provides for the inflation target to be set by the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.
 2. The interest rate at which RBI lends long term funds to banks is referred to as the repo rate.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 Only b) 2 Only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 69.** Consider the following statements:
1. Lithium does not react with water.
 2. It's the lightest of all metals.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 Only b) 2 Only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 70.** Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Food Fortification
1. Packed foods like pastas, noodles must be fortified mandatorily.
 2. Products that are high in fat, salt and sugar will be "excluded" from the fortified processed foods category.
- 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

71. "Catch the Rain Awareness Campaign" was launched recently by which of the following?
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras
 - National Water Mission
 - National Water Research Institute
 - Both A and B
72. Consider the following statement with respect to Positive Pay System
- It is introduced for cheques transactions above Rs 1,00,000 in a bid to enhance safety and eliminate frauds.
 - It is developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2.
 - Neither 1 nor 2
73. Consider the following statements with respect to Himalayan trillium
- It is found in tropical and Sub tropical climate zones at an altitude from 2,400-4,000 metres above sea level.
 - In India, it is found only in four states.
 - It can be used as an anti-cancer and anti-aging agent.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2
 - 1 and 3
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
74. Human Freedom Index 2020 was released recently by?
- World Health Organization
 - UN Human Rights Council
 - UN Development Programme
 - None of the above
75. Shaheen-IX is a military exercise held between?
- Russia and Pakistan
 - China and Pakistan
 - Russia, China and Pakistan
 - None of the above
76. Which of the following are reasons of Microclimatic Zones Shifting
- Land-use patterns
 - Urban heat islands
 - Disappearing wetlands
 - El-Nino
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- 1, 3 and 4 only
 - 1, 2 and 3 only
 - 2, 3 and 4 only
 - All of the above
77. Which among the following was the fallout of the Chauri Chaura incident of February 4, 1922
- A Chauri Chaura Support Fund was set up to demonstrate genuine sympathy and seek prayashchit (atonement)
 - Leaders like Motilal Nehru, C R Das supported Gandhi's decision to suspend the Non Cooperation Movement
 - Rise of young Indian nationalists
 - Rise of revolutionary activities
- Choose the correct answer using the code given below
- 3 and 4 only
 - 1, 3 and 4 only
 - All of the above
 - 2, 3 and 4 only
78. Vision 2024, recently in news, is/are
- Launched as part of the National Rail Plan, for accelerated implementation of certain critical projects by 2024.
 - A proposal which is part of the Start-up India Vision 2024, prepared to promote the growth of budding entrepreneurs.
 - To attain a population of 3000 wild rhinos in Assam.
 - Both a and b
79. GOBAR-DHAN Scheme, which aimed at generation of energy from cattle waste and promoting rural livelihood and economy is launched by the
- Ministry of Rural Development
 - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
 - Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation
 - None of the above
80. What is 'Ooceraea joshii' that has been in news recently?
- New ant species discovered in India
 - A crater on Mars
 - An invasive species of fungus
 - An asteroid set to pass through solar system in 2029

81. Which of the following constitute a Silent Mutation?
- Change in the amino acid without change in the nucleotide bases
 - Change in the sequence of nucleotide bases without a subsequent change in the protein
 - Change in sequence nucleotide bases and subsequent amino acid
 - None of the above
82. Consider the following statements regarding the Side-Scan Sonar:
- It is used to conduct surveys for maritime archeology.
 - The higher frequencies yield better range but less resolution in side scan sonar.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
83. Consider the following statements:
- Australia is the world's top producer of lithium.
 - Lithium-ion batteries are not subject to ageing.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
84. Which of the following is/are Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD)?
- Hepatitis C
 - Rabies
 - Trachoma
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - All of the above
85. Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched global initiative "The Great Reset":
- It has been launched by the World Bank.
 - It aims at global stakeholder's cooperation in managing the direct social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
86. Consider the following statements:
- 'Futures of Education' is an initiative of UNESCO that aims to rethink education and shape the future.
 - The theme of the International Education Day 2021 is 'Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation'.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
87. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Security Council (UNSC):
- Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.
 - The presidency of the Council is held by the permanent members only in turn, for one month each.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
88. Which of the following organisation holds the annual Davos Dialogues/Summit?
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
 - International Monetary Fund
 - World Bank
 - World Economic Forum
89. Consider the following statements regarding the International Energy Agency (IEA):
- Its mandate is to help its members respond to major oil supply disruptions.
 - A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD).
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
90. Consider the following statements regarding the Future Investment Initiative (FII):

1. It has been launched by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
2. It is held annually in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
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
91. The Common Trust Network is an initiative of which of the following organisation?
a) International Air Transport Association
b) World Economic Forum
c) World Shipping Council
d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
92. Consider the following statements regarding India-France relations:
1. India has a civil nuclear agreement with France.
2. Year 2021-22 has been declared as the Indo-French Year of the Environment.
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
93. Which of the following organisation releases the 'Fiscal Monitor'?
a) World Economic Forum
b) World Bank
c) UN Conference on Trade & Development
d) International Monetary Fund
94. Consider the following statements regarding the World Customs Organisation (WCO):
1. It is an intergovernmental body functioning under the World Trade Organisation.
2. India is a member of the WCO.
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
95. Which of the following institution has published the report "The Inequality Virus"?
a) Oxfam International
b) World Health Organisation
c) World Bank
d) UN Human Rights Council
96. Where is Palk Bay located?
1. North of Palk Strait
2. South of Adam's bride (RamSetu)
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2
97. Which of the following us the current Epoch of geological time as per the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)?
a) Holocene b) Anthropocene
c) Oligocene d) Miocene
98. Which of the following is/are potential consequence of melting ice sheets?
1. Increase in global temperature
2. Increase in greenhouse gases in environment
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2
99. Consider the following statements regarding the Musk Deer:
1. It is distributed throughout the Western Ghats in India.
2. It is the State animal of Uttarakhand. 3. It is protected under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only d) All of the above
100. Consider the following statements:
1. India is the largest exporter of spices.
2. Chili accounts for more than half of India's export of spices in value.
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

PRELIMS PRACTICE PAPER KEY

1. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Wheat is grown during November-March, with harvest taking place around February-end in states such as Gujarat and March-end or early April in other parts of the country. As on January 1, acreage is estimated at 32.5 million hectares, higher than the 5-year average of 30.3 million ha. Statement 2 is incorrect. For farmers, cultivating wheat is easy as input costs are less and MSP is guaranteed. They need to put in much less effort compared to crops such as paddy. It is also a safe bet as diseases in wheat plants have been controlled.

2. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both the statements are correct. Special Marriage Act, 1954 provides a framework for inter-caste and inter-religious marriages and was originally enacted in 1872. Section 5 of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 requires couples intending to marry under the law to give a 30-day notice period to a marriage officer of the district in which at least one of the parties has resided in the last 30 days. The notice is supposed to be published under Section 6 of the Act. The court has now said a couple while giving the 30-day notice under the law can request the marriage officer to publish or not publish it for inviting objections.

3. Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The third phase of the government's flagship skilling scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) was launched in 600 districts across all states of the country. Statement 2 is incorrect. PMKVY is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.

4. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both the statements are correct

5. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. OST was first proposed in 1955 by former US President Dwight Eisenhower as a means to deescalate tensions during the Cold War. The landmark treaty was eventually signed in 1992 between

NATO members and former Warsaw Pact countries following the demise of the Soviet Union. Under the treaty, a member state can "spy" on any part of the host nation, with the latter's consent. A country can undertake aerial imaging over the host state after giving notice 72 hours before, and sharing its exact flight path 24 hours before

6. Answer: (d)

Explanation: Both the statements are incorrect. PMFBY was launched on January 13, 2016 with an aim to provide a comprehensive risk solution at the lowest uniform premium across the country for farmers. Under the scheme, premium cost over and above the farmer share is equally subsidized by States and central government. However, central government shares 90% of the premium subsidy for North Eastern States to promote the uptake in the region.

7. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Only three other countries are currently on the "state sponsor of terrorism" list, including: North Korea, Syria and Iran. Statement 2 is correct. The Trump administration also imposed sanctions on Venezuelan oil shipments to Cuba

8. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The order of interim custody of the seized animals in shelters was passed by the magistrate who, in his judicial wisdom, thought that returning the animals to the winter would only further the sufferings of the animals. Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to either withdraw or amend rules notified in 2017 for confiscating animals of traders and transporters during the pendency of trial in cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, saying they are contrary to the law. The top court said the rules will be stayed if not withdrawn or amended by the Centre as the law provides that animals can be confiscated only if a person is convicted under the Act

9. Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. It was found to be a case of infection caused by Influenza Type-A virus, primarily H5N1, which

is considered a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) variant. Other strains such as H7N1, H8N1 or H5N8 also cause bird flu and belong to the same HPAI category. While bird flu outbreak in Himachal Pradesh has been caused by H5N1, the samples from Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have shown the presence of H5N8 variant. Statement 3 is incorrect. According to World Health Organisation (WHO), human cases of bird flu occur “occasionally” but when it happens, the mortality rate is about 60 per cent. This is often seen with diseases caused by pathogens new or unknown to human bodies.

10. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both the statements are correct.

11. Answer: (d)

12. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an autonomous organisation set up in 1961 by the Government of India to assist and advise the Central and State Governments on policies and programmes for qualitative improvement in school education. It is not a statutory body but a society registered under the Societies Registration Act.

13. Answer: (b)

14. Answer: (d)

15. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct

16. Answer: (a)

Explanation: The 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic is an international treaty designed to facilitate international road traffic and to increase road safety by establishing standard traffic rules among the contracting parties. The convention was agreed upon at the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Conference on Road Traffic, 1968 and concluded in Vienna on 8 November 1968. It came into force on 21 May 1977. Statement 1 is correct. The Vienna Convention on Road Traffic is the newest of three conventions that governs International Driving Permits. The other two are the 1926 Paris International Convention relative to Motor Traffic and the 1949 Geneva

Convention on Road Traffic. Statement 2 is incorrect. India has not signed or ratified the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic 1968. India has signed and ratified the 1949 Geneva Convention on Road Traffic.

17. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Viruses are small particles of genetic material that are surrounded by a protein coat. Statement 1 is correct. Each one consists of genetic material—either DNA or RNA— encapsulated in a protein pocket called a capsid. Some are additionally enveloped in a soft, lipid wrapping. Statement 2 is correct. Due to their simple structure, viruses cannot move or even reproduce without the help of a host cell. But when it finds a host, a virus can multiply and spread rapidly

18. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Myelin is an insulating layer, or sheath that forms around nerves, including those in the brain and spinal cord. It is made up of protein and fatty substances. Statement 2 is correct. This myelin sheath allows electrical impulses to transmit quickly and efficiently along the nerve cells. If myelin is damaged, these impulses slow down. This can cause diseases such as multiple sclerosis.

19. Answer: (c)

Explanation: The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985. SAARC comprises of eight Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Secretariat of the Association was set up in Kathmandu on 17 January 1987. Statement 1 is correct. The observer countries to the SAARC are Australia, China, the European Union, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea and the United States. Statement 2 is correct. The Agreement for the Establishment of South Asian University was signed by the Ministers of Foreign/External Affairs of SAARC countries during the Fourteenth SAARC Summit (New Delhi, 2007). SAU started its operations from the academic year 2010.

20. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

21. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. "KRITAGYA" has been planned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP). Students, faculties and innovators/entrepreneurs from any university / technical institution across the country can apply and participate in the event in the form of a group. Statement 2 is correct. The hackathon is aimed at promoting potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women friendly equipments.

22. Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The objective of the National Agricultural Higher Education Project is to support participating agricultural universities and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in providing more relevant and higher quality education to Agricultural University students. There are three components to the project: Component 1: Support to Agricultural Universities. Component 2: Investments in ICAR for leadership in Agricultural Higher Education. Component 3: Project Implementation Unit: The objective of this component is to administer, supervise, monitor and evaluate overall project implementation. Whole activities of the project would be managed by a central Project Implementation Unit (PIU) which is established at the Education Division of ICAR. Statement 2 is incorrect. NAHEP has been formulated by ICAR for five years starting from 2017-18. The project is proposed on 50:50 cost sharing basis between the World Bank and the Government of India, implemented at the Education Division, ICAR.

23. Answer: (c)

24. Answer: (a)

25. Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks. Removing carbon oxide from the atmosphere and then storing it is known as carbon sequestration. In order to achieve net zero emissions, all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions will have to be counterbalanced by carbon sequestration. Carbon

Neutral is also used to describe the state of an entity (such as a company, service, product or event), where the carbon emissions caused by them have been balanced out by funding an equivalent amount of carbon savings elsewhere in the world. Statement 2 is incorrect. Carbon neutrality by 2060 is not one of India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) under the Paris Agreement.

26. Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The 1918 influenza (Spanish flu) pandemic was the most severe pandemic in recent history. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. The conditions of World War I (overcrowding and global troop movement) helped the 1918 flu spread. The vulnerability of healthy young adults and the lack of vaccines and treatments created a major public health crisis, causing at least 50 million deaths worldwide. Statement 2 is incorrect. 1918 flu pandemic in India as a part of the worldwide Spanish flu pandemic severely affected Indian population. Also referred to as the Bombay Influenza or the Bombay Fever in India, the pandemic is believed to have killed up to 14 -17 million people in the country.

27. Answer: (a)

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. Fraudulently or dishonestly making use of the electronic signature, password or any other unique identification feature of any other person is a punishable offence under Section 66C of the IT Act. Option 2 is correct. Cyber terrorism threatening the unity, integrity, security or sovereignty of India or to strike terror in the people or any section of the people is a punishable offence under Section 66F of IT Act. Option 3 is incorrect. Section 66A of the erstwhile IT Act provide for punishment for sending offensive messages through communication service, etc.

28. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) is a Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan for resuming their livelihoods activities, after easing of lockdown. Statement 2 is correct. The

credit is being provided by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, Cooperative Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies, Micro-Finance Institutions and SHG Banks.

29. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Under NASA's Artemis program, NASA's new rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS), will send astronauts aboard the Orion spacecraft nearly a quarter million miles from Earth to lunar orbit. Astronauts will dock Orion at the Gateway and transfer to a human landing system for expeditions to the surface of the Moon. They will return to the orbital outpost to board Orion again before returning safely to Earth. Statement 2 is correct. Phase 1 of the program plans to land the first woman and the next man on the surface of the Moon in 2024.

30. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is not any statutory body set up through an Act of Parliament. It is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. It came into existence in January 1965. Statement 2 is correct. It is mandated to recommend minimum support prices (MSPs) for government procurement to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production in line with the emerging demand patterns in the country. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCE
a) of the Union government takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by CACP.

31. Answer: (c)

Explanation :-

Himgiri

- It is the first of the three Project 17A ships being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata.

Project 17 A

- Under the Project 17A program, a total of seven ships, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three ships at GRSE are being built with enhanced stealth features, advanced

indigenous weapon and sensor fit along with several other improvements.

- P17A ships are the first gas turbine propulsion and largest combat platforms ever built at GRSE.
- Since its inception, Project 17A has upheld India's vision for Atmanirbhar Bharat.

32. Answer: (b)

Explanation :-

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change came out with an advisory on a one-time voluntary disclosure scheme, an amnesty scheme.
- This scheme allows owners of exotic live species that have been acquired illegally, or without documents, to declare their stock to the government between June and December 2020.
- It has defined exotic live species as animals named under the Appendices I, II and III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- It does not include species from the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972. So, the advisory excludes exotic birds.
- The disclosure has to be done online through MoEFCC's Parivesh portal.
- In its current form, the amnesty scheme is just an advisory, not a law.

33. Answer: (a)

Explanation :

- India is not only on track to achieve its Paris Agreement targets, but to exceed them beyond expectations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during the Climate Ambition Summit 2020 held recently.
- He also highlights that the country has reduced its emission intensity by 21 percent over 2005 levels.
- India's solar capacity has grown from 2.63 gigawatts in 2014 to 36 gigawatts in 2020.

Climate Ambition Summit, 2020

- The United Nations, United Kingdom and France are co-hosting the Climate Ambition Summit 2020, in partnership with Chile and Italy.
- This is a monumental step on the road to the UK-hosted COP26 next November in Glasgow.

- It aims to bring leaders together who are ready to make new commitments to tackle climate change and deliver on the Paris Agreement, five years since it was adopted on December 12, 2015.
- At the Climate Ambition Summit 2020, **countries will set out new and ambitious commitments under the three pillars of the Paris Agreement:** mitigation, adaptation and finance commitments.

34. Answer: (d)

Explanation :

- UNESCO has recently declared 2021 as 'International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development'.

35. Answer: (b)

Explanation :

UNESCO Award for Creative Economy

- The UNESCO has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman former president of Bangladesh.
- Currently, there are 23 UNESCO International Awards in the name of international celebrities and organisations.
- Starting November 2021, the dollar 50 thousand award will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth.
- The award will recognise exceptional initiatives taken by cultural workers and organizations in the development of the creative economy.

36. Answer: (b)

Explanation :-

1. *The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PC a) is an intergovernmental organization located in The Hague, Netherlands. It is not a court in the traditional sense, but provides services of arbitral tribunal to resolve disputes that arise out of international agreements between member states, international organizations or private parties.*
2. *The cases span a range of legal issues involving territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment, and international and regional trade.*
3. *The organization is not a United Nations agency, but the PCA is an official United*

Nations Observer.

37. Answer: (a)

Explanation :-

- Indian scientists have developed a new variant of currently popular **gene editing tool, CRISPR-Cas9**, and have shown that this variant can increase precision in editing genome while avoiding unintended changes in DNA.
- The researchers have also shown that this type of gene editing can be **used to correct sickle cell anemia, a genetic blood disorder.**
- By reprogramming and using a **naturally occurring gene editing system - CRISPR-Cas9 - found in bacteria**, scientists globally have been engaged in 'editing' genome of various organisms.
- **CRISPR-Cas9 stands for 'Clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats and CRISPR-associated protein 9.'** This protein can be programmed to go to a desired location in the genome and correct or edit defective strands (such as those involved in certain diseases) of DNA. The technology, when perfected, may be used to treat several genetic disorders.

38. Answer: (a)

Explanation :-

- Central Ground Water Authority (CGW a) has been constituted under Section 3(3) of the 'Environment (Protection) Act, 1986' for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. CGWA grants 'No Objection Certificates' (NOC) for ground water abstraction in 23 States/UTs.

39. Answer: (d)

Explanation:-

About the government securities or g-secs:

- Debt instruments: Issued by the government to borrow money.
- Two key categories:
 - Treasury bills: Short-term instruments which mature in 91 days, 182 days, or 364 days.
 - Dated securities: Long-term instruments, which mature anywhere between 5 years and 40 years.
- G-secs vs. FDs:
 - **G-secs are not tax-free:** Similar to bank fixed deposits.

- G-secs are generally considered the safest form of investment: Because they are backed by the government, so the risk of default is almost nil.
- However, G-secs are **not completely risk free**, since they are subject to fluctuations in interest rates.
- Bank fixed deposits are guaranteed only to the extent of Rs 5 lakh by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

40. Answer: (b)

Explanation :-

Background:

- There are currently 40 OTT platforms operating in India.
- These platforms were so far under the purview of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.
- Government as a first step towards regulation, amended the Allocation of Business Rules, bringing all online platforms under the mandate of the **I&B Ministry** and asking all OTT platforms to register with the Ministry.
- The Government has received several grievances or complaints regarding content of programmes on OTT platforms. The latest one over an Amazon Prime series Tandav.
- The I&B Ministry had several rounds of consultations with the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) impressing upon them the need for an appropriate self-regulatory mechanism for content over OTT platforms.
- According to the ministry, the IAMAI had come up with a self-regulatory mechanism, but the proposed mechanism did not give adequate cognizance to content prohibited under law.

