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Que-1 Consider the following statements about Governor

1- The position, role, powers, and conditions of office of the Governor are described in Articles 153-161 of the Constitution.

2- The Governor is appointed by the President on the advice of the state government.

3- He is at the head of the state's executive power, and barring some matters, acts on the advice of the council of ministers, which is responsible, in accordance with the parliamentary system, to the state legislature.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 only
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Que-2 With reference to first amendment to The Constitution of India, consider the following statements

1- Enacted in 1950, made several changes to the Fundamental Rights provisions of the Indian constitution.

2- It provided means to restrict freedom of speech and expression, validation of zamindari abolition laws, and clarified that the right to equality does not bar the enactment of laws which provide "special

consideration" for weaker sections of society.

3- This Amendment set the precedent of amending the Constitution to overcome judicial judgements impeding fulfilment of the government's perceived responsibilities to particular policies and programmes.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only
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Que-3 The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has notified amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021), recently. Key changes effected in the rules are

1- These amendments impose a legal obligation on intermediaries to take reasonable efforts to prevent users from uploading certain categories of harmful/unlawful content.

2- For effective communication of the rules and regulations of the intermediary, it is important that the communication is done in regional Indian languages only.

3- The amendment requires intermediaries to respect the rights guaranteed to users under the Constitution, including a reasonable expectation of due diligence, privacy and transparency.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 What was the need to amend the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021)?

1- There was a need to ensure that the interests and constitutional rights of netizens are not being contravened by big tech platforms.

2- To strengthen the grievance redressal framework in the Rules.

3- Compliance with these should not impact early stage Indian start-ups.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements about Grievance Appellate Committees (GAC) recently constituted under IT Rules, 2021

1- The committee is styled as a three-member council out of which one member will be a government officer (holding the post ex officio) while the other two members will be independent representatives.

2- Users can file a complaint against the order of the grievance officer within 6 months.

3- The GAC is required to adopt an online dispute resolution mechanism which will make it more accessible to the users.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 The World Health Organisation (WHO) had recently released the first-ever list of fungal infections -- "priority pathogens". Consider the following statements about this

1- The fungal priority pathogens list (FPPL) includes 19 fungi that represent the greatest threat to human health.

2- Fungal infections are becoming increasingly resistant to treatment and can be dangerous to mankind due to a lack of focus, lack of surveillance, treatments and diagnostics.

3- The WHO FPPL is divided into four categories -- critical, high, medium and low priority.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 3 only

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about National Unity Day

1- The day was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 with the theme of Run for Unity.

2- The reason behind the celebration of this day is to make people aware of the ideas of staying together and uplifting society.

3- National Unity Day is celebrated on October 30, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who served as the first Home Minister of India after Independence.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about Kalanamak rice

1- A traditional variety of paddy with a black husk and a strong fragrance.

2- This is considered a gift from Lord Mahavir to the people of the Sravasti when he visited the region after enlightenment.

3- Grown in the Terai region of northeastern Uttar Pradesh and in Nepal,

the traditional variety has been prone to lodging, a reason for its low yield.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (b)

- The Governor is appointed by the President (on the advice of the central government) and, therefore, acts as the vital link between the Union and the state governments.
- The position, role, powers, and conditions of office of the Governor are described in Articles 153-161 of the Constitution. The position of Governor is similar to that of the President at the Union. He is at the head of the state's executive power, and barring some matters, acts on the advice of the council of ministers, which is responsible, in accordance with the parliamentary system, to the state legislature.
- The Governor enjoys certain powers such as giving or withholding assent to a Bill passed by the state legislature or determining the time needed for a party to prove its majority — or which party must be called first to do so,

generally after in a hung Assembly — which have been weaponised by successive central governments against the political opposition.

- Article 164(1) says state “Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor”.

2- (d)

- The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951, enacted in 1951, made several changes to the Fundamental Rights provisions of the Indian constitution. It provided means to restrict freedom of speech and expression, validation of zamindari abolition laws, and clarified that the right to equality does not bar the enactment of laws which provide "special consideration" for weaker sections of society.
- The formal title of the amendment is the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951. It was moved by the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, on 10 May 1951 and enacted by Parliament on 18 June 1951.

3- (b)

Key changes effected in the rules are as under:

(a) Currently, intermediaries are only required to inform users about not uploading certain categories of

harmful/unlawful content. These amendments impose a legal obligation on intermediaries to take reasonable efforts to prevent users from uploading such content. The new provision will ensure that the intermediary's obligation is not a mere formality.

(b) For effective communication of the rules and regulations of the intermediary, it is important that the communication is done in regional Indian languages as well.

(c) The grounds in rule 3(1)(b)(ii) have been rationalized by removing the words 'defamatory' and 'libellous'. Whether any content is defamatory or libellous will be determined through judicial review.

(d) Some of the content categories in rule 3(1)(b) have been rephrased to deal particularly with misinformation, and content that could incite violence between different religious/caste groups.

(e) The amendment requires intermediaries to respect the rights guaranteed to users under the Constitution, including a reasonable expectation of due diligence, privacy and transparency.

(f) Grievance Appellate Committee(s) will be established to allow users to

appeal against the inaction of, or decisions taken by intermediaries on user complaints. However, users will always have the right to approach courts for any remedy.

4- (c)

- As per the press note accompanying the draft amendments in June 2022, the stated objectives of the amendments were three-fold. First, there was a need to ensure that the interests and constitutional rights of netizens are not being contravened by big tech platforms, second, to strengthen the grievance redressal framework in the Rules, and third, that compliance with these should not impact early stage Indian start-ups.
- This translated into a set of proposed amendments that can be broadly classified into two categories. The first category involved placing additional obligations on the social media intermediaries (SMIs) to ensure better protection of user interests while the second category involved the institution of an appellate mechanism for grievance redressal.

5- (b)

- Users can file a complaint against the order of the grievance officer within 30 days.
- Interestingly, it is unclear whether this is a compulsory tier of appeal or not, that is will the user have to approach the grievance appellate committee before approaching the court. The confusion arises from the fact that the press note expressly stated that the institution of the GAC would not bar the user from approaching the court directly against the order of the grievance officer. However, the final amendments provide no such indication.
- While this makes the in-house grievance redressal more accountable and appellate mechanism more accessible to users, appointments being made by the central government could lead to apprehensions of bias in content moderation.
- Further, the IT Rules, 2021 do not provide any explicit power to the GAC to enforce its orders. Lastly, if users can approach both the courts and the GAC parallelly, it could lead to conflicting decisions often undermining the impartiality and merit of one institution or the other.

6- (a)

- The WHO FPPL is divided into three categories -- critical, high and medium priority. These fungal pathogens are ranked in each priority category based on their impact on public health and/or emerging antifungal resistance risk.
- The critical group includes *Candida auris*, which is a highly drug-resistant fungi, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, and *Candida albicans*.
- The high priority group includes a number of other fungi from the *Candida* family as well as others such as *Mucorales*, a group containing "black fungus", an infection which rose rapidly in seriously ill people, particularly in India, during Covid-19.
- The medium priority group lists a number of other fungi, including *Coccidioides* spp and *Cryptococcus gattii*.

7- (a)

- Every year October 31 is dedicated to observing the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Sardar Vallabhbhai was the first Home Minister of our country who played a vital role in forming states by bringing the princely states together under the

Union of India. Therefore, he is denoted as the 'Iron Man of India.' This year marks the 147th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The reason behind the celebration of this day is to make people aware of the ideas of staying together and uplifting society.

- National Unity Day is celebrated on October 31, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who served as the first Home Minister of India after Independence.

8- (b)

- This is considered a gift from Lord Buddha to the people of the Sravasti when he visited the region after enlightenment.
- Grown in 11 districts of the Terai region of northeastern Uttar Pradesh and in Nepal, the traditional variety has been prone to lodging, a reason for its low yield.
- Lodging is a condition in which the top of the plant becomes heavy because of grain formation, the stem becomes weak, and the plant falls on the ground.
- Addressing the problem, the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) has successfully developed two dwarf

varieties of Kalanamak rice. They have been named Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1638 and Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1652.

- The traditional Kalanamak rice is protected under the Geographical Indication (GI) tag system. It's recorded in the GI application that Lord Budhha gifted Kalanamak paddy to the people of Sravasti so that they remembered him by its fragrance.
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Que-1 Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister had recently inaugurated north India's first hyperscale data center Yotta D1 built at a cost of Rs 5,000 crore and spread over an area of 300,000 square feet at the upcoming Data Centre Park in

- a) Lucknow
 - b) Kanpur
 - c) Ghaziabad
 - d) Greater Noida
-

Que-2 Consider the following statements about DNA, Deoxyribonucleic Acid

- 1- It is the hereditary material in humans and almost all other organisms.
- 2- The information in DNA is stored as a code made up of four chemical bases: adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C), and thymine (T).
- 3- DNA is located only in the cell nucleus.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 What are the laws against black magic and superstition in India?

- 1- In India, there is no central law that exclusively deals with crimes related to witchcraft, superstition, or occult-inspired activities.
- 2- In 2016, MP Raghav Lakhanpal introduced the Prevention of Witch-Hunting Bill in the Lok Sabha, but it wasn't passed.
- 3- The Indian Penal Code (IPC) prescribes punishment for related crimes like abduction and murder, but not for harming others via furthering superstitious and outdated beliefs.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 With reference to Glyphosate, recently restricted by Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Consider the following statements

- 1- A widely used pesticide.
- 2- Glyphosate use causes health hazards and risk to people and animals.
- 3- In India, glyphosate has been approved for use only in tea plantations and non-plantation areas accompanying the tea crop.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements about IMT TRILAT Exercise

1- A joint maritime exercise among the Indian, Mozambique and Tanzania.

2- The first edition of Trilateral Exercise was recently commenced at Visakhapatnam, India..

3- The exercise has three broad objectives: capability development to address common threats through training and sharing of best practices, enhancing interoperability, and strengthening maritime cooperation.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Why is capital adequacy important for a bank?

1- Capital adequacy ratio is an indicator of the ability of a bank to survive as a going business entity in case it suffers significant losses on its loan book.

2- A bank cannot continue to operate if the total value of its assets drops below the

total value of its liabilities as it would wipe out its capital (or net worth) and render the bank insolvent.