41. Answer: (a)

Explanation :-

G Rohini Commission: It was constituted under Article 340 of the Constitution with the approval of the President in 2017.

- Article 340: It empowers the **President** to constitute a commission to look into the matters concerning OBCs and suggest measures to improve the condition.

42. Answer: (b)

Explanation :- About SKAO Council:

- SKAO is a **new intergovernmental organisation** dedicated to radio astronomy and is headquartered in the UK.

tion dedicated to radio astronomy and is headquartered in the UK.

- At the moment, organisations from **ten countries** (Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK) are a part of the SKAO.

Significance of the SKA telescope:

- Proposed to be the **largest radio telescope** in the world, SKA will be located in Africa and Australia. The completion is expected to take nearly a decade to complete.
- Its operation, maintenance and construction will be overseen by **SKAO**.
- Questions that it will unravel: Includes the beginning of the universe, how and when the first stars were born, the life-cycle of a galaxy, exploring the possibility of detecting technologically-active civilisations elsewhere in our galaxy and understanding where gravitational waves come from.
- As per NASA, the telescope will accomplish its scientific goals by measuring neutral hydrogen over cosmic time, accurately timing the signals from pulsars in the Milky Way, and detecting millions of galaxies out to high redshifts.

43. Answer: (a)

Explanation :-

Background:

- ODOP initiative is operationally merged with '**Districts as Export Hub**' initiative being implemented by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.
- The objective is to convert each District of the country into an Export Hub by identifying products with export potential in the District.
- This will be done by addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products, supporting local exporters or manufacturers to scale up manufacturing, and find potential buyers outside India.
- This will help in promoting the manufacturing & services industry in the District and generate employment in the District.
- Under the initial phase of the ODOP pro-

gramme, 106 Products have been identified from 103 districts across 27 States.

About the ODOP Scheme:

- To encourage indigenous and specialized products in the state, the **UP government has first** launched the One District One Product (ODOP) programme.
- ODOP is basically a Japanese business development concept, which gained prominence in 1979.
- It aims to create product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts of UP, providing an impetus to the traditional industries across respective districts in the state.
- The ODOP programme is dubbed as “An extension of Make in India”.

44. Answer: (b)

Explanation :-

- **Section 69A, along with the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009** provide for a mechanism to block information from public access through any computer resource by a direction from the Central Government or any officer specially authorized in this behalf.
- Though the use of Section 69A has been often criticised for the secrecy surrounding the process, it was upheld by the Supreme Court in the landmark *Shreya Singhal vs Union of India* (2015). **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Under Section 69 A the govt. can direct an intermediary to block any information for public access in the interest of
 - sovereignty and integrity of India,
 - defence of India,
 - security of the State,
 - friendly relations with foreign States or
 - public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above
- The final order given for such blocking to a Government agency, or intermediary has to have its **reasons recorded in writing** as stated under Section 69A(1) of the IT Act.

45. Answer: (d)

Explanation :-

About Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- PMMVY is under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- Under PMMVY, pregnant women and lactating mothers receive **Rs 5,000 on the birth of their first child in three instalments**, after fulfilling certain conditionalities.
- The total cash incentive including under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) after institutional delivery is Rs. 6000/.

Criteria:

- The PMMVY is targeted only at women delivering their first child. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- The other conditions include **early registration of pregnancy, having at least one ante-natal check-up and registration of child birth.**
- However, to address the **problem of malnutrition and morbidity among children**, the **Anganwadi Services Scheme**, which is universal, is available to all PW&LM including the second pregnancy.
- **The maternity benefits are not available** to those in regular employment with the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law.
- **The objectives of the scheme are:**
 - (i) providing partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first living child; and
 - (ii) the cash incentives provided would lead to improved health seeking behaviour amongst the Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).

46. Answer: (a)

Explanation :- Oceanus Procellarum

- Oceanus Procellarum or, the “Ocean of Storms” is a vast lunar mare on the western edge of the near side of the Moon.
- It is the only one of the lunar maria to be called an “Oceanus” (ocean), due to its size.
- The region is near a site called the Mons Rumker that was believed to have been volcanic in ancient times.

- It stretches more than 2,500 km (1,600 mi) across its north-south axis and covering roughly 4,000,000 km² accounting for 10.5% of the total lunar surface area.
- Recently China's Chang'e 5 lunar mission collected around 2 kilograms of lunar samples from this area.
- These lunar samples could help to understand the moon's volcanic activity and evolution.
- This the first fresh rock samples from this region of the moon.
- These are also the first samples to be collected by any country after Russia in 1976.
- With this, China became the third country after the United States and the Soviet Union, to collect lunar samples.

47. Answer: (c)

Explanation :- Prithvi Missile

- Prithvi is a tactical surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) developed by DRDO. **Hence statement 1 is not Correct.**
- It is deployed by India's Strategic Forces Command.
- It is India's first indigenous surface-to-surface strategic missile.
- The state-of-the-art missile uses an advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring trajectory to hit its target.
- The Prithvi-2 missile is capable of carrying 500-1,000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

48. Answer: (a)

Explanation :- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been awarded with the prestigious Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020 in the Steel Sector by the Institute of Directors.

Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Golden Peacock Environment Management Award

- It is the coveted and prestigious recognition that any organization could strive to win for environment management.
- World Environment Foundation (WEF) instituted the Annual Award in 1998, in furtherance of its aims and objectives.

- The applications for the Awards relate to performance during the previous financial year.
- Golden Peacock Awards, instituted by the Institute of Directors (IOD), India in 1991, are now regarded as a benchmark of Corporate Excellence worldwide.
- The Golden Peacock awards are in two categories:
 - Global Awards
 - National Level Awards

49. Answer: (c)

Explanation :-

- International Science Literature Festival-VIGYANIKA 2020 will be organized as one of the prominent events of IISF 2020.
- The event centered around the theme "Science Communication & Science Literature - Networking Science & Society."
- It will deliberate on the challenges of science communication and also critically evaluate scientific literature and many other issues through Keynote Lectures, Panel Discussions, Scientific Sessions, and Vigyan Kavi Sammelan.
- The other features of Vigyanika would include Virtual Science Book Fair, National Science Song Making Competition, and National Essay Writing Competition on "Leveraging S&T for Self-reliance and Global Welfare".

50. Answer: (d)

Explanation : DakPay

- Department of Posts (DoP) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has unveiled a new digital payment app 'DakPay' at a virtual event held recently.
- The App is launched as part of its ongoing efforts to provide Digital Financial inclusion at the last mile across India.
- DakPay is not just a digital payment app but a suite of digital financial and assisted banking services provided by India Post & IPPB through the trusted Postal ('Dak') network across the nation to cater to the financial needs ('Pay') of various sections of the society.
- The app will also provide interoperable banking services to the customers with any bank in the country.

51. Answer: (c)

Explanation :-

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has recently chaired the 23rd Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) through video conference.
- The meeting reviewed the major macroeconomic developments and Financial Stability issues (global and domestic) with special reference to vulnerability related issues.
- In pursuance of the announcement made in the Union Budget 2010-11 and with a view to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability and enhancing inter-regulatory coordination, Indian Government has setup an apex-level Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) in 2010.
- The Chairman of the FSDC is the Finance Minister of India and its members include the heads of the financial sector regulatory authorities (i.e, SEBI, IRDA, RBI, PFRDA and FMC), Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretary, Department of Financial Services and the Chief Economic Adviser. **Hence both Statement 1 and 2 are correct.**

52. Answer: (a)

Explanation :-

Cabomba Furcata

- Cabomba is a submerged perennial aquatic plant that grows in stagnant to slow-flowing freshwater.
- It dominantly belongs to Central and South America.
- The plant will spread in the water bodies across, choking them as well as the drainage canals.
- It requires a huge amount of oxygen to grow and that could badly affect freshwater biodiversity.
- The plant has a high natural dispersal potential due to its ability to readily fragment and spread.
- Recently the plant has caused the 'pink phenomenon' in Kerala by covering the water bodies.

53. Answer: (b)

Explanation :-

Himalayan Griffon

- The Himalayan vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) or Himalayan griffon vulture is an Old World vulture native to the Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan Plateau.
- They live mainly in the higher regions of the Himalayas, the Pamirs, Kazakhstan and on the Tibetan Plateau.
- Recently, Himalayan griffon vulture has been sighted for the first time at the Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary.
- It was formerly accepted as resident or migrating only attitudinally within Sino-Himalaya and Central Asia.
- It is listed as 'Near Threatened' under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

54. Answer: (b)

Explanation :- **Biomass Co-Firing**

- Biomass co-firing stands for adding biomass as a partial substitute fuel in high efficiency coal boilers. Biomass here is not used as primary fuel but only as partial fuel along with coal.
- Coal and biomass are combusted together in boilers that have been designed to burn coal.
- For this purpose, the existing coal power plant has to be partly reconstructed and retrofitted.
- Biomass Co-firing is an option to convert biomass to electricity, in an efficient and clean way, and to reduce GHG emissions of the power plant.
- Biomass co-firing is a globally accepted cost-effective method for decarbonising.
- Decarbonising means reducing carbon intensity, i.e. reducing the emissions per unit of electricity generated (often given in grams of carbon dioxide per kilowatt-hour).

55. Answer: (a)

Explanation :-

A committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Education (MoE) to suggest measures for effective implementation of reservation policies in IITs has recommended that these institutions be exempted from following the policies in faculty recruitment.

The Committee was constituted in April 2020 with Director of IIT Delhi, V. Ramgopal Rao, as its Chairperson. It was asked to suggest measures on effective implementation of reservation policies not only in recruitment, but also for admissions.