3- Banking regulations such as the Basel-III norms try to closely monitor changes in the capital adequacy of banks in order to prevent major bank failures which could have a severe impact on the wider economy.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about Palliative care

1- Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients (adults and children) and their families who are facing problems associated with life-threatening illness.

2- Palliative care involves a range of services delivered only by a family members of a patient.

3- Palliative care is explicitly recognized under the human right to health.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about Bestu Varsh

1- In Gujarat, the New Year which is popularly known as Bestu Varsh is celebrated as part of the five-day Diwali Celebrations.

2- Gujarati New Year, Vikram Samvat 2079 is beginning from this day this year.

3- The day is also called Varsha Pratipada or Padwa.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (d)

2- (a)

- Most DNA is located in the cell nucleus, but a small amount of DNA can also be found in the mitochondria.

3- (c)

- In 2016, MP Raghav Lakhanpal introduced the Prevention of Witch-Hunting Bill in the Lok Sabha, but it wasn't passed. The draft provisions included punishment for accusing or identifying a woman as a witch, use of criminal force against a woman, or torture or humiliation on the pretext of performing witchcraft.
- In the absence of a nationwide legislation, a few States have enacted laws to counter witchcraft and protect women from deadly 'witch-hunting'.
- Bihar was the first State to enact a law to prevent witchcraft, identification of a woman as a witch and "eliminate torture, humiliation and killing of women." The Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act came into force in October 1999. The Act describes a witch as a "woman who has been identified as a witch by someone else, having the power or intention of harming any person through the art of black magic, evil eyes, or "mantras""

and it is deemed that she will cause harm to other people or the community in any manner.

- Jharkhand enacted a similar law in 2001 -- the Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act. The law, however, hasn't been effective. A document on the Jharkhand Police website claims that the passage of the Act "has not adequately prevented the identification and murder of women labelled as witches."
- Chhattisgarh is one of the worst-affected States in terms of witchcraft-related crimes and targeted violence against women. A witch is called a "tonahi" in the State. In 2005 the State enacted the Chhattisgarh Tonahi Pratadna Nivaran Act 2005 along the lines of Bihar and Jharkhand.

4- (d)

- A widely used herbicide.
- Some 35 countries have banned or restricted the use of glyphosate. These include Sri Lanka, Netherlands, France, Colombia, Canada, Israel and Argentina.
- Health impacts of glyphosate range from cancer, reproductive and developmental toxicity to neurotoxicity and immunotoxicity. Symptoms include irritation, swelling,

burning of the skin, oral and nasal discomfort, unpleasant taste and blurred vision.

- In India, glyphosate has been approved for use only in tea plantations and non-plantation areas accompanying the tea crop. Use of the substance anywhere else is illegal.
- However, a 2020 study by PAN India on the state of glyphosate use in the country had worrying findings. Field studies were conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Telangana and West Bengal.

5- (b)

- The first edition of Trilateral Exercise was recently commenced at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

6- (c)

- The capital position of a bank should not be confused with cash held by a bank in its vaults to make good on its commitment to depositors.
- The CRAR, which is a ratio that compares the value of a bank's capital (or net worth) against the value of its various assets weighted according to how risky each asset is, is used to gauge the risk of insolvency faced by a bank. The riskier a type of asset held in a bank's balance sheet, the higher

the weightage given to the value of the asset while calculating the bank's capital adequacy ratio. This causes the capital adequacy ratio of the bank to drop, thus signalling a higher risk of insolvency during crises. In other words, the CRAR tries to gauge the risk posed to the solvency of the bank by the quality or riskiness of the assets on the bank's balance sheet.

7- (b)

- Palliative care involves a range of services delivered by a range of professionals that all have equally important roles to play – including physicians, nursing, support workers, paramedics, pharmacists, physiotherapists and volunteers — in support of the patient and their family.
- Palliative care is explicitly recognized under the human right to health. It should be provided through person-centered and integrated health services that pay special attention to the specific needs and preferences of individuals.
- Palliative care is required for a wide range of diseases. The majority of adults in need of palliative care have chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases (38.5%), cancer (34%), chronic respiratory diseases (10.3%), AIDS (5.7%) and

diabetes (4.6%). Many other conditions may require palliative care, including kidney failure, chronic liver disease, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, neurological disease, dementia, congenital anomalies and drug-resistant tuberculosis.

8- (c)

- Bestu Varas or the Gujarati New Year is celebrated a day after Diwali on the Pratipada Tithi in the month of Kartik.
 - Bestu Varas is of special significance for Gujarati businessmen and traders who start new books of account and close the old ones. These account books are called chopda or bahi-khata. Prayers are offered to Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth, with the hope that the New Year will be prosperous and profitable.
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Que-1 With reference to Morbi district in Gujarat, recently in News, consider the following statements

- 1- This district is flanked by Kutch district in the north, Surendranagar district in the east, Rajkot district in the south, and Jamnagar district in the west.
- 2- Morbi is famous for its ceramic industry.
- 3- The major competition to the Morbi ceramic industry comes only from Middle East countries.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to Machchhu River, recently in News, consider the following statements

- 1- Machchhu is a small river that rises in the Madla Hills.
- 2- It flows 130 km into the Arabian Sea.
- 3- The town of Morbi is situated on the Machchhu River.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 Consider the following statements about Carbon credits

- 1- Carbon credits will help developing countries like India carry out economic activities, while keeping the country's carbon goals in perspective.
- 2- Carbon credits offer a way to reward the industries and other sectors that have developed practices involving technological innovations to reduce emissions and achieve climate targets.
- 3- One carbon credit permit allows only one tonne of carbon dioxide or any other greenhouse gas to be emitted.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

- 1- This is Indian legislation enacted on August 25, 2005.
- 2- The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for four months of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.

3- This act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or un-skilled work to people living below poverty line in rural India.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 With reference to invasive species, consider the following statements

1- An invasive species is an organism that is not indigenous, or native, to a particular area.

2- Invasive species can cause great economic and environmental harm to the new area.

3- Invasive species are capable of causing extinctions of native plants and animals, reducing biodiversity, competing with native organisms for limited resources, and altering habitats.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about The President's Bodyguard

1- The President's Bodyguard (PBG) is the oldest regiment in the Indian Army, having been raised as the Governor-General's Bodyguard (later the Viceroy's Bodyguard) in 1773.

2- During earlier years, the regiment was raised in Calcutta (Kolkata) by the then Governor-General, Warren Hastings.

3- It had an initial strength of 50 handpicked cavalry troopers from the so-called Moghal Horse, which was raised by two local sardars in 1760, and was later augmented by another 50 horsemen.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 President Droupadi Murmu had recently presented the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the President's Bodyguard in a ceremony. Consider the following statements about Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner

1- It has the unique distinction of being the only military unit of the Indian Army that is privileged to carry the President's Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner.

2- Rather than a coat of arms, as was the practice in the colonial era, the monogram of the President appears on the Banner.

3- This distinction was conferred on the President's Bodyguard in 1923 by the then Viceroy, Lord Cuning, on the occasion of the Bodyguard completing 150 years of service.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 With reference to Neanderthals, consider the following statements

1- They are an extinct species or subspecies of archaic humans who lived in Eurasia until about 40,000 years ago.

2- Neanderthals were skilled tool makers, as evidenced by excavated objects such as spears and flint hand axes.

3- Neanderthals evolved in Africa while modern humans - our species, Homo sapiens - were evolving in Europe and Asia.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (a)

- Morbi district was created on August 15, 2013, along with several other new districts. The district has five talukas — Morbi, Maliya, Tankara, Wankaner, and Halvad. Wankaner was previously in Rajkot district, and Halvad was in Surendranagar district.
- This district is flanked by Kutch district in the north, Surendranagar district in the east, Rajkot district in the south, and Jamnagar district in the west.
- Morbi is famous for its ceramic industry. The district is dotted by several hundred ceramic producing factories, mainly medium and small scale units. Around 70 per cent of India's ceramics are produced in Morbi, and ceramic tiles manufactured here are exported to countries in the Middle East, East Asia, and Africa.

2- (b)

- The town of Morbi is situated on the Machchhu River, 35 km from the sea and 60 km from Rajkot. It is the administrative headquarters of the district.
- Machchhu is a small river that rises in the Madla Hills and flows 130 km into the Rann of Kutch. In 1979, a major

tragedy occurred after a dam on the river failed, inundating Morbi town and killing a large number of people — some estimates put the number of dead at 25,000. A Gujarati film called Machchhu was made on the failure of the dam.

3- (c)

- Carbon markets will open up new avenues for organisations that are engaged in developing, trading and consulting carbon credits, while stunting the growth of fossil-fuel generation capacities.
- Carbon credits will help developing countries like India carry out economic activities, while keeping the country's carbon goals in perspective. Last year, the global carbon credits market rose by 164 per cent and is expected to cross \$100 billion by 2030.
- Under the updated nationally determined contributions (NDC), India is committed to reducing the emissions intensity of its gross domestic products by 45 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030 and achieving 50 per cent of its cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources of energy by 2030.

4- (b)

- The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.
- This act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or unskilled work to people living below poverty line in rural India. It attempts to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the country. Roughly one-third of the stipulated work force must be women.
- Adult members of rural households submit their name, age and address with photo to the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat registers households after making enquiry and issues a job card. The job card contains the details of adult member enrolled and his /her photo. Registered person can submit an application for work in writing (for at least fourteen days of continuous work) either to Panchayat or to Programme Officer.
- The Panchayat/Programme officer will accept the valid application and issue dated receipt of application, letter providing work will be sent to the applicant and also displayed at

Panchayat office. The employment will be provided within a radius of 5 km: if it is above 5 km extra wage will be paid.

5- (c)

- Invasive species can harm both the natural resources in an ecosystem as well as threaten human use of these resources.
- An invasive species, *Senna spectabilis*, an exotic tree, has taken over between 800 and 1,200 hectares of the buffer zones of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) in the picturesque Nilgiris hill district.
- Introduced as an ornamental species and for use as firewood from South and Central America, the species has become highly invasive in the Sigur plateau in both the core and buffer zones of the MTR.
- *Senna spectabilis*, along with *Lantana camara*, is among five major invasive weeds that had taken over vast swathes of the Nilgiris, with wattle being the other major invasive species. *Eucalyptus* and pine, though exotic, do not spread as quickly as the other species and are considered easier to manage.