Highlights of the report

- The committee suggested that IITs be included in the list of Institutes of Excellence (IoE) that are exempted from reservation policies under the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act (CEI Act) of 2019. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The committee based its recommendations primarily on arguments claiming the need for IITs to maintain their academic excellence and the lack of candidates from the reserved categories who fulfil the qualification criteria.

56. Answer: (a)

Explanation :-

- NaiRoshni is specifically meant for women beneficiaries
- Seekho aur Kamao - 33% of the total beneficiaries are women.
- NaiManzil - 30% of the total beneficiaries are women.

57. Answer: (a)

Explanation :- Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP): Launched in 2003, the programme sought to promote the use of alternative and environment friendly fuels and to reduce import dependency for energy requirements by supply of 5% ethanol blended Petrol.

58. Answer: (a)

Explanation :-

Eligibility for a 'National Political Party of India: A registered party has to fulfill any of the following conditions:

- It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly.
- In addition, it wins at least four seats in the House of the People from any State or States.
- It wins at least two percent seats in the House of the People and these members are elected from at least three different States.

59. Answer: (d)

Explanation :-

In May 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 was amended **to provide a statutory basis** for the implementation of the **flexible inflation targeting framework**.

- The amended RBI Act also provides for the inflation target **to be set by the Government of India**, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, **once in every five years. Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Accordingly, the Central Government has notified **4 percent** (+/- 2%) Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation as the target for the period from August 5, 2016 to March 31, 2021.
- The interest rate at which RBI lends long term funds to banks is referred to as the bank rate. However, presently RBI does not entirely control money supply via the bank rate. It uses Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) - repo rate as one of the significant tools to establish control over money supply. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

60. Answer: (c)

Explanation :-

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- The meeting reviewed the major macroeconomic developments and Financial Stability issues (global and domestic) with special reference to vulnerability related issues.
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- The Chairman of the FSDC is the Finance Minister of India and its members include the heads of the financial sector regulatory authorities (i.e, SEBI, IRDA, RBI, PFRDA and FMC), Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretary, Department of

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Explanation :-

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- The Himalayan vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) or Himalayan griffon vulture is an Old World vulture native to the Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan Plateau.
- They live mainly in the higher regions of the Himalayas, the Pamirs, Kazakhstan and on the Tibetan Plateau.
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69. Answer: (b)

Explanation :- Lithium

- Lithium (Li) is a chemical element of Group 1 (I a) in the periodic table, the alkali metal group, lightest of the solid elements.

- It is a **soft, silvery metal**.
- Lithium has unique chemical properties.
- It **reacts vigorously with water**.
- It's the **lightest of all metals, heat resistant**, and capable of **storing substantial amounts of energy in batteries**.

Uses of Lithium

- The well-known uses of Lithium are in
- Lithium ion batteries,
- lubricating grease,
- high energy additive to rocket propellants,
- optical modulators for mobile phones and
- as convertor to tritium used as a raw material for thermonuclear reactions i.e. fusion.

Extraction of lithium

- It is generally done either through
- solar evaporation of large brine pools
- by hard-rock extraction of the ore

70. Answer: (b)

Explanation :- Food Fortification Notification

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified norms for permissible levels of micronutrients for fortifying processed food products such as breakfast cereals, biscuits, breads, rusks, pasta, noodles, buns and fruit juices.
- Companies that make such products can fortify them with micronutrients voluntarily.
- Also, products that are high in fat, salt and sugar will be "excluded" from the fortified processed foods category.
- The Fortified Processed Food shall provide 15-30% of the Indian adult RDA (Recommended dietary Allowance) of micronutrient, based on an average calorie intake of 600 kcal from processed foods (approximately a third of daily energy requirement for an adult).

71. Answer: (b)

Explanation :-

- **National Water Mission (NWM)**, Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)**, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports launched the "JSA II: Catch the Rain" Awareness Generation Campaign recently.

- NWM has launched a campaign "Catch the rain" with tag line "catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls" in order to nudge all stake-holders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions and sub-soil strata to store rain water as rains falling in the four/five months of monsoon are the only source of water for most parts of the country.

Some of the activities suggested to be taken up with peoples' active participation under this campaign are:

1. To make water harvesting pits
 2. Rooftop RWHS and check dams
 3. Removal of encroachments and de-silting of tanks to increase their storage capacity
 4. Removal of obstructions in the channels which bring water to them from the catchment areas
 5. Repairs to traditional water harvesting structures like step-wells and using defunct bore-wells and old wells to put the water back to aquifers
- The collaboration with NYKS is a step to engage people at the grassroots through effective campaigning & IEC activities for implementation of the campaign.

72. Answer: (b)

Explanation :-

Positive Pay System

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will introduce the 'Positive Pay System' for cheques transactions above Rs 50,000 in a bid to enhance safety and eliminate frauds.
- Under this process, the issuer of the cheque submits electronically (through channels like SMS, mobile app, Internet banking and ATM) certain minimum details of that cheque to the drawee bank, details of which are cross-checked with the presented cheque by Cheque Truncation System (CTS).
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) will develop the facility of Positive Pay in CTS, and make it available to participant banks.
- The Positive Pay System will be implemented from January 1, 2021.
- While availing of this facility is at the discretion of the account holder, banks may consider mak-

ing it mandatory in case of cheques for amounts of Rs 5,00,000 and above.

73. Answer: (c)

Explanation :-

Himalayan Trillium

- It is an himalayan herb, often called as Nagchatri in local areas.
- It is found in temperate and sub-alpine zones of the Himalayas at an altitude from 2,400-4,000 metres above sea level.
- In India, it is found in four states only - Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has placed Himalayan trillium in "Endangered" category.
- Its population is expected to decline by at least 50

74. Answer: (d)

Explanation :-

Human Freedom Index 2020

- It is released by the Cato Institute in the United States and Fraser Institute in Canada.
- The index consists of 76 indicators -personal, civic and economic freedom.
- India is placed at 111 out of 162 countries.
- It is ranked 110 in terms of personal freedom and 105 on economic freedom with an overall score of 6.43 out of 10.
- New Zealand topped in the index, followed by Switzerland and Hong Kong.
- China, Bangladesh and Pakistan are placed at 129, 139 & 140 position respectively.

75. Answer: (b)

Explanation :-

- The Pakistan-China joint air exercise "Shaheen-IX" culminated recently.
- The exercise, ninth in the series, saw the participation of latest aircraft and support elements from the People Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) and Pakistan Air Force (PAF).
- It is conducted each year in both countries on an alternate basis.
- India recently hosted the Malabar 2020 naval exercise with the U.S., Japan and Australia.

76. Answer: (b)

Explanation :- Microclimatic Zones Shifting

- Microclimatic zones, or areas where the weather is different from surrounding areas, they are shifting across various districts of India.
- A shift in microclimate zones may lead to severe disruptions across sectors - every 2 degrees C rise in annual mean temperature will reduce agricultural productivity by 15-20%.
- Some reasons identified behind this shift in microclimatic zones is change in land-use patterns, disappearing wetlands and natural ecosystems by encroachment, and urban heat islands that traps heat locally.

77. Answer: (b)

Explanation :-

About the incident:

- On February 4, 1922, a large crowd of peasants set on fire the police station in Chauri Chaura, killing 22 policemen.
- The town was the scene of a violent incident with far-reaching consequences during the freedom struggle.

The fallout of the incident:

- Raids and repression followed immediately: Lists of volunteers were compiled, and a sessions court quickly sentenced many accused to death, but ultimately 19 of those convicted were sent to the gallows.
- Suspension of the Non Cooperation Movement: Gandhi was deeply disturbed by the incident and condemned the crime of the policemen's killing.
- **A Chauri Chaura Support Fund** was set up to demonstrate genuine sympathy and seek prayashchit (atonement).
- Gandhi decided to stop the Non-Cooperation Movement, which had been tainted by unforgivable violence and on February 12, 1922, the satyagraha was formally suspended.
- **Disappointment among leaders:** The suspension of the movement had made leaders like **Motilal Nehru, C R Das, Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Bose** angry towards Gandhi's decision.
- Gandhi's justification: For his unshakeable faith in non-violence, Gandhi said that he would suf-

fer every humiliation, every torture, absolute ostracism and death itself to prevent the movement from becoming violent.

Historians on Gandhian decision to suspend the movement:

· Repression will expose the semi-hegemonic character of the colonial state: Historians such as Bipan Chandra have argued that Gandhi's strategy of non-violence was based on the premise that the use of repressive force against non-violent protesters would expose and weaken the semi-hegemonic character of the colonial state and incidents such as Chauri Chaura defeated that strategy.

· Withdrawal was inevitable: Withdrawal or shift to a phase of non-confrontation is an inherent part of a strategy of political action that is based on the masses

- **Rise of young Indian nationalists:** The disillusionment resulting from the suspension of the Non-Cooperation Movement led many of the younger Indian nationalists to believe that India would not be able to throw off the colonial yoke through non-violence.

- **Rise of revolutionary activities:** It was from these impatient young patriots that some of India's most beloved revolutionaries - Jogesh Chatterjee, Ramprasad Bismil, Sachin Sanyal, Ashfaqulla Khan, Jatin Das, Bhagat Singh, Bhagwati Charan Vohra, Masterda Surya Sen, and many others - were to arise in the years to come.

78. Answer: (d)

Explanation :- Option c is **incorrect**, Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020) programme launched by the Assam Forest Department in partnership with WWF-India, aims to attain a population of 3000 wild rhinos in Assam, distributed over seven of its Protected Areas by 2020.

79. Answer: (c)

Explanation :- About Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) scheme:

- Launched by: The scheme was first announced in the Budget, 2018 and launched by the **Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation**.

Objective:

- To positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste.