6- (b)

- The President's Bodyguard (PBG) is the oldest regiment in the Indian Army, having been raised as the Governor-General's Bodyguard (later the Viceroy's Bodyguard) in 1773. The regiment was raised in Banaras (Varanasi) by the then Governor-General, Warren Hastings.
- It had an initial strength of 50 handpicked cavalry troopers from the so-called Moghal Horse, which was raised by two local sardars in 1760, and was later augmented by another 50 horsemen.

7- (a)

- As the President of India's own Guard, it has the unique distinction of being the only military unit of the Indian Army that is privileged to carry the President's Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner. This distinction was conferred on the President's Bodyguard in 1923 by the then Viceroy, Lord Reading, on the occasion of the Bodyguard completing 150 years of service. Each succeeding Viceroy, thereafter, presented the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the Bodyguard.
- Every President has continued the practice of honouring the regiment. Rather than a coat of arms, as was the

practice in the colonial era, the monogram of the President appears on the Banner. Dr Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, presented the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the President's Bodyguard on May 14, 1957.

8- (a)

- Neanderthals evolved in Europe and Asia while modern humans - our species, Homo sapiens - were evolving in Africa.
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Que-1 Recently our Prime Minister Narendra had laid the foundation stone for the C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing facility in which city, to be set up by Airbus Defence and Space and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL).

- a) Coimbatore
- b) Vadodara
- c) Jalandhar
- d) Hyderabad

Que-2 What are coronal holes?

- 1- These are regions on the sun's surface from where fast solar wind gushes out into space.
- 2- Because they contain high solar material, they have higher temperatures and thus appear much darker than their surroundings.
- 3- Here, the magnetic field is open to interplanetary space, sending solar material out in a high-speed stream of solar wind.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) had recently conducted India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp with an initiative called 'Niveshak Didi'. Consider the following statements about this

- 1- IPPB, in collaboration with Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the aegis of Ministry of Finance, launched this initiative.
- 2- To promote Financial Literacy 'By the women, for the women', in Srinagar, J&K.
- 3- 'Niveshak Didi' initiative is based on the ideology of women for women as rural area women feel more comfortable to share their queries with a female itself.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about horns of rhinoceroses

- 1- Rhinos have long been hunted for their horns, which are highly valued in some cultures.
- 2- The horns of rhinoceroses may have become smaller over time due to the impact of hunting.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements about United Nations Day

- 1- United Nations Day is celebrated on October 30 every year.
- 2- On this day, the UN Charter was ratified by the majority of signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, and this led to the official establishment of UN.
- 3- The UN, in 1971, also recommended the member states to observe it as a public holiday.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 The United States is considering retrieving older HAWK air defence equipment from storage to send to Ukraine which is facing a heavy barrage of Russian drone-fired and cruise missiles. Consider the following statements about HAWK interceptor missiles

- 1- The HAWK interceptor missiles would be an upgrade to the Stinger missile system, which is a smaller, shorter-range air defence system.

2- HAWK, short for 'Homing All the Warrior Killer'.

3- The HAWK system was the predecessor to the PATRIOT missile defence system that Raytheon built in the 1990s.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 With reference to Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC), consider the following statements

- 1- It is a group of developing countries who organise themselves as a block negotiators in international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.
- 2- They represent more than 50% of the world's population.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about semi-confined unreinforced brick masonry (SC-URBM) technology

1- This can resolve the problem of spread of settlements in earthquake-prone areas with constructions that have been built without following earthquake-preventive building codes.

2- SC-URBM can significantly enhance the energy dissipation capacity and ductility of the retrofitted building without compromising its strength.

3- SC-URBM technology involves embedding of reinforced concrete (RC) bands through the partial thickness of the wall and can be implemented or retrofitted in old buildings.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (b)

- The C-295MW is a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity which will replace the legacy Avro aircraft in the Indian Air Force (IAF) procured in the 1960s. The Request For Proposal (RFP) was issued to global firms in May 2013 and the sole bid by Airbus and TASL was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council in May 2015.
- This is the first time a private sector company would be manufacturing a full aircraft in the country.

2- (b)

- These are regions on the sun's surface from where fast solar wind gushes out into space. Because they contain little solar material, they have lower temperatures and thus appear much darker than their surroundings. Here, the magnetic field is open to interplanetary space, sending solar material out in a high-speed stream of solar wind. Coronal holes can last between a few weeks to months.
- The holes are not a unique phenomenon, appearing throughout the sun's approximately 11-year solar cycle. They can last much longer during solar minimum – a period of time when activity on the Sun is

substantially diminished, according to NASA.

- Coronal holes, which can be seen in ultraviolet light but are typically invisible to our eyes.

3- (d)

- IPPB, in collaboration with Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), launched this initiative.
- As part of launch of 'Niveshak Didi' initiative, IPPB conducted India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp by a newly appointed 'Niveshak Didi'. The Floating Financial Literacy Camp was conducted among the local residents around the world-famous Dal Lake of Srinagar, J&K. Since Shikara is part & parcel of their life, the gathering did take place on multiple Shikaras and the 'Niveshak Didi' held the Financial Literacy session in local Kashmiri language from Shikara itself, thus the whole session was conducted in the waters of Dal Lake.

4- (c)

- The horns of rhinoceroses may have become smaller over time due to the impact of hunting, according to a recent study which used an interesting research approach—

analysing artwork and photographs of the animal spanning more than five centuries.

- Rhinos have long been hunted for their horns, which are highly valued in some cultures. The five surviving rhino species are still threatened by habitat loss and hunting. The study found that the rate of decline in horn length was highest in the critically-endangered Sumatran rhino and lowest in the white rhino of Africa, which is the most commonly found species both in the wild and in captivity. This observation follows patterns seen in other animals, such as tusk size in elephants and horn length in wild sheep, which have been driven down by directional selection due to trophy hunting, the study said.

5- (d)

- United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24 every year.
- The United Nations was founded immediately after the end of World War II. It succeeded the failed League of Nations with the aim of preventing further wars. It is an intergovernmental organisation whose primary role is to maintain world peace and security.
- It plays an important role in developing friendly relations among

countries, achieve international cooperation and be a centre of coordination for nations.

- 50 governments met in San Francisco on 25 April 1945 and started drafting the UN Charter which was adopted on 25th June, 1945. The organisation's objectives are to maintain international peace, protect human rights, deliver humanitarian aid, promote sustainable development, and to uphold international law. The UN had 51 members at the time of its establishment which has now increased to 193 countries.
- The UN has different organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat.
- It also has many different specialised organisations overlooking different sectors. Some of them are: the World Bank, the World Health Organisation, Unesco, Unicef, the World Food Programme.

6- (b)

- HAWK, short for 'Homing All the Way Killer', entered service with the US Army in 1959, during the Vietnam war. It underwent upgrades over the decades that followed, including a

major one in 1971 that produced the so-called I-HAWK (or improved HAWK), with a kill probability of 85%.

- The HAWK system was the predecessor to the PATRIOT missile defence system that Raytheon built in the 1990s. US forces largely stopped using HAWK from the early years of the new century. PATRIOT remains off the table for Ukraine

7- (c)

- According to a statement by the Chinese diplomat Sha Zukang in 2005, the member countries of the Like Minded Group are Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

8- (c)

- Historically, most buildings, technically called unreinforced masonry (URM), were not built using modern building codes. Thus they are much more likely to experience damage or collapse during an earthquake. URM buildings have traditionally been widely adopted worldwide due to inexpensive and locally available construction materials.

- Just like in most developing countries located in earthquake-prone regions unreinforced brick masonry (URBM) has been a common practice in urban, semi-urban, and rural areas of India. Considering that major parts of India are under seismic zone III or above and most of the URBM buildings are old and structurally deficient, strengthening of URBM buildings located in earthquake-prone areas is extremely important.
- Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, have explored the extent to which retrofitting old buildings with SC-URBM technology can solve the problem. They found that SC-URBM can significantly enhance the energy dissipation capacity and ductility of the retrofitted building without compromising its strength. Hence such buildings would have resulting superior performance in comparison to URBM buildings during earthquakes.
- The idea of the technology emerged from confined masonry, an earthquake-resistant construction system where the masonry walls are built first, and the concrete columns and beams are poured in afterward to enclose (confine) the wall. SC-URBM technology has a similar concept but does not need to be implemented at

the construction stage. It involves embedding of reinforced concrete (RC) bands through the partial thickness of the wall and can be implemented or retrofitted in old buildings.

Que-1 Consider the following statements about The International Day for Biosphere Reserves

1- November 3 is the first 'The International Day for Biosphere Reserves', celebrated beginning 2022.

2- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was formed in 1971, as a backbone for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and living in harmony with nature.

3- Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka do not have biospheres as yet.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to Biological weapons, consider the following statements

1- Biological weapons disseminate disease-causing organisms or toxins to harm or kill humans, animals or plants.

2- Biological agents like anthrax, botulinum toxin and plague can pose a difficult public health challenge causing large numbers of deaths in a short amount of time.

3- The 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) bans the development,

production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological weapons.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 With reference to National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), consider the following statements

1- It is an Indian constitutional body.

2- This was established through Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003.

3- The Commission comprises a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and three full-time Members (including one female Member) and the term of all the Members of the Commission is four years from the date of assumption of charge.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 When does conviction attract disqualification from State's Legislative Assembly?

1- Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, contains provisions aimed at decriminalising electoral politics.

2- A sentence of at least three years in prison is needed to incur such disqualification.

3- If the punishment is a fine, the six-year period will run from the date of conviction, but if there is a prison sentence, the disqualification will begin on the date of conviction, and will continue up to the completion of six years after the date of release from jail.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements about disqualification of legislature from State's Legislative Assembly be removed

1- The Supreme Court has the power only to stay the sentence, but not the conviction of a person.

2- Under Sec. 11 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, the EC may record reasons and either remove, or reduce the period of, a person's disqualification.

3- Under Section 8(4) of the RPA, legislators could avoid immediate disqualification until 2013.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about Rainbow

1- A rainbow is a common atmospheric optical phenomenon.

2- It is a multicoloured arc in the sky that results when water droplets refract sunlight.

3- Sunlight and rainfall are essential ingredients for rainbows.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 With reference to Cordy gold nanoparticles (Cor-AuNPs), recently in News, consider the following statements

1- They are derived from the synthesis of the extracts of Cordyceps militaris and gold salts.

2- They could make drug delivery in the human body faster and surer.

3- This has earned an international patent from France.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 How does a satellite phone work?

1- Satellite connectivity relies on satellites — rather than cell phone towers, which provide connectivity to regular cell phones.

2- Satellite phones work only in remote areas where there are no cell phone towers and therefore, no cellular connectivity.

3- Satellite (or sat) phones usually cover most of the planet with fairly robust connectivity.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (a)

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal do not have biospheres as yet.
- There are now 738 properties in 134 countries, including 12 in India, four in Sri Lanka, and three in the Maldives.
- The 'South and Central Asia MAB Reserve' Networking Meeting (where MAB stands Man and the Biosphere) is planned for 2023, to advance biosphere reserve establishment, and management.
- An expert mission has been planned for spring 2023 — to Bhutan, India's north-east and the Sundarbans in Bangladesh.

2- (c)

- Biological agents like anthrax, botulinum toxin and plague can pose a difficult public health challenge causing large numbers of deaths in a short amount of time. Biological agents which are capable of secondary transmission can lead to epidemics. An attack involving a biological agent may mimic a natural event, which may complicate the public health assessment and response. In case of war and conflict, high-threat pathogens laboratories

can be targeted, which might lead to serious public health consequences.

3- (a)

- The Commission comprises a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and three full-time Members (including one female Member) and the term of all the Members of the Commission is three years from the date of assumption of charge.
- On the 89th Amendment of the Constitution coming into force on 19 February 2004, the National Commission for scheduled Tribes has been set up under Article 338A on bifurcation of erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to oversee the implementation of various safeguards provided to Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution.

4- (b)

- Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, contains provisions aimed at decriminalising electoral politics. There are two categories of criminal cases that attract disqualification upon conviction. In the first category are offences that entail disqualification for a period of six years upon any conviction. If the punishment is a fine, the six-year period will run from the

date of conviction, but if there is a prison sentence, the disqualification will begin on the date of conviction, and will continue up to the completion of six years after the date of release from jail.

- Major IPC offences are included under this head: making speeches that cause enmity between groups (Sec.153A) and doing so in a place of worship (Sec.505), bribery and personation during elections and other electoral offences, offences relating to rape and cruelty to women by husband and latter's relatives. Besides, serious provisions of special laws such as the Protection of Civil Rights Act, Customs Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act etc are among the category of offences that entail disqualification regardless of the quantum of punishment. Laws for prevention of Sati, corruption, terrorism and insult to national flag and national anthem etc are also part of this group. All other criminal provisions form a separate category under which mere conviction will not entail disqualification. A sentence of at least two years in prison is needed to incur such disqualification.

5- (d)

- Under Section 8(4) of the RPA, legislators could avoid immediate disqualification until 2013. The provision said that with respect to a Member of Parliament or a State legislator the disqualification will not take effect for three months. If within that period, the convicted legislator files an appeal or revision application, it will not take effect until the disposal of the appeal or application. In other words, the mere filing of an appeal against conviction will operate as a stay against disqualification. In *Lily Thomas vs. Union of India*, the Supreme Court struck down clause (4) as unconstitutional, thus removing the protection enjoyed by lawmakers.
- The Supreme Court has the power to stay not only the sentence, but also the conviction of a person. In some rare cases, conviction has been stayed to enable the appellant to contest an election. However, the SC has made it clear that such a stay should be very rare and for special reasons. The RPA itself provides a remedy through the Election Commission. Under Sec. 11 of the Act, the EC may record reasons and either remove, or reduce the period of, a person's disqualification. The EC exercised this power for Sikkim Chief Minister P.S. Tamang, who served a one-year sentence for

corruption, and reduced his disqualification so as to contest a byelection and remain in office.

6- (c)

- By the next century, parts of the world may see a lot more rainbows, including some African countries and India.
- Changes in cloud cover and liquid precipitation due to increased greenhouse gas emissions are projected to lead to a net increase in mean global annual rainbow days, a new study has found.

7- (a)

- Cordy gold nanoparticles (Cor-AuNPs), the outcome of a collaborative experiment by scientists from four Indian institutions, has earned an international patent from Germany. These nanoparticles, derived from the synthesis of the extracts of *Cordyceps militaris* and gold salts, could make drug delivery in the human body faster and surer.
- *Cordyceps militaris* is a high value parasitic fungus, lab-grown at the Department of Biotechnology's Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) in Bodoland University, one of the collaborators of the patented research work. Gold salts are ionic

chemical compounds of gold generally used in medicine.

- Penetration in the cells is more when the drug particles are smaller. Cordyceps militaris, called super mushroom because of its tremendous medicinal properties, adds bioactive components to the synthesis of gold nanoparticles for better penetration.

8- (b)

- Satellite phones work in remote areas where there are no cell phone towers and therefore, no cellular connectivity.
 - Section 6 of The Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 makes it illegal to possess “any wireless telegraphy apparatus, other than a wireless transmitter, in contravention of the provisions of section 3 [of the Act]”. Section 3 says “no person shall possess wireless telegraphy apparatus” without a licence “save as provided by Section 4”.
 - Section 4 of the Act allows the central government to make rules under the Act to “exempt any person or any class of persons from the provisions of this Act either generally or subject to prescribed conditions, or in respect of specified wireless telegraphy apparatus”.
-

Que-1 With reference to Adaptation Gap Report, released recently, consider the following statements

- 1- Released by International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- 2- International adaptation finance flows are five-10 times lower than required and this gap continues to grow.
- 3- The best way was to link actions on mitigation and adaptation in terms of planning, financing and implementation, which would provide co-benefits.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to SEWA, the Self Employed Women's Association, consider the following statements

- 1- Set up by Ela Bhatt in 1972.
- 2- Responsible for the creation of a truly effective employment support programme for women who are among the country's poorest and most marginalised.
- 3- SEWA was born out of the Agricultural Labour Association (ALA) — founded by Anasuya Sarabhai and Mahatma Gandhi in 1920.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 With reference to Mauna Loa, consider the following statements

- 1- Mauna Loa is one of five volcanoes that together make up the Big Island of Hawaii, which is the southernmost island in the Hawaiian archipelago.
- 2- The tallest active volcano in the world.
- 3- It sits immediately north of Kilauea volcano.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 According to the recently released report of Unified District Information System for Education Plus report on school education. Consider the following statements

- 1- The report was released by the Ministry of Education.
- 2- The number of children entering pre-primary classes in 2021-2022 saw a further decline, resulting in 30% fewer students in this school section as compared to the pre-COVID period.

3- Enrolment in primary classes, which include classes 1 to 5, also saw a drop for the first time.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements about Child Welfare Police Officer (CWPO)

1- To be appointed in every police station to exclusively deal with children, either as victims or perpetrators.

2- Appointed on an advisory issued by the Supreme Court of India.

3- A Special Juvenile Police Unit in each district and city headed by an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police be established.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about ISRO's RISAT-2 or Radar Imaging Satellite-2

1- It was built by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and successfully launched aboard a PSLV-C12 launch vehicle in 2009.

2- It is designed to monitor India's borders and as part of anti-infiltration and anti-terrorist operations.

3- RISAT-2 was India's first satellite with a synthetic-aperture radar (SAR).

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about Rising Sun Water Sports Championship

1- Organised by the Kolkata-based headquarters of the Army's Eastern Command in collaboration with the Central government at Umiam Lake.

2- This is the first such event in the northeast, known more for white-water rafting on fast-flowing rivers.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 With reference to Tokhü Emong Bird Count (TEBC), recently in News, consider the following statements

- 1- First avian documentation exercise to go beyond Amur falcons undertaking by Ngaland.
- 2- The TEBC is the first of initiatives where the community is encouraged to celebrate the festival with birds.
- 3- The TEBC falls within the Salim Ali Bird Count, a nationwide event conducted by the Bombay Natural History Society.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

- 1- (d)
 - Released by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
 - The report found some progress on adaptation plans from national governments, but they are not backed by finance.
 - A third of the 197 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have incorporated quantified and time-bound targets on adaptation. And 90

per cent of them have considered gender and disadvantaged groups.

- On the other hand, international adaptation finance flows are five-10 times lower than required and this gap continues to grow. Finance for adaptation increased to \$29 billion in 2020 — only four per cent increase over 2019.
- This is when developing countries' estimated annual adaptation needs are \$160-\$340 billion by 2030 and \$315-\$565 billion by 2050.
- The report also highlighted that the best way was to link actions on mitigation and adaptation in terms of planning, financing and implementation, which would provide co-benefits. One example of this could be nature-based solutions.

- 2- (a)
 - SEWA was born out of the Textile Labour Association (TLA) — founded by Anasuya Sarabhai and Mahatma Gandhi in 1920 — but it could not register as a trade union until 1972 because its members did not have an “employer”, and were thus not seen as workers.
- 3- (b)
 - It's not the tallest (that title goes to Mauna Kea) but it's the largest and

makes up about half of the island's land mass. It sits immediately north of Kilauea volcano, which is currently erupting from its summit crater. Kilauea is well-known for a 2018 eruption that destroyed 700 homes and sent rivers of lava spreading across farms and into the ocean. Mauna Loa last erupted 38 years ago.

4- (c)

- The number of children entering pre-primary classes in 2021-2022 saw a further decline, resulting in 30% fewer students in this school section as compared to the pre-COVID period as younger students with less access to remote learning continue to bear the biggest brunt of learning loss during the pandemic.
- Enrolment in primary classes, which include classes 1 to 5, also saw a drop for the first time—falling from 12.20 lakh in 2020-2021 to 12.18 lakh in 2021-2022. However, the total number of students from primary to higher secondary increased by 19 lakh to 25.57 crore.
- Computer facilities were available in 44.75% of schools, while Internet access was available only in 33.9% of schools. However, their availability has improved as compared to pre-Covid when only 38.5% of schools had

computers and 22.3% had Internet facilities.

- The gross enrolment ratio, which compares the enrolment in a specific level of education to the population of the corresponding age group, for the primary section has improved from 101.3% in 2018-2019 to 104.8% in 2021-2022. For secondary classes, it has risen to 79.6% in 2021-22, from 76.9% in 2018-19 and for higher secondary level, it has increased from 50.14% to 57.6%.
- The Gender Parity Index (GPI) of GER, which indicates the representation of girls in school with respect to their population in the corresponding age group, was also found to be favourable to girls with a GPI value of 1.