- To create new rural livelihood opportunities and enhance income for farmers and other rural people.
- Implementation:
- Implemented as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin):
- The SBM (G) comprises two main components for creating clean villages - creating open defecation free (ODF) villages and managing solid and liquid waste in villages.
- With over 3.5 lakh villages, 374 districts and 16 States or UTs of the country being declared ODF, the stage is set for ODF-plus activities, including measures to enhance Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).
- The GOBAR-DHAN scheme, with its focus on keeping villages clean, increasing the income of rural households, and generation of energy from cattle waste, is an important element of this ODF-plus strategy.

80. Answer: (a)

Explanation: Two new species of a rare ant genus have been discovered in India. The species of the ant genus *Ooceraea* found in Kerala, and Tamil Nadu add to the diversity of this rare genus. They differ from others of the same genus on the basis of the number of antennal segments. One of them found in the Periyar Tiger Reserve of Kerala, has been named *Ooceraea joshii*, in honour of Prof. Amitabh Joshi, a distinguished evolutionary biologist

81. Answer: (b)

Explanation: DNA is made up of molecules called nucleotides. Each nucleotide contains a phosphate group, a sugar group and a nitrogen base. The four types of nitrogen bases are adenine (A), thymine (T), guanine (G) and cytosine (C). The order of these bases is what determines DNA's instructions, or genetic code. A mutation is an alteration in the nucleotide sequence of the genome of an organism. A silent mutation is a change in the sequence of nucleotide bases which constitutes DNA, without a subsequent change in the amino acid or the function of the overall protein.

82. Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A side scan sonar uses high-frequency sound pulses that are

bounced off the sea floor to create an image of the sea floor morphology shape) and show differences in seabed texture and substrate types. Side scan may be used to conduct surveys for maritime archeology; in conjunction with seafloor samples, it is able to provide an understanding of the differences in material and texture type of the seabed surface. Statement 2 is incorrect. Typical frequencies used in side scan sonar range from 100 to 500 kHz with higher frequencies producing a higher resolution image. The higher frequencies yield better resolution but less range.

83. Answer: (a)

Explanation: In 2019, the world's Top 5 lithium producers were: Australia - 52.9% of global production, Chile - 21.5%, China - 9.7%, Argentina - 8.3% and Zimbabwe - 2.1%.

Li-ion batteries are subject to ageing even if not in use. During their lifetime Li-ion batteries exhibit a gradual decrease in discharge capacity which is manifested as a loss of autonomy for the powered device. This is observed both during use and on storage.

84. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) include several parasitic, viral, and bacterial diseases that cause substantial illness for more than one billion people globally. The 20 NTDs listed by World Health Organisation are: Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, Dengue and severe dengue, Dracunculiasis, Echinococcosis, Foodborne trematode infections, Human African trypanosomiasis, Leishmaniasis, Leprosy, Lymphatic filariasis, Mycetoma, chromoblastomycosis and other deep mycoses, Onchocerciasis, Rabies, Scabies and other ectoparasitoses, Schistosomiasis, Soil-transmitted helminthiases, Snakebite envenoming, Taeniasis and cysticercosis, Trachoma and Yaws

85. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The third and final priority of a Great Reset agenda is to harness the innovations of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to support the public good, especially by addressing health and social challenges. There is an urgent need for global stakeholders to cooperate in simultaneously managing the

direct consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. To improve the state of the world, the World Economic Forum is starting The Great Reset initiative. Statement 2 is correct. The Great Reset agenda would have three main components: — The first would steer the market toward fairer outcomes. To this end, governments should improve coordination (for example, in tax, regulatory, and fiscal policy), upgrade trade arrangements, and create the conditions for a “stakeholder economy.” — The second component would ensure that investments advance shared goals, such as equality and sustainability. Here, the large-scale spending programs that many governments are implementing represent a major opportunity for progress. Example: European Commission has unveiled plans for a -750 billion (\$826 billion) recovery fund. — The third and final priority of a Great Reset agenda is to harness the innovations of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to support the public good, especially by addressing health and social challenges.

86. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

87. Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. Statement 2 is incorrect. The presidency of the Council is held by each of the members (permanent and non-permanent) in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the Member States names. Tunisia is the president for January 2021. All existing committees and working groups are comprised of the fifteen members of the Council. While standing committees are chaired by the President of the Council, rotating on a monthly basis, other committees and working groups are chaired or co-chaired by designated members of the Council who are announced on an annual basis by a Note of the President of the Security Council.

88. Answer: (d)

Explanation: Davos summit organised by the World Economic Forum (WEF) is an annual event held at Davos in Switzerland, which sees the participation of world leaders, politicians, economists and business leaders. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping will be among the top world leaders to attend the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Davos Agenda Summit. The six-day event will be held online from January 24 to 29. The 'Davos Agenda' 2021 will also mark the launch of WEF's "Great Reset Initiative".

89. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The IEA was established in 1974, in the wake of the 1973-1974 oil crisis, to help its members respond to major oil supply disruptions, a role it continues to fulfill today. IEA's mandate has expanded over time to include tracking and analyzing global key energy trends, promoting sound energy policy, and fostering multinational energy technology cooperation. Statement 2 is correct. The IEA operates within the broader framework of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD). A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the OECD.

90. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Future Investment Initiative is hosted by the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia. Statement 2 is correct. It is an annual investment forum held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to discuss trends in the world economy and investment environment.

91. Answer: (b)

Explanation: The World Economic Forum in collaboration with Commons Project Foundation have launched the Common Trust Network in collaboration with a broad voluntary network of public and private stakeholders. The Common Trust Network is designed to (1) empower individuals with digital access to their health information, (2) make it easier for individuals to understand and comply with each destination's requirements, and (3) help ensure that only verifiable lab results and vaccination records from trusted sources are presented for the purposes of cross-border travel and commerce.

92. Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. An agreement on civil nuclear cooperation was signed between India and France on 30 September 2008 during the visit of then PM to France. Statement 2 is correct. Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar and Ms Barbara Pompili, the French Minister for Ecological Transition launched the Indo-French Year of the Environment in New Delhi recently.

93. Answer: (d)

94. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The World Customs Organization (WCO), 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. Statement 2 is correct. WCO 183 Members, three-quarters of which are developing countries, are responsible for managing more than 98% of world trade. India is a member of the WCO since 1971.

95. Answer: (a)

96. Answer: (d)

Explanation: Both options are incorrect. Palk Bay is north of RamSetu and south of Palk Strait. The Palk Bay is a 15,000 sq km biodiversity conglomeration nestled between the island nation of Sri Lanka and South East Peninsula India with a coastal length of 250 km on the Indian side. The bay is landlocked with three openings—one big eastern opening into the Bay of Bengal and two narrow openings into the Gulf of Mannar. The bay is a highly productive ecosystem. it has 302 species of marine algae, 580 species of fishes, five marine turtle species and 11 seagrass species and several species of mangroves. The bay is also among one of the biggest fishing spots in south India

97. Answer: (a)

Explanation: The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), the international organization that names and defines epochs, recognises Holocene as the current Epoch. Therefore, officially, the current epoch is called

the Holocene, which began 11,700 years ago after the last major ice age. However, the Anthropocene Epoch is an unofficial unit of geologic time, used to describe the most recent period in Earth's history when human activity started to have a significant impact on the planet's climate and ecosystems

98. Answer: (c)

Explanation: An ice sheet is a mass of glacial land ice extending more than 50,000 square kilometers (20,000 square miles). The two ice sheets on Earth today cover most of Greenland and Antarctica.

99. Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Musk Deer inhabits alpine forests and scrub. The Deer is typically found at elevations between 2,200 and 4,300 metres (7,250 to 14,200 feet), and is rarely found below 1,000 metres (3,280 feet). The Indian states in which Alpine and/or Himalayan Musk deer are found include Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh. Statement 2 is correct. Musk Deer is the State animal of Uttarakhand state. It was showcased in front of its tableau at the Republic Day parade. Statement 3 is correct. Musk Deer is listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972

100. Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. India has the largest domestic market for spices in the world. Traditionally, spices in India have been grown in small land holdings, with organic farming gaining prominence in recent times. India is the world's largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices; the country produces about 75 of the 109 varieties listed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and accounts for half of the global trading in spices. Statement 2 is incorrect. India is the world's largest exporter of chili and turmeric, the exports of which have recorded a steady progress, over the years. During 2019-20, chili export contributed to more than 40 per cent in volume and 29 per cent in value of India's total spice exports. Turmeric held a share of 11 per cent in volume and 6 per cent in value of the export basket.

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. "Interactions between common Hindus and Muslims, Sufi and Bhakti saints created an environment for the emergence of a Hindustani culture." Elucidate
2. "The Cabinet Mission Plan was the last genuine attempt to preserve the unity and integrity of India". Do you agree? Substantiate
3. What were the territorial adjustments provided in the Paris peace conference, 1919? To what extent they solved the problems of the nationalities?
4. Globalization is a process of rapid integration or interconnection between countries. In the light of this statement, discuss the factors that have enabled globalization
5. 'Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojna' was launched to develop 'Adarsh Grams', but the progress of the scheme has been sluggish. Discuss the reasons behind this sluggishness.
6. What is desalination? Discuss the feasibility of setting up desalination plants in India
7. The 2019 state of forest report tells only half picture of India's forest. Do you agree? Give your reasons.
8. Discuss the factors responsible for wildfires in Australia.
9. India got its first CDS. Discuss its roles and responsibilities.
10. Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development." Elaborate.
11. Evaluate the impact of US-Iran tension on India.
12. Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 further intensify the immunization programme and prevent child deaths in India. Evaluate.
13. National Infrastructure Pipeline could boost the Indian economy. Evaluate.
14. What is the difference between depreciation and devaluation of a currency? Analyze how it benefits a country's trade balance?
15. What do you understand by Environmental Justice? Discuss the role played by National Green Tribunal in achieving the Environmental Justice in India. Also elaborate the major hurdles faced by NGT.

16. Countries like India which depend majorly on coal for their electricity production face a surmounting international pressure and an environmental concern. Discuss how the coal fed power plants can be uplifted using newer technologies? Examine how the revised standards for coal-based thermal power plants will help in minimising pollution?
17. "Space research in India is moving towards the goal of reducing digital divide". Elaborate the steps taken recently and its implication?
18. We cannot live in a world where there are no constraints. We need some constraints or else society would descend into chaos. Elaborate.
19. What does success means to a civil servant? What are the obstacles faced by them in achieving success in their career. What steps can be taken to win such obstacles?
20. You are head of a disaster management team that has been assigned with the work of rescuing and rehabilitating thousands of people who have been affected by an unprecedented flood. Team members include revenue officials, doctors, engineers and security personnel.

However some of the local leaders of a political party were not happy because their personal self interest is not being served. A powerful minister of the government visits the area to make a first hand assessment of the situation and in the process meets the local politicians who were not happy. The minister announces for the suspension of two of your revenue officials. Your entire work force gets demoralized due to this announcement and are unwilling to perform under given situation.

(a) What are the options before you?

(b) Evaluate merits/demerits of each options and suggest best course of action with reasons.

MAINS KEY PAPER

1. **"Interactions between common Hindus and Muslims, Sufi and Bhakti saints created an environment for the emergence of a Hindustani culture." Elucidate**

A. Interaction between Hinduism and Islam started with the Arab conquest of Sindh continued uninterrupted leading to the emergence of mixed and composite culture called Hindustani. Islam was influenced by the Hindu Vedanta, devotional music, the Budhhist meditative techniques and Jain yogashastra.

Consequently, a reformist movement Sufism started within Islam. Likewise, Islam questioning Hinduism on caste inequalities, idolatry and polytheism led to the Bhakti movement within Hinduism.

Interaction between the two not confined only to religion. In the realm of architecture a mixed style called Indo-Islamic, in music a composite tradition with native Indian and foreign Islamic tradition called Hindustani developed.

Similar trend is found in Painting and literature. The Bhakti and Sufi saints preached and promoted a secular, tolerant and universal culture providing congenial atmosphere. Both accepted the popular means like sangeet and local languages in reaching out the people.

2. **"The Cabinet Mission Plan was the last genuine attempt to preserve the unity and integrity of India". Do you agree? Substantiate**

A. The Cabinet Mission Plan was constituted to decide the modalities of transfer of power consisting of Sir A V Alexander, its chairman with other members Pathick Lawrence and Sir Stafford Cripps. It made the following recommendations.

1. A Union of India with British India and Princely States
2. A centre with limited powers confined to defense, currency and communications.
3. Provinces with relatively more powers
4. Provinces of India to be grouped under three categories A, B and C.

5. A Constituent Assembly consisting of the members elected by the provincial legislative assemblies and nominated by the princely states.

6. It out rightly rejected the idea of Pakistan as creation of Pakistan leads to tremendous dislocation of resources.

It was undoubtedly a genuine attempt to preserve the unity and integrity of India as it was basically an attempt to accommodate the grievances of the minority Muslims and to allay their fears and apprehension. This was why it provided for a centre with limited powers, provinces with more autonomy and a geographical expression for the Muslims in the form of B and C provinces.

However it was a genuine attempt but definitely not the last. In fact the formation of interim government in September 1946 with the Congress and the League together sharing the power can be called the last attempt

3. **What were the territorial adjustments provided in the Paris peace conference, 1919? To what extent they solved the problems of the nationalities?**

A. **The territorial adjustments made in the Paris peace conference were:**

1. Germany had given Allsace-Lorraine to France, Eupen and Malmedy to Belgium. Memel to Lithuania and a large part of Posen and western Prussia to Poland. Germany was also forced to give up her right over Upper Siletia and Southern part of East Prussia to Poland.
2. Danzig was taken away from Germany and set up as a free city under the League of Nations Poland was given a special right in the city of Danzig. Thus the "Polish corridor" was created.
3. Germany had to give up her right over the coalmines of Saar valley
4. Hungary was cut off from Austria and the latter was made to recognize the independence of the former.

5. Bohemia and Moravia was taken away from Austria and were formed the part of a new state by name Czechoslovakia.
6. Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina were given to Serbia. Montenegro was later on added to Serbia.

Thus the new state of Yugoslavia was formed. However the treaty failed to solve the problem of nationalities as:

- a) Three million Germans were placed in Czechoslovakia (in Sudetenland) and a million in Poland.
- b) According to the treaty of Trianon Hungary lost Transylvania and Croatia to Rumania and Serbia as a result Six Lakhs of men and women of Magyar race were put under alien domination.
- c) The attempt of France to get Rhine frontier and of Italy to get Dalmatia could not be justified on the grounds of nationality.
- d) The Armenian Christians were the worst affected. During the war they were promised liberation by the British. They continued to be left at the mercy of Turks.

4. Globalization is a process of rapid integration or interconnection between countries. In the light of this statement, discuss the factors that have enabled globalization

A. Globalization has integrated national and regional economies, societies, and cultures through the global network of trade, communication, immigration and transportation. In the recent past, globalization was often primarily focused on the economic side of the world, such as trade, foreign direct investment and international capital flows, more recently the term has been expanded to include a broader range of areas and activities such as culture, media, socio-cultural, political, and even biological factors, e.g. climate change, etc.

Factors that have enabled globalization:

Technology:

- ★ Rapid improvement in technology has been one major factor that has stimulated the globalization process. For instance, the past fifty years have seen several improvements in

transportation technology. This has made much faster delivery of goods across long distances possible at lower costs.

- ★ Even more remarkable have been the developments in information and communication technology. In recent times, technology in the areas of telecommunications, computers, Internet has been changing rapidly. This has been facilitated by satellite communication devices.

Liberalization of foreign trade and foreign investment policy:

- ★ With liberalization of trade, businesses are allowed to make decisions freely about what they wish to import or export. The government imposes much less restrictions than before and is therefore said to be more liberal.
- ★ Barriers on foreign trade and foreign investment are removed to a large extent. This means that goods can be imported and exported easily and also foreign companies can set up factories and offices in other countries.

Other factors that enabled globalization:

- ★ Transport is much cheaper and faster. This is not just aircraft, but also ships. The development of container transport (Multi-modal transport) in the 1950s was a major breakthrough in goods handling, and there have been continuing improvements to shipping technology since then.
- ★ Consumer tastes have changed, and consumers are more willing to try foreign products.
- ★ There has been high growth of incomes in countries like India, which makes large consumer markets with money to spend.

Hence, globalization is an act that aims to turn the world into a village where different nations and people relate and interact without barriers. It is a pervasive phenomenon that has touched nearly every facet of public life, from the educational curriculum to fast food chains, the effects of globalization are inescapable

5. **'Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojna' was launched to develop 'Adarsh Grams', but the progress of the scheme has been sluggish. Discuss the reasons behind this sluggishness.**

A. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched on 11th October, 2014 on the birth anniversary of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan. Inspired by the principles and values of Mahatma Gandhi, the Scheme places equal stress on nurturing values of national pride, patriotism, community spirit, self-confidence and on developing infrastructure.

MPs have complained about scarcity of funds to carry out the development. Because there is no separate funding for SAGY and funds from existing schemes like 'Indira Awas Yojana', 'MGN-REGS', 'PM Sadak Yojana', etc., are to be used efficiently for development activities. Further, MPs have to use their MPLAD funds for developing model village which again serves as a disincentive.

Another problem is related to the selection of the village. Guidelines provide that an MP can select any village except his own village or his spouse's village. This puts MPs in dilemma. If they select a village, then voters from other villages may question the move. But this can be sorted out by establishing effective communication with the masses and explaining the need and importance of the move.

Some MPs whose constituency is in urban area (e.g. Delhi) have to select a village from some other rural constituency. They are often unwilling to do so because, then they will have to spend their MPLAD funds outside their constituency which won't bring any political benefits for them.

Making few villages "Adarsh Gram" is rather easy. Real challenge would be to ensure that such schemes do not remain demonstrative projects, and are replicated on a mass scale. This has not happened yet.

6. **What is desalination? Discuss the feasibility of setting up desalination plants in India.**

A. Desalination refers to removal of salt (sodium chloride) and other minerals from the sea water to make it suitable for human consumption

and/or industrial use. It is a process that takes away mineral components from saline water.

Scarcity of potable water is one of the major challenges facing India today, the ability to use sea-water that most coastal states have access to, maybe one solution. To address the country's water woes, NITI Aayog is reportedly planning to set up desalination plants to leverage India's vast coastline. The proposal talks about setting up plants along the 7,800-km coastline to make sea water potable, which could then be supplied around cities through a network of pipes. The desalination plants will be floating on sea, which will leverage solar energy or ocean energy to reduce their carbon footprint and energy cost.

However, experts are of the view that desalination will have a limited role in solving India's water woes because it will only address the water problem in coastal cities. We need this new technology in coastal cities as water demand far exceeds the natural source of water supply. Also, the cost of desalination has reduced drastically and with renewable energy, the cost of water that comes from desalination plants is much less than what was a decade ago but we cannot use this technology in Delhi as the cost of transport will be high.

It's high time to come out of the colonial mindset of fetching water from far off places. We urgently require a transition from this 'supply-and-supply-more' style of water provisions to measures that improve efficient water use, reduce leakages and recharge/restore local waterbodies. A recovery-based closed loop system is the need of the hour

7. **The 2019 state of forest report tells only half picture of India's forest. Do you agree? Give your reasons.**

A. The present report shows forest cover in India has improved by 3,976 sq km between 2017 and 2019. This should seem heartening given, today, this stands at 7.12 lakh sq km, up from 6.7 lakh sq km in 2005- that too, in the face of development needs compelling the diversion of forest land. But, while the area under 'moderately dense forests' shrunk from 3.3 lakh sq km to 3 lakh sq km, that under open forests has increased from 2.9 lakh sq km to 3.04 lakh sq km.