5- (b)

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has asked the States/Union Territories to appoint a Child Welfare Police Officer (CWPO) in every police station to exclusively deal with children, either as victims or perpetrators.
- Acting on an advisory issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the Home Ministry referred to provisions under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which calls for

designating at least one officer, not below the rank of an Assistant Sub-Inspector, CWPO in every police station.

- The event is a collaboration among the Wokha Forest Division, the Divisional Management Unit of the Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP) and Bird Count India.
-

6- (c)

- RISAT-2 was India's first satellite with a synthetic-aperture radar (SAR). It possess day-night as well as all-weather monitoring capability. Potential applications include tracking hostile ships at sea that are deemed a military threat to India.

7- (b)

- Organised by the Kolkata-based headquarters of the Army's Eastern Command in collaboration with the Meghalaya government at Umiam Lake.

8- (c)

- Nagaland is undertaking the first avian documentation exercise to go beyond Amur falcons, the migratory raptor that put the State on the world birding map.
- The four-day Tokhü Emong Bird Count (TEBC) has been timed with the post-harvest Tokhü Emong festival of the Lothas, the Naga community that dominates Wokha district, arguably the most preferred stopover of the Amur falcons while travelling from East Asia to southern Africa.

Que-1 Consider the following statements about The National Tribal Dance Festival (NTDF)

- 1- It was held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- 2- It is a 3-day festival organised by the Chhattisgarh Tourism Board which will showcase and celebrate the vibrancy of the tribal culture.
- 3- The artistes represented 28 states, 7 union territories, and 10 countries, including Egypt, Russia, New Zealand, Mozambique, and Serbia.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to Governor's appointment and removal, consider the following statements

- 1- Under Article 155 and 156 of the Constitution, a Governor is appointed by the President and holds office "during the pleasure of the President".
- 2- As the President works on the aid and advice of the Prime Minister and the council of ministers, in effect, the Governor cannot be appointed and removed by the central government.

- 3- While the Governor's duties and responsibilities lie in a particular state, there is no provision for impeaching the Governor.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 Consider the following statements about Glaciers

- 1- Fifty UNESCO World Heritage sites are home to glaciers, representing almost 50% of the Earth's total glacierised area.
- 2- Glaciers are currently losing 58 billion tons of ice every year – equivalent to the combined annual water use of France and Spain – and are responsible for nearly 5% of observed global sea-level rise.
- 3- Half of humanity depends directly or indirectly on glaciers as their water source for domestic use, agriculture, and power.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 With reference to recent guidelines issued by Central Govt for rolling out its waste-to-energy programme, consider the following statements

1- It paves the way for companies to produce biogas and bioCNG, and electricity from urban, industrial and agricultural waste and residues.

2- The programme is part of an umbrella scheme, the National Bioenergy Programme, which has an outlay of ₹858 crore for phase-I.

3- NITI Aayog will be the implementing agency for the programme.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 With reference to the National Bioenergy Programme, consider the following statements

1- The National Bioenergy Programme will include the three Sub-schemes: Waste to Energy Programme, Biomass Programme and Biogas Programme.

2- The programme was recommended for implementation in three Phases.

3- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has continued the National

Bioenergy Programme for 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme (IIPDF Scheme)

1- An aim to provide financial assistance in meeting the cost of transaction advisors and consultants engaged in the development of Public-Private Partnership projects.

2- A Central Sector Scheme.

3- This will aid development of quality PPP projects by providing necessary funding support to the project sponsoring authorities, both in the central and state Governments, for creating a shelf of bankable viable PPP projects for achieving the vision of modern infrastructure for the country.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 The Army has approved five Project Sanction Orders (PSOs) for development of niche technology by the Indian industry under Make-II route of defence procurement. Consider the following statements about Make II projects

1- Make II projects are essentially government funded projects.

2- These projects involves design, development and innovative solutions by Indian vendors for development of prototypes.

3- The projects include High Frequency Man Packed Software Defined Radios (HFSDR), drone kill systems, Infantry Training Weapon Simulator (IWTS), Medium Range Precision Kill Systems (MRPKS) and 155mm Terminally Guided Munitions (TGM).

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 With reference to State of Food and Agriculture report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, released recently, consider the following statements

1- The report looked at how automation in our agrifood systems can contribute to achieving sustainable development goals.

2- Japan had more than 400 tractors per 1,000 hectares of arable land, compared with just 0.4 in Ghana in 2005.

3- Agriculture reliant on human and animal power continues to dominate in sub-Saharan Africa, limiting productivity and Sustainable rental mechanisms are key for aiding mechanisation in these regions.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (c)

2- (b)

- As the President works on the aid and advice of the Prime Minister and the council of ministers, in effect, the Governor can be appointed and removed by the central government.

3- (d)

- Fifty UNESCO World Heritage sites are home to glaciers, representing almost 10% of the Earth's total glacierised area. They include the highest (next to Mt Everest), the longest (in Alaska), and the last remaining glaciers in Africa.

- A third of the glaciers on the UNESCO World Heritage list are under threat, regardless of efforts to limit temperature increases, a study conducted by the UN body has found.
- However, the study said, it was still possible to save the other two-thirds, if the rise in global temperatures did not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial era. UNESCO said this would be a major challenge facing delegates at the upcoming COP27.
- They are currently losing 58 billion tons of ice every year – equivalent to the combined annual water use of France and Spain – and are responsible for nearly 5% of observed global sea-level rise. The glaciers under threat are in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America and Oceania, the study said.

4- (a)

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) will be the implementing agency for the programme.
- According to the guidelines, standard central financial assistance for the biogas projects will be ₹25 lakh for 12,000 cubic metre a day. The maximum assistance for a biogas project was pegged at ₹5 crore. The

Centre will provide financial assistance of ₹75 lakh per MW for new biogas plants and ₹50 lakh per MW for existing units.

5- (b)

- The programme was recommended for implementation in two Phases.
- The National Bioenergy Programme will include the three Sub-schemes: Waste to Energy Programme, Biomass Programme and Biogas Programme.
- The Waste to Energy Programme (Programme on Energy from Urban, Industrial and Agricultural Wastes /Residues) will support the setting up of large Biogas, BioCNG and Power plants (excluding MSW (municipal solid waste) to power projects).
- Biomass Programme (Scheme to Support Manufacturing of Briquettes & Pellets and Promotion of Biomass (non-bagasse) based cogeneration in Industries) will support the setting up of pellets and briquettes for use in power generation and non-bagasse-based power generation projects.
- The biogas programme will also support the setting up of family and medium size Biogas in rural areas.

6- (c)

- As a Central Sector Scheme, the India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme (IIPDF Scheme) will aid development of quality PPP projects by providing necessary funding support to the project sponsoring authorities, both in the central and state Governments, for creating a shelf of bankable viable PPP projects for achieving the vision of modern infrastructure for the country.
- Funding under IIPDF Scheme is in addition to the already operational Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure (Viability Gap Funding, or VGF Scheme) notified on December 7, 2020, through which infrastructure projects undertaken through PPP mode that are economically justified but commercially unviable are supported.

also deepen inequalities if it remains inaccessible to small-scale producers and other marginalised groups, said a new report.

- It also offered recommendations to policymakers on how to maximise benefits and minimise risks. The available statistics on the number of tractors per 1,000 hectares of arable land highlighted the unequal regional progress towards mechanisation.
 - High-income countries in North America, Europe and Oceania were highly mechanised by the 1960s. But regions dominated by low-and middle-income countries were less mechanised.
-

7- (d)

- Make II projects are essentially industry funded projects.

8- (c)

- Agricultural automation, which includes anything from tractors to artificial intelligence, play an important role in making food production more efficient and environmentally friendly. But it can

Que-1 As per a new assessment by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), consider the following statements

1- Global mean temperatures for 2022 are currently estimated to be about 1.15 degree Celsius higher than pre-industrial times.

2- This year was likely to end up being the warmest year on record (since 1850).

3- The emissions of methane, which is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide in causing global warming, in fact, increased at the fastest pace ever.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 Consider the following statements about 103rd Constitutional Amendment

1- This provides 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions.

2- Provide reservation to the 'economically weaker sections of the society but excludes the 'poorest of poor' among Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) from its scope.

3- This Amendment only created "a separate class of EWS without affecting the special right of reservation provided to SEBCs, STs, SCs and OBCs".

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 With reference to The Electoral Bond Scheme, consider the following statements

1- The Electoral Bond Scheme was introduced in 2018 as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties.

2- Only those political parties that are registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and which secured not less than 10% of votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, are eligible to receive Electoral Bonds.

3- These bonds shall be available for a period of 10 days each in January, April, July and October, as may be specified by the central government.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 What is the National Population Register (NPR)?

1- The NPR is a database containing a list of all usual residents of the country.

2- It is generated through house-to-house enumeration during the “house-listing” phase of the census, which is held once in 10 years.

3- A usual resident for the purposes of NPR is a person who has resided in a place for one year or more, and intends to reside there for another year or more.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements about a “net zero carbon emission”

1- Mathura-Vrindavan, one of India’s largest pilgrimage centres, aims to become a “net zero carbon emission” tourist destination by 2030.

2- To attain a net zero carbon emission status, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about Xenotransplantation

1- It is the transplantation of living cells, tissues or organs from one species to another.

2- It has the potential to alleviate the critical shortage of organs for transplantation in humans.

3- Xenotransplantation is seen as an alternative to the clinical transplantation of human organs.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 With reference to Black Sea Grain Initiative, consider the following statements

1- The deal, brokered by the United Nations (UN) and Bulgaria.

2- The deal was to provide for a safe maritime humanitarian corridor for Ukrainian exports (particularly for food grains) from three of its key ports, namely, Chornomorsk, Odesa and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi.

3- The central idea was to calm markets by ensuring an adequate supply of grains, thereby limiting food price inflation.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 With reference to Falcon Heavy rocket, consider the following statements

1- It the most powerful rocket in the world today by a factor of two.

2- Developed by SpaceX.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (b)

- The widely acknowledged danger mark for temperature rise is considered to be 1.5 degree Celsius from pre-industrial times, which is the average for the period 1850-1900.
- The warmest year on record so far has been 2016, when the global mean temperatures were measured to be about 1.28 degree Celsius higher than pre-industrial times. This number for 2016 was earlier known to be 1.1 degree Celsius, but recently the WMO revised it upwards after taking into account the measurements of one more international dataset.
- This year was likely to end up being the fifth or sixth warmest year on record (since 1850).