The Forest Survey of India has been using better satellite imagery with a 1:50,000 scale, compared to the 1:250,000 scale earlier. This means any area, even as small as 0.01 sq km, with a canopy density of more than 10% is captured as a forest; the earlier resolution meant land units under 0.25 sq km didn't get captured as forest.

Thus, land that has been denuded of forest cover but did not get recorded as forest earlier because it fell below the 0.25 sq km threshold now figures in the ISFR as a "gain" in forest cover. Denuded forest land and non-forest land can be reforested, but that happens over decades, not years as the ISFR data would seem to suggest.

The tree canopy basis of identification doesn't differentiate between natural forests, plantations, orchards, or even palm groves. This means the loss in diversity doesn't get captured by the data.

Thus, the growth in forest-cover could be attributed to fast-growing plantation trees like eucalyptus that are favoured in compensatory afforestation programmes.

ISFR 2019, for the first time ever, gives data for forest diversity, and 'plantations/trees outside forests' already account for nearly 9% of the total area under forests-making plantations the fourth largest group in the plantations. Plantation monoculture just makes the loss of forests worse.

Also, given how the 15 of the last 18 years have been drought-years for Andhra Pradesh, and 60% of Karnataka reeled under drought in 9-11 years between 2001 and 2015, it is hard to see how the two states have performed so well in increasing forest cover. The forest data needs to reflect more of the ground reality instead of becoming a tool to lull the country into inaction on forests.

8. Discuss the factors responsible for wildfires in Australia.

- A. Record-breaking temperatures and months of severe drought have fuelled a series of massive bushfires across Australia. At least 24 people have so far been killed - including three volunteer firefighters - and more than 6.3 million hectares

(63,000 sq km or 15.6 million acres) of bush, forest and parks have been burned.

The prolonged blaze this year has coincided with Australia's harshest summer. Parts of the country recorded their highest recorded temperature in December. Then, longer-term factors have been at play. Much of Australia is facing a drought that is a result of three consecutive summers with very little precipitation. This, according to climate scientists, is unprecedented.

In a 2019/2020 outlook for the southern hemisphere's summer, published in late November, the Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasted that the "key culprit" behind the hot, dry weather was a slower than usual weakening of the "Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)."

The Southern Annular Mode (SAM), also known as the Antarctic Oscillation (AAO), describes the north-south movement of the westerly wind belt that circles Antarctica, dominating the middle to higher latitudes of the southern hemisphere.

9. India got its first CDS. Discuss its roles and responsibilities.

- A. In a landmark decision with tremendous reform in higher defence management in the country, the Union Cabinet has approved to create the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). General Bipin Rawat took over as the first CDS on New Year's Day.

The Chief of Defence Staff, apart from being the head of the Department of Military Affairs, will also be the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. He will act as the Principal Military Adviser to Defence Minister on all tri-services matters. The three Chiefs will continue to advise defence minister on matters exclusively concerning their respective services. CDS will not exercise any military command, including over the three service chiefs, so as to be able to provide impartial advice to the political leadership.

CDS will administer tri-services organisations. Triservice agencies/organisations/commands related to Cyber and Space will be under the command of the CDS.

The appointment of the CDS will certainly change the civil-military balance, and, if done correctly, will address some of the grievances of the Armed Forces pertaining to their status vis-a-vis the civil services. Yet, it should also cause them to look inwards. However, some teething problems can be expected in the beginning but things are bound to fall in place as norms, processes and rules are worked out between the three services, the CDS and the defence ministry.

10. Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development." Elaborate.

A. Good governance can be referred as an effective and efficient process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented) keeping the amelioration of citizens as the top most priority. Resource allocation, creation of formal establishments, setting up rules and regulations etc., are part of achieving this goal. These positive qualities of governance, thus, referred as Good Governance, is of increasing concern in countries across the world.

Central Government lead India's success story by giving them more autonomy in terms of fiscal independence and devolving more powers. In addition, with present government's focus on 'minimum government but maximum governance', the Central Government is guiding and assisting the State Governments to undertake various measures to improve the quality of governance as well as achieving universal access of basic minimum services.

The issues and challenges that confront governance require effective functioning of three wings of government namely executive, legislature and judiciary and building appropriate linkages amongst the organs.

Governance has to strike a suitable balance between parliamentary supremacy and judicial independence. As the state, private sector and civil society have an important role in governance process, there is a need to assign clear cut roles and responsibilities to these components.

From a common man's perspective good governance means accessible and accountable as well as affordable governance. The global develop-

ments taking place over the last three decades gradually brought in the broader notion of governance which brings in its purview government, private sector and people. The leverage point for change' to improve governance would generally lie not in attempting improvements in government as a whole, but in policies that engender faster growth and development, in the removal of restrictions, and in correctly deregulating the economy.

11. Evaluate the impact of US-Iran tension on India.

A. President Trump hinted to de-escalate hostilities with Iran, signaling no new United States (US) military strikes following an Iranian missile barrage on Iraqi bases housing American and allied military forces that resulted in no casualties.

India and the US have differing views on Iran, New Delhi views Tehran as a partner in India's extended neighbourhood to meet its energy needs as well as a gateway to landlocked Middle East and Afghanistan. Washington on the other hand views Iran as the biggest source of instability and terrorism in the region.

India's gross domestic product grew at a mere 4.5% in the September quarter and there are concerns that high fuel prices could adversely impact economic recovery. India does not import oil from Iran because of a new set of sanctions that came into effect in May, any unrest in the volatile region could impact exports from countries such as Saudi Arabia given that most of the oil is transported through the Straits of Hormuz, a narrow waterway carrying a fifth of the world's traded oil, that Iranian officials had in April threatened to block. <

A secondary worry is that tensions between Iran and the US could impact India's trade with the region that now stands at \$78 billion (from Gulf Cooperation Council member countries Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman), according to April-November figures from the Indian commerce ministry. The rise in tensions also poses a hurdle to India's plans to develop Iran's Chabahar port. The port was to help India trade with landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asia bypassing Pakistan.

A reimposition of US sanctions on Iran last

year has deterred Indian companies from investment in the project, despite India obtaining a carve-out from US.

12. Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 further intensify the immunization programme and prevent child deaths in India. Evaluate.

- A. To boost the routine immunization coverage in the country, Government of India has introduced 'Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0' to ensure reaching the unreached with all available vaccines and accelerate the coverage of children and pregnant women in the identified districts and blocks from December 2019 to March 2020.

With the launch of IMI 2.0, India has the opportunity to achieve further reductions in deaths among children under five years of age, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of ending preventable child deaths by 2030.

The Intensified Mission Indra-dhanush strategy showed that cross-sectoral participation can increase vaccination rates in children at high risk. Strengthening of the system and practice changes could make it more effective.

By building on successes of the past, learning from challenges, and consolidating efforts across stakeholder groups, the country can fulfill its aim of attaining a disease-free India. Vaccines are a truly critical intervention in this journey, and are the key to safeguarding our present, and building a healthier tomorrow for our future generations.

13. National Infrastructure Pipeline could boost the Indian economy. Evaluate.

- A. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled a Rs. 102 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) in accordance with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government's vision to make India a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25.

Identifying the projects to be put on the pipeline is the easy part. Implementing and commissioning them will be the more difficult one. There are a few hurdles that the NIP task force needs to watch out for. First, the financing plan assumes that the Centre and the States will fund 39% each while the private sector will chip in with 22% of

the outlay. Going by the present fiscal situation, it will be no small challenge for the Centre to raise Rs. 39 lakh crore, even if it is over the next five years.

The financial position of States is even more perilous. Second, the Rs. 22 lakh crore expected from private investment also looks steep considering the lack of appetite for fresh investment by the private sector January 2020 A 22 Issue-2 Current Affairs : Perfect 7 in the last few years. In fact, this factor has been a major drag on economic growth. Given the scale of investment, debt will play an important role and it remains to be seen if banks have gotten over their apprehensions on infrastructure financing as a major part of their bad loans originated there.

Finally, cooperation from States becomes very important in implementing infrastructure projects. The experience on this count has not been very happy till now. While these are genuine obstacles that the task force needs to manage, these should not detract from the need for a concerted effort to invest in infrastructure. The key will be following up and reviewing the pipeline at regular intervals.

14. What is the difference between depreciation and devaluation of a currency? Analyze how it benefits a country's trade balance?

- A. Depreciation and devaluation are two economic events that deal with the value of a country's currency. Both of these situations cause the value of currency to drop versus the rest of the world.

However, they have two different causes and long-term effects on the country's economy.

Understanding the difference between these two events will help one better design the policy for the future.

Depreciation

"Depreciation happens in countries with a floating exchange rate. A floating exchange rate means that the global investment market determines the value of a country's currency.

"The exchange rate among various currencies changes every day as investors reevaluate new information.

"While a country's government and central bank can try to influence its exchange rate relative to other currencies, in the end it is the free market that determines the exchange rate. All major economies use a floating exchange rate.

"Depreciation occurs when a country's exchange rate goes down in the market. The country's money has less purchasing power in other countries because of the depreciation.

Devaluation

"Devaluation happens in countries with a fixed exchange rate. In a fixed-rate economy, the government decides what its currency should be worth compared with that of other countries.

"The government pledges to buy and sell as much of its currency as needed to keep its exchange rate the same.

"The exchange rate can change only when the government decides to change it. If a government decides to make its currency less valuable, the change is called devaluation.

"Fixed exchange rates were popular before the Great Depression but have largely been abandoned for the more flexible floating rates. China was the last major economy to openly use a fixed exchange rate. It switched to a floating system in 2005.

Advantages of devaluation/depreciation:

1. Exports become cheaper and more competitive to foreign buyers. Therefore, this provides a boost for domestic demand and could lead to job creation in the export sector.
2. Higher level of exports should lead to an improvement in the current account deficit.
3. Higher exports can lead to higher rates of economic growth.