2- (c)

- A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had recently, in a 3:2 majority decision, upheld the validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment which provides 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions to the 'economically weaker sections of the society but excludes the 'poorest of poor' among Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Socially and Educationally

Backward Classes (SEBC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) from its scope.

3- (b)

- Only those political parties that are registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and which secured not less than 1% of votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, are eligible to receive Electoral Bonds.

4- (a)

- A usual resident for the purposes of NPR is a person who has resided in a place for six months or more, and intends to reside there for another six months or more.
- While the census is legally backed by the Census Act, 1948, the NPR is a mechanism outlined in a set of rules framed under the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- Section 14A was inserted in the Citizenship Act, 1955, in 2004, providing for the compulsory registration of every citizen of India and the issue of a “national identity card” to him or her. It also said the Central government may maintain a “National Register of Indian Citizens”.

- The Registrar General India shall act as the “National Registration Authority” (and will function as the Registrar General of Citizen Registration). Incidentally, the Registrar General is also the country’s Census Commissioner.

5- (b)

- The eight key cities of Mathura, Vrindavan, Gokul, Barsana, Baldeo, Gokul, Nandgaon, Govardhan and Mahavan would also be connected through an inland waterways system and a narrow-gauge railway line. The existing 12.9 km narrow gauge railway line connecting the twin cities of Mathura and Vrindavan would be redeveloped, providing pilgrims access to Krishna Janma Bhoomi and Dwarkadhish temple in Mathura, and Banke Bihari and other temples in Vrindavan.
- Mathura-Vrindavan, one of India’s largest pilgrimage centres, aims to become a “net zero carbon emission” tourist destination by 2041.

6- (c)

7- (d)

- The deal, brokered by the United Nations (UN) and Turkey, was signed in Istanbul on July 27 this year. Initially stipulated for a period of 120 days,

with an option to extend or terminate thereafter in November, the deal was to provide for a safe maritime humanitarian corridor for Ukrainian exports (particularly for food grains) from three of its key ports, namely, Chornomorsk, Odesa and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi. The central idea was to calm markets by ensuring an adequate supply of grains, thereby limiting food price inflation.

- Ukraine is among the largest exporters of wheat, maize, rapeseed, sunflower seeds and sunflower oil, globally. Its access to the deep-sea ports in the Black Sea enables it to directly approach Russia and Europe along with grain importers from the Middle East and North Africa. Russia's action in the East European country has now disturbed this route, earlier used to ship 75% of its agricultural exports – precisely what the initiative sought to address.

8- (c)

- Elon Musk-owned SpaceX launched the Falcon Heavy rocket into a geosynchronous Earth orbit from the Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, U.S. This is considered as a National Security Space Launch for the U.S. military. The company hails this as the most powerful operational rocket in the

world. This is the fourth launch of the giant rocket system, and the first one in nearly three years since its last launch in 2019.

- SpaceX claims Falcon Heavy to be the most powerful rocket in the world today by a factor of two. With a lifting capacity of around 64 metric tonnes into orbit, Falcon Heavy can lift more than twice the payload of the next closest operational vehicle, the Delta IV Heavy.
- The rocket is carrying satellites to space for the U.S. military in a mission named as U.S. Space Force (USSF)-44. The mission deployed two spacecraft payloads, one of which is the TETRA 1 microsatellite created for various prototype missions in and around the geosynchronous earth orbit. The other payload is for national defence purposes. It will place the satellites for the Space Systems Command's Innovation and Prototyping.

Que-1 With reference to National Geoscience Awards, consider the following statements

- 1- For contributions in the field of fundamental/applied geosciences, mining, and allied areas.
- 2- The awards, instituted in 1966 and given annually.
- 3- Awards are of five categories.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to Law Commission of India, consider the following statements

- 1- It is a statutory body.
- 2- The Commission's function is to research and advise the Government of India on legal reform, and is composed of legal experts, and headed by a retired judge.
- 3- The commission has no fixed tenure and works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 Consider the following statements about

- 1- The combined tax collection of Centre and states is just 15 per cent of GDP, while the requirement for government spending on public infrastructure, education, healthcare and defence is around 23 per cent of GDP.
- 2- There are three major GST slabs: 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent.
- 3- Some demerit and luxury goods, which are in the 28 per cent bracket, attract additional levy of cesses, the proceeds of which go to separate fund meant to compensate states for revenue shortfall and repayment of compensation related loans.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Recently Researchers have discovered a new species of estuarine crab named Pseudohelice annamalai, consider the following statements

- 1- The species has been named Pseudohelice annamalai in recognition of Annamalai University's 100 years of service in education and research.
- 2- Discovered from the mangroves of Parangipettai near the Vellar River estuary in Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu.

3- Pseudohelice annamalai is distinguished by dark purple to dark grey colouring, with irregular light brown, yellowish brown, or white patches on the posterior carapace with light brown chelipeds.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 The recent lunar eclipse is a blood moon — meaning the moon will have a reddish hue. Consider the following statements about this

- 1- This happens when the moon is within the penumbra.
2- The moon takes on a reddish hue due to a phenomenon called Rayleigh scattering.
3- The moon turns red during the eclipse since the only sunlight reaching it is passing through the earth's atmosphere.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about India's first privately developed launch vehicle

- 1- Hyderabad-based Skyroot's Vikram-S.
2- The mission named 'Aarambh'.
3- This rocket is a single-stage sub-orbital launch vehicle which will carry three customer payloads and help test and validate technologies in the Vikram series space launch vehicles.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 With reference to Miyawaki Forest, recently in News, consider the following statements

- 1- The forest has been developed using the technique pioneered by Chinese botanist Akira Miyawaki.
2- Through the Miyawaki method, a forest can be developed in just two to three years while it takes at least 20 to 30 years through the traditional method.
3- The growth of plants is ten times faster using this method and as a result, the forest developed is thirty times denser.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (a)

Que-8 Consider the following statements about Amur falcon

- 1- The longest-flying migratory bird.
 2- It breeds in south-eastern Siberia and Northern China before migrating in large flocks across India and over the Arabian Sea to winter in Southern and East Africa.
 3- The wide breeding range and large population size of the Amur falcon have led to the species being assessed as being of least concern.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

The National Geoscience Awards are of three categories:

- National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement: Award for Lifetime Achievement (single award) shall be given to an individual with an exceptionally high lifetime achievement for sustained and significant contributions in any of the disciplines mentioned in Clause-2 of NGA Regulation 2022. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 5,00,000/- and a certificate.
- National Geoscience Award: National Geoscience Award (10 Awards) shall be given to individuals or team(s) in recognition of meritorious contribution in any of the disciplines mentioned in Clause-2 of NGA Regulation 2022. Each award carries a cash prize of Rs. 3,00,000/- and a certificate. In the case of a team award, the award money will be equally divided.
- National Young Geoscientist Award: Young Geoscientist Award (single award) shall be given for outstanding research work in any field of geosciences to an individual below 35 years of age as on the 31st December 2021. The award carries a cash prize of

Rs. 1,00,000 plus a research grant of Rs. 5,00,000/- spread over five years subject to satisfactory yearly progress and a certificate.

2- (a)

- It is a currently-defunct executive body established by an order of the Government of India.
- The commission is established for a fixed tenure and works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- The first Law Commission was established during colonial rule in India, by the East India Company under the Charter Act of 1833, and was presided by Lord Macaulay.
- The first Law Commission of independent India was established in 1955 for a three-year term. Since then, twenty one more Commissions have been established.

3- (b)

- There are four major GST slabs: 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent.

4- (c)

- Specimens of *Pseudohelice annamalai* were collected from the high intertidal areas of the Vellar River estuary, Parangipettai, with sediments

composed of mud and sand. The mangroves in the habitats were artificially planted on five hectares along the northern bank of the river, with two distinct zones — *Rhizophora* spp. towards the estuary and *Avicennia* spp. towards the land in the intertidal area. The recent discovery was the first-ever record of this species.

- *Pseudohelice annamalai* is distinguished by dark purple to dark grey colouring, with irregular light brown, yellowish brown, or white patches on the posterior carapace with light brown chelipeds. The new species is small and has a maximum width of up to 20 mm.

5- (d)

- A total lunar eclipse happens when the earth is positioned between the sun and the moon and casts a shadow on the latter. The shadow is categorised into two parts—the umbra, the darkest shadow of the earth that blocks out sunlight completely, and the penumbra, the outermost part of the shadow, where sunlight is blocked out only partially.
- A lunar eclipse can only take place when the orbits of both the earth and the moon are aligned, and the sun and the moon are on opposite ends of the earth.

- The moon takes on a reddish hue due to a phenomenon called Rayleigh scattering, which is the scattering of light by particles in a medium without a change in wavelength. This is also the reason why the sky appears blue.
- The moon turns red during the eclipse since the only sunlight reaching it is passing through the earth's atmosphere. The sunlight scatters due to the dust or clouds in the atmosphere producing the red colour. The more particles in the atmosphere the stronger the colour will be.

6- (b)

- India's first privately developed launch vehicle – Hyderabad-based Skyroot's Vikram-S – is all set to make its maiden flight from the country's only spaceport in Sriharikota between November 12 and 16.
- Marking the beginning of private sector launches, the mission named 'Prarambh' will see Vikram-S carry three customer satellites in a sub-orbital flight.
- Sub-orbital flight, just like the ones undertaken by Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson, are those vehicles which are travelling slower than the orbital velocity – meaning it is fast enough to reach outer space but not fast enough to stay in an orbit around the Earth.

7- (d)

- The forest has been developed using the technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, which helps build dense, native forests in a short span of time.
- Spread over an area of about two acres, the Miyawaki Forest will have the following divisions- A Native Floral Garden; a Timber Garden; a Fruit Garden; a Medicinal Garden; A Miyawaki section of mixed species; Digital Orientation Centre.
- The Maze Garden and the Miyawaki Forest will add to the touristic value of the iconic Statue of Unity.

8- (c)

Que-1 With reference to Greenwashing, recently in News, consider the following statements

1- Greenwashing presents a false picture of the progress being made on the climate change front, thereby pushing the world towards disaster, while at the same time rewarding entities for irresponsible behaviour.

2- Greenwashing is an attempt to capitalize on the growing demand for environmentally sound products.

3- The term originated in the 1960s when the Agriculture related industry devised one of the most blatant examples of greenwashing.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 As per the report — National Compilation on Dynamic Ground Water Resources Of India, 2022, recently released, consider the following statements

1- Annual groundwater extraction for irrigation, domestic and industrial uses has come down in 2022 from 2020.

2- The total annual groundwater recharge for the entire country as of 2022 has increased as compared to the last assessment (2020).

3- About 50% of total annual groundwater extraction is for irrigation use.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 With reference to recently released Sovereign Green Bonds framework, consider the following statements

1- The funds raised through the instrument to be used for projects including renewable energy, supporting electric vehicles and promotion of public transport through its electrification and transport subsidies, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

2- The issue of sovereign green bonds will help the Centre in tapping funds from potential investors for deployment in public sector projects aimed at reducing the carbon intensity of the economy.

3- The framework has been reviewed by CICERO.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about Earthquake

1- An earthquake is what happens when two blocks of the earth suddenly slip past one another.

2- The location below the earth's surface where the earthquake starts is called the epicenter, and the location directly above it on the surface of the earth is called the hypocenter.

3- Earthquakes are recorded by instruments called seismographs.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 With reference to Carbon sequestration, consider the following statements

1- Carbon sequestration is the process of storing carbon in a carbon pool.

2- Carbon sequestration describes long-term storage of carbon dioxide or other forms of carbon to either mitigate or defer global warming and avoid dangerous climate change.

3- It has been proposed as a way to slow the atmospheric and marine accumulation of greenhouse gases, which are released by

burning fossil fuels and industrial livestock production.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 What are the terms of the POCSO Act?

1- Whoever commits a penetrative sexual assault on a child — anyone below 18 years of age — can be “imprisoned for a term which is not less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine.”

2- If the girl is 16 years old, she is not considered a “child” under the POCSO Act and hence her consent matters, but any sexual intercourse is treated as rape.

3- Often, the offender had been booked under Section 366 of the IPC, Section 6 of the POCSO Act and Section 9 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has begun field studies to put in place an early-warning system in the Himalayan States. Consider the following statements about an early-warning system

1- Against major and sudden floods, rockslides, landslips, Glacier Lake bursts and avalanches.

2- The objective is to closely monitor the river flows in specific areas along the catchment to detect any sudden rise in water levels or flooding threshold that can lead to a hazard.

3- These instruments are crucial for the safety of large infrastructure projects and hydroelectric power plants in this region.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 The Union Cabinet had recently approved the new guidelines for uplinking and downlinking of television channels in India. Consider the following statements about this

1- Under which all the stations holding permission — except for the foreign channels and where it may not be feasible, -
- would have to broadcast contents on issues

of national importance and social relevance for at least 30 minutes every day.

2- The provision has been introduced as “airwaves/frequencies are public property and need to be used in the best interest of the society”.

3- There are five listed themes for this.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

3- (c)

1- (a)

- The term originated in the 1960s when the hotel industry devised one of the most blatant examples of greenwashing. They placed notices in hotel rooms asking guests to reuse their towels to save the environment. The hotels enjoyed the benefit of lower laundry costs.

2- (a)

- About 87% of total annual groundwater extraction i.e. 208.49 bcm is for irrigation use. Only 30.69 bcm is for domestic and industrial use, which is about 13% of the total extraction.
- The decrease in annual groundwater extraction for irrigation, domestic and industrial uses is broadly in line with the similar decline in previous assessments. In fact, the annual groundwater extraction has seen a decline since 2017 when it came down 249 bcm from a record high of 253 bcm in 2013. Before 2013, the figure of annual groundwater extraction had seen an upward trend: 231 bcm in 2004, 243 bcm in 2009 and 245 in 2013.

- Green bonds are financial instruments that generate proceeds for investment in environmentally sustainable and climate-suitable projects. They command a relatively lower cost of capital, compared to regular bonds and necessitate credibility and commitments associated with the process of raising bonds. The issue of sovereign green bonds will help the Centre in tapping funds from potential investors for deployment in public sector projects aimed at reducing the carbon intensity of the economy.

- The document made it clear that equity will be provided only in the case of metro projects, and green spending will include investment, subsidies, grants-in-aid or tax foregone, including their combination.

- The framework has been reviewed by CICERO, an independent Norway-based second party opinion provider, with an annual third-party review planned. CICERO has rated India's green bonds framework as "medium green" with a good governance score

4- (b)

- The location below the earth's surface where the earthquake starts is called

the hypocenter, and the location directly above it on the surface of the earth is called the epicenter.

- While the edges of faults are stuck together, and the rest of the block is moving, the energy that would normally cause the blocks to slide past one another is being stored up. When the force of the moving blocks finally overcomes the friction of the jagged edges of the fault and it unsticks, all that stored up energy is released. The energy radiates outward from the fault in all directions in the form of seismic waves like ripples on a pond. The seismic waves shake the earth as they move through it, and when the waves reach the earth's surface, they shake the ground and anything on it, like our houses and us!
- The size of the earthquake is called its magnitude. There is one magnitude for each earthquake. Scientists also talk about the intensity of shaking from an earthquake, and this varies depending on where you are during the earthquake.

5- (c)

- Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. The researchers also evaluated improved management practices such as biochar, need-based fertiliser, and irrigation.

- Biochar is a charcoal-like substance that burns organic material (biomass) from agricultural and forestry wastes in a controlled process called pyrolysis. Although it looks much like ordinary charcoal, biochar has safely reduced contamination and stored carbon.
- The carbon sequestration increased by more than 300 per cent in combination with fertiliser, biochar, and irrigation. The study is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13: Climate Action) which is on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

6- (b)

- Under the POCSO Act, 2012, and under several provisions of the IPC, whoever commits a penetrative sexual assault on a child — anyone below 18 years of age — can be “imprisoned for a term which is not less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to [a] fine.”
- Even if the girl is 16 years old, she is considered a “child” under the POCSO Act and hence her consent does not matter, and any sexual intercourse is treated as rape, thus opening it up to stringent punishment. There have been several instances in the past few years when the courts have quashed

criminal proceedings of rape and kidnapping, after being convinced that the law was being misused to suit one or the other party. Often, the offender had been booked under Section 366 of the IPC, Section 6 of the POCSO Act and Section 9 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

7- (c)

- These instruments are crucial for the safety of large infrastructure projects and hydroelectric power plants in this region. Currently, scientists are able to detect and assess a sudden flow 30-40 km away since the seismic wave is faster than the flow, and hence, the advance warning comes at least half an hour before.
- The challenge is to sustain these observations in higher altitudes as communication of real data is a problem due to heavy snow cover and lack of mobile towers.

8- (a)

- The provision has been introduced as “airwaves/frequencies are public property and need to be used in the best interest of the society”. The eight listed themes include education and spread of literacy; agriculture and rural development; health and family welfare; science and technology;

welfare of women; welfare of the weaker sections of society; protection of environment and of cultural heritage; and national integration.

- The consolidated guidelines exempt the channels including those related to sports, where it would not be feasible to broadcast such content. As and when required, the Centre would issue general advisories to the channels in this regard.

Que-1 With reference to Greenwashing, recently in News, consider the following statements

1- Greenwashing presents a false picture of the progress being made on the climate change front, thereby pushing the world towards disaster, while at the same time rewarding entities for irresponsible behaviour.

2- Greenwashing is an attempt to capitalize on the growing demand for environmentally sound products.

3- The term originated in the 1960s when the Agriculture related industry devised one of the most blatant examples of greenwashing.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 As per the report — National Compilation on Dynamic Ground Water Resources Of India, 2022, recently released, consider the following statements

1- Annual groundwater extraction for irrigation, domestic and industrial uses has come down in 2022 from 2020.

2- The total annual groundwater recharge for the entire country as of 2022 has increased as compared to the last assessment (2020).

3- About 50% of total annual groundwater extraction is for irrigation use.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 With reference to recently released Sovereign Green Bonds framework, consider the following statements

1- The funds raised through the instrument to be used for projects including renewable energy, supporting electric vehicles and promotion of public transport through its electrification and transport subsidies, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

2- The issue of sovereign green bonds will help the Centre in tapping funds from potential investors for deployment in public sector projects aimed at reducing the carbon intensity of the economy.

3- The framework has been reviewed by CICERO.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about Earthquake

1- An earthquake is what happens when two blocks of the earth suddenly slip past one another.

2- The location below the earth's surface where the earthquake starts is called the epicenter, and the location directly above it on the surface of the earth is called the hypocenter.

3- Earthquakes are recorded by instruments called seismographs.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 With reference to Carbon sequestration, consider the following statements

1- Carbon sequestration is the process of storing carbon in a carbon pool.

2- Carbon sequestration describes long-term storage of carbon dioxide or other forms of carbon to either mitigate or defer global warming and avoid dangerous climate change.

3- It has been proposed as a way to slow the atmospheric and marine accumulation of greenhouse gases, which are released by

burning fossil fuels and industrial livestock production.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 What are the terms of the POCSO Act?

1- Whoever commits a penetrative sexual assault on a child — anyone below 18 years of age — can be “imprisoned for a term which is not less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine.”

2- If the girl is 16 years old, she is not considered a “child” under the POCSO Act and hence her consent matters, but any sexual intercourse is treated as rape.

3- Often, the offender had been booked under Section 366 of the IPC, Section 6 of the POCSO Act and Section 9 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has begun field studies to put in place an early-warning system in the Himalayan States. Consider the following statements about an early-warning system

1- Against major and sudden floods, rockslides, landslips, Glacier Lake bursts and avalanches.

2- The objective is to closely monitor the river flows in specific areas along the catchment to detect any sudden rise in water levels or flooding threshold that can lead to a hazard.

3- These instruments are crucial for the safety of large infrastructure projects and hydroelectric power plants in this region.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 The Union Cabinet had recently approved the new guidelines for uplinking and downlinking of television channels in India. Consider the following statements about this

1- Under which all the stations holding permission — except for the foreign channels and where it may not be feasible, -
- would have to broadcast contents on issues

of national importance and social relevance for at least 30 minutes every day.

2- The provision has been introduced as “airwaves/frequencies are public property and need to be used in the best interest of the society”.

3- There are five listed themes for this.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

3- (c)

1- (a)

- The term originated in the 1960s when the hotel industry devised one of the most blatant examples of greenwashing. They placed notices in hotel rooms asking guests to reuse their towels to save the environment. The hotels enjoyed the benefit of lower laundry costs.