However, a country must be very cautious, before engaging in broad devaluation of the currency as:

- ★ Firms/exporters have less incentive to cut costs because they can rely on the devaluation to improve competitiveness. The concern is in the long-term devaluation may lead to lower productivity because of the decline in incentives.
- ★ Most importantly, it can convince other

countries to follow the course of action and can lead to currency war and trade war. This is also popularly known as beggar-thy-neighbor policy

15. What do you understand by Environmental Justice? Discuss the role played by National Green Tribunal in achieving the Environmental Justice in India. Also elaborate the major hurdles faced by NGT.

- A. Environmental justice is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment. Environmental Justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits.

National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established under "Article 21" of the Indian Constitution. This particular article of Indian Constitution assured its citizens for the protection of life and personal liberty. The newly established "Green Tribunal" is a unique judicial mechanism in the sense that it is a special "fast-track quasi-judicial" body to ensure speedy justice on the environment related cases.

Since its inception, NGT has given many fast-track judgments in various cases and has passed several orders to the respective authorities like ban on illegal sand mining, against noise pollution in Delhi, preservation of biodiversity of Western Ghat Mountains, wildlife protection in Kaziranga National Park in Assam, suspended many environmental clearance and so on.

In this way, NGT is working quite well and ensuring its mandate to impart justice in environment related litigations. In post liberalization Indian economy, NGT within its jurisdictions is checking the unabated drive towards industrialization.

There is a view that as NGT would take over the powers of the lower courts, people would not have local access to justice. This would be most disadvantageous to economically weaker sections of society as they would not be able to use the more than 13,000 district and subordinate

courts to address environmental disputes. In tribal areas of Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, etc. people do not have much knowledge about NGT. For a tribal activist based in a remote location, it is extremely difficult to travel to Kolkata and find accommodation there. There is a problem that how NGT can ensure justice to the needy at their doorsteps.

NGT has been accused of overstepping its jurisdiction and taking actions for which it has not been empowered under the NGT Act.

In the past, NGT has taken up cases on its own, (suo-motu). The tribunal issued a long order with many directions. The environment ministry had been constantly reminding NGT that taking up suo-motu cases is not within its jurisdiction. In India, suo-motu jurisdiction is limited to superior courts like the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

16. Countries like India which depend majorly on coal for their electricity production face a surmounting international pressure and an environmental concern. Discuss how the coal fed power plants can be uplifted using newer technologies? Examine how the revised standards for coal-based thermal power plants will help in minimising pollution?

A. India derives nearly 60% of its energy from coal. These thermal power plants emit CO₂, NO₂, SO₂ which cause serious environment and health damage in the form of acid rain, global warming and respiratory disease. Therefore if the environmental impact of these can be reduced it will help in great way to achieve Indian obligation for sustainable development.

Clean coal technologies can be used to achieve this which are:

- a) Chemically washing minerals and impurities from coal to reduce SOX
- b) Coal gasification
- c) Carbon capture and sequestration to remove CO₂ from the flu gas
- d) Improved technology to remove flu gas (the gas emitted after the burning of coal through chimney)

- e) Dewatering of lower rank coal (brown coal) to improve its efficiency.

Ministry of Environment has finalized, in consultation with CPCB new emission norms for coal power plants.

- a) The new standards are aimed at reducing emission of PM10, sulphur dioxide and Oxide of nitrogen, which will in turn help in bringing about an improvement in the Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) in and around thermal power plants.
- b) The technology employed for the control of the proposed limit of Sulfur Dioxide - SO₂ & Nitrogen Oxide - NO_x will also help in control of mercury emission (at about 70-90%) as a co-benefit.
- c) Limiting the use of water in thermal power plant will lead to water conservation as thermal power plant is a water-intensive industry. This will also lead to a reduction in energy requirement for drawl of water.

Indian government has been making continuous efforts to improve the quality of environment in India. Imposition of coal cess, air quality index to give air quality data and categorization of industries based on their environment impact into four categories are some other steps taken in this direction.

17. "Space research in India is moving towards the goal of reducing digital divide". Elaborate the steps taken recently and its implication?

A. The basic requirement for reducing the digital divide for any nation is to give priority to the development of its telecommunication and IT infrastructure in order to provide universal and affordable access to information for people in all geographical areas of the country.

ISRO has embarked upon Village Resource Centre (VRC) programme to disseminate the portfolio of services emanating from the space systems as well as other Information Technology (IT) tools, directly down-the-line to the rural communities.

VRCs essentially have: digital connectivity (for videoconferencing and information transfer) with knowledge centers and specialty healthcare providers enabled via INSAT; spatial information

on natural resources generated using IRS data; a host of information pertaining to management of natural resources and socio-economic relevance; and facilities for primary healthcare services and distance education.

The tele-education programme launched by ISRO, serviced by the exclusive satellite 'EDUSAT', is primarily intended for school, college and higher levels of education to support both curricula based as well as vocational education. With 5 Ku-band transponders providing spot beams, and one Ku-band transponder providing national beam, and 6 extended C-band transponders with national coverage beams, EDUSAT is specifically configured for audio-visual medium, employing digital interactive classroom and multimedia multi-centric system.

Many important institutions such as the IGNOU, UGC, IITs, and many State Education Departments and Universities are making use of the EDUSAT network. Presently, more than 34,500 classrooms are in the EDUSAT network out of which 3,400 are interactive terminals.

18. We cannot live in a world where there are no constraints. We need some constraints or else society would descend into chaos. Elaborate.

- A. A free society would be one which enables all its members to develop their potential with the minimum of social constraints. No individual living in society can hope to enjoy total absence of any kind of constraints or restrictions. It becomes necessary then to determine which social constraints are justified and which are not, which are acceptable and which should be removed.

Need for constraints

- ★ We cannot live in a world where there are no constraints. 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 to control scarce resources.
- ★ There are numerous reasons why disagreements may develop in a society which may express themselves through open conflict.
- ★ Every society needs some mechanisms to control

violence and settle disputes. So long as we are able to respect each other's views and do not attempt to impose our views on others we may be able to live freely and with minimum constraints.

- ★ Sometimes, we think that a strong commitment to our beliefs requires that we must oppose all those who differ from or reject our views. We see their views or ways of living as unacceptable or even undesirable. Under such circumstances we need some legal and political restraints to ensure that differences may be discussed and debated without one group coercively imposing its views on the other.

Ideally, in a free society we should be able to hold our views, develop our own rules of living, and pursue our choices. But the creation of such a society too requires some constraints. At the very least, it requires that we be willing to respect differences of views, opinions and beliefs.

19. What does success means to a civil servant? What are the obstacles faced by them in achieving success in their career. What steps can be taken to win such obstacles?

- A. Success is the status of having achieved and accomplished an aim or objective. Being successful means the achievement of desired visions and planned goals.
- ★ For the civil servant, success means fulfilment of one's duty with complete honesty and zeal, maintenance of integrity and honesty in working procedure at all level - organisation, society and individual. He should show empathy and compassion towards the vulnerable as he has to serve the public.
 - ★ Public servants find themselves in dilemmas that include conflict between: the values of public administration; justifications for the institutions; aspects of the code of conduct; personal values and supervisor or governmental directive; professional ethics and supervisor or governmental directive; personal values and professional ethics versus government directive; blurred or competing accountabilities; and the dimensions of ethical conduct.
 - ★ Also due to political interference, outmoded

rules and procedures that restrict the civil servant from performing effectively, and arbitrary and whimsical transfers - insecurity in tenures impedes institutionalization act as obstacle in career advancement.

★ The steps which can be taken are:

- Rule of Law - Zero Tolerance Strategy
- Making Institutions Vibrant, Responsive and Accountable
- Active Citizens' Participation - Decentralization and Delegation
- Transparency and Accountability to be defined at each stage
- Periodic & Independent Evaluation of the Quality of Governance
- Maintaining ethical values at individual level and act as role model for the organisation for success of the organisation which in turn will lead to career advancement.

20. You are head of a disaster management team that has been assigned with the work of rescuing and rehabilitating thousands of people who have been affected by an unprecedented flood. Team members include revenue officials, doctors, engineers and security personnel.

However some of the local leaders of a political party were not happy because their personal self interest is not being served. A powerful minister of the government visits the area to make a first hand assessment of the situation and in the process meets the local politicians who were not happy. The minister announces for the suspension of two of your revenue officials. Your entire work force gets demoralized due to this announcement and are unwilling to perform under given situation.

(a) What are the options before you?

(b) Evaluate merits/demerits of each options and suggest best course of action with reasons.

A. Following options are available under the given situation

- (i) Go by the direction and order of the minister and relieve the two revenue officials from their work.

- (ii) Make an oral protest to Minister to reconsider his decision.
- (iii) Take up the matter with senior civil authorities and request the cancellation of the order.
- (iv) Ask the two revenue officials to file representation to you.

Merits/Demerits

- (i) In a democratic set up civil servants have little options. Hence convince the team and ask the rest of team to put its best. But the team members might not work now with the same zeal and brand you as a weak team leader.
- (ii) One should explain the minister that this is unfair and might adversely affect the morale of the team members. However the minister might make it as a prestige issue and might not deviate.
- (iii) This option is very common and in such matters very senior officers including chief secretaries prevail upon the political bureaucracy. But the chance are that they might question what is the reason of indispensability and why some one making it a prestige issue.
- (iv) This option is well recognized in the working of government. Their representation can be forwarded along with the comments of the officer for a favourable consideration of the government. However it is a time consuming process and by the time final decision comes, much damage might take place.

Best course of action:

A dynamic officer can convince the minister that he will be holding a personal enquiry and abrupt transfer without providing the two revenue officials opportunity of explanation might embarrass the minister. Besides it might affect the morale of other officials at the critical stage. These points might force the minister to reconsider his order. If the minister still sticks, one may take up the issue with senior officials. At suitable stage one can brief the team, the efforts made and appealing the team members to continue to work in the same zeal.