2- (a)

- About 87% of total annual groundwater extraction i.e. 208.49 bcm is for irrigation use. Only 30.69 bcm is for domestic and industrial use, which is about 13% of the total extraction.
- The decrease in annual groundwater extraction for irrigation, domestic and industrial uses is broadly in line with the similar decline in previous assessments. In fact, the annual groundwater extraction has seen a decline since 2017 when it came down 249 bcm from a record high of 253 bcm in 2013. Before 2013, the figure of annual groundwater extraction had seen an upward trend: 231 bcm in 2004, 243 bcm in 2009 and 245 in 2013.

- Green bonds are financial instruments that generate proceeds for investment in environmentally sustainable and climate-suitable projects. They command a relatively lower cost of capital, compared to regular bonds and necessitate credibility and commitments associated with the process of raising bonds. The issue of sovereign green bonds will help the Centre in tapping funds from potential investors for deployment in public sector projects aimed at reducing the carbon intensity of the economy.

- The document made it clear that equity will be provided only in the case of metro projects, and green spending will include investment, subsidies, grants-in-aid or tax foregone, including their combination.

- The framework has been reviewed by CICERO, an independent Norway-based second party opinion provider, with an annual third-party review planned. CICERO has rated India's green bonds framework as "medium green" with a good governance score

4- (b)

- The location below the earth's surface where the earthquake starts is called

the hypocenter, and the location directly above it on the surface of the earth is called the epicenter.

- While the edges of faults are stuck together, and the rest of the block is moving, the energy that would normally cause the blocks to slide past one another is being stored up. When the force of the moving blocks finally overcomes the friction of the jagged edges of the fault and it unsticks, all that stored up energy is released. The energy radiates outward from the fault in all directions in the form of seismic waves like ripples on a pond. The seismic waves shake the earth as they move through it, and when the waves reach the earth's surface, they shake the ground and anything on it, like our houses and us!
- The size of the earthquake is called its magnitude. There is one magnitude for each earthquake. Scientists also talk about the intensity of shaking from an earthquake, and this varies depending on where you are during the earthquake.

5- (c)

- Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. The researchers also evaluated improved management practices such as biochar, need-based fertiliser, and irrigation.

- Biochar is a charcoal-like substance that burns organic material (biomass) from agricultural and forestry wastes in a controlled process called pyrolysis. Although it looks much like ordinary charcoal, biochar has safely reduced contamination and stored carbon.
- The carbon sequestration increased by more than 300 per cent in combination with fertiliser, biochar, and irrigation. The study is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13: Climate Action) which is on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

6- (b)

- Under the POCSO Act, 2012, and under several provisions of the IPC, whoever commits a penetrative sexual assault on a child — anyone below 18 years of age — can be “imprisoned for a term which is not less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to [a] fine.”
- Even if the girl is 16 years old, she is considered a “child” under the POCSO Act and hence her consent does not matter, and any sexual intercourse is treated as rape, thus opening it up to stringent punishment. There have been several instances in the past few years when the courts have quashed

criminal proceedings of rape and kidnapping, after being convinced that the law was being misused to suit one or the other party. Often, the offender had been booked under Section 366 of the IPC, Section 6 of the POCSO Act and Section 9 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

7- (c)

- These instruments are crucial for the safety of large infrastructure projects and hydroelectric power plants in this region. Currently, scientists are able to detect and assess a sudden flow 30-40 km away since the seismic wave is faster than the flow, and hence, the advance warning comes at least half an hour before.
- The challenge is to sustain these observations in higher altitudes as communication of real data is a problem due to heavy snow cover and lack of mobile towers.

8- (a)

- The provision has been introduced as “airwaves/frequencies are public property and need to be used in the best interest of the society”. The eight listed themes include education and spread of literacy; agriculture and rural development; health and family welfare; science and technology;

welfare of women; welfare of the weaker sections of society; protection of environment and of cultural heritage; and national integration.

- The consolidated guidelines exempt the channels including those related to sports, where it would not be feasible to broadcast such content. As and when required, the Centre would issue general advisories to the channels in this regard.

Que-1 With reference to Mangrove Alliance for Climate, consider the following statements

1- At the 27th Session of Conference of Parties (COP27), the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) was launched with India as a partner.

2- An initiative led by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar.

3- It seeks to educate and spread awareness worldwide on the role of mangroves in curbing global warming and its potential as a solution for climate change.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 Consider the following statements about Mangroves

1- Mangrove forests — consisting of trees and shrub that live in intertidal water in coastal areas — host diverse marine life.

2- They support a rich food web, with molluscs and algae-filled substrate acting as a breeding ground for small fish, mud crabs and shrimps, thus providing a livelihood to local artisanal fishers.

3- They act as effective carbon stores, holding up to ten times the amount of carbon as other forested ecosystems.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 With reference to Current state of the mangroves, consider the following statements

1- South Asia houses some of the most extensive areas of mangroves globally, while Maldives hosts one-fifth of the overall amount.

2- India holds around 3 percent of South Asia's mangrove population.

3- Between 2010 and 2020, around 600 sq km of mangroves were lost of which more than 62% was due to direct human impacts.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about Eat Right Station' certification

1- The "Eat Right Station" certification is awarded by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

2- Awarded to the railway stations that set benchmarks (as per the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006) in providing safe and wholesome food to passengers.

3- Ghaziabad junction station has been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certificate by FSSAI and has become the first railway station of Uttar Pradesh and third station of NCR to have attained this status.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 With reference to Vice-Chancellor selection, consider the following statements

- 1- Vice-Chancellor should have a minimum teaching experience of 20 years as a professor in a university.
2- His or her name should be recommended by a search-cum-selection committee.
3- Section 10(3) of the University Act, 2019 provided that the committee should prepare a list of three persons for appointment as VC based on their qualification and eligibility.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Prime Minister had recently unveiled a 108-foot tall bronze statue of 'Nadaprabhu' Kempegowda in Bengaluru. Consider the following statements about 'Nadaprabhu' Kempegowda

- 1- Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, a 16th century chieftain of the Vijayanagara Empire, is credited as the founder of Bengaluru.
2- Kempegowda is also known to have developed around 1,000 lakes in the city to cater to drinking and agricultural needs.
3- He was from the dominant agricultural Lingayats community in south Karnataka.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about Sedition Law in India

- 1- The first known instance of the application of the law was the trial of newspaper editor Subhash Chandra Bose in 1891.
2- In 1922, Gandhi was arrested on charges of sedition in Bombay for taking part in protests against the colonial government.
3- In the landmark case of 1962, Kedar Nath versus Union of India, the Supreme

Court upheld the constitutional validity of the sedition law while trying to curtail its misuse.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 With reference to aceclofenac, consider the following statements

1- Aceclofenac was rapidly converted to diclofenac while injecting the water buffaloes.

2- Aceclofenac is a pro-drug of diclofenac and behaves similarly in domestic water buffalo as it does in domestic cattle, posing the same risk to vultures.

3- Vulture Action Plan 2020-2025 also mentions the drug as 'toxic'.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (b)

- An initiative led by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Indonesia, the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) includes India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Japan, and Spain.

2- (a)

- They act as effective carbon stores, holding up to four times the amount of carbon as other forested ecosystems.
- Mangrove forests capture vast amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and their preservation can both aid in removal of carbon from the atmosphere and prevent the release of the same upon their destruction.

3- (d)

- South Asia houses some of the most extensive areas of mangroves globally, while Indonesia hosts one-fifth of the overall amount.
- India holds around 3 percent of South Asia's mangrove population. Besides the Sundarbans in West Bengal, the Andamans region, the Kachchh and Jamnagar areas in Gujarat too have substantial mangrove cover.

- However, infrastructure projects — industrial expansion and building of roads and railways, and natural processes — shifting coastlines, coastal erosion and storms, have resulted in a significant decrease in mangrove habitats.
- 4- (a)
- FSSAI is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The stations are awarded a certificate upon a conclusion of an FSSAI-empowered third-party audit agency.
 - Prayagraj junction station has been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certificate by FSSAI and has become the first railway station of Uttar Pradesh and third station of NCR to have attained this status. The earlier two were Gwalior and Dabra railway stations.
 - First, the cleanliness with which the food is to be prepared in the canteen, the water in which the food items are being washed, were all sampled. Where there were flaws, they were corrected. After this, the method of serving food was scrutinised in the second phase. Its flaws too were rectified. In the third phase, information about stall and packing was checked and corrected to ensure full transparency.
- 5- (d)
- Vice-Chancellor should have a minimum teaching experience of 10 years as a professor in a university.
- 6- (a)
- Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, a 16th century chieftain of the Vijayanagara empire, is credited as the founder of Bengaluru. It is said that he conceived the idea of a new city while hunting with his minister, and later marked its territory by erecting towers in four corners of the proposed city.
 - Kempegowda is also known to have developed around 1,000 lakes in the city to cater to drinking and agricultural needs.
 - He was from the dominant agricultural Vokkaliga community in south Karnataka.
- 7- (d)
- The first known instance of the application of the law was the trial of newspaper editor Jogendra Chandra Bose in 1891.

8- (c)

- Diclofenac — an anti-inflammatory drug — was banned for veterinary use by the Government of India in 2006. It was found to be the main cause of a dramatic decline (99 per cent) of the vulture population across Asia.
 - The drug caused accidental poisoning in raptors after they fed on carcasses of cattle injected with it. Aceclofenac in water buffaloes poses the same threat to vultures as it is a pro-drug of diclofenac.
 - The researchers gave the recommended dose of aceclofenac to nine domestic water buffaloes. They collected blood samples at intervals of up to 48 hours. And carried out an analysis of aceclofenac and its metabolite diclofenac in their plasma.
 - It found that aceclofenac was rapidly converted to diclofenac in the water buffaloes too. Diclofenac was present in the plasma within 20 minutes of the treatment. The concentration reached its peak between four and eight hours.
-

Que-1 With reference to Methane, consider the following statements

1- Methane Alert and Response System, or MARS will integrate data from a large number of existing and future satellites that have the ability to detect methane emission events anywhere in the world.

2- Methane is the most common of the six major greenhouse gases but is far less dangerous than carbon dioxide in its potential to cause global warming.

3- Accounting for about 17 per cent of the current global greenhouse gas emissions, methane is blamed for having caused at least 25 to 30 per cent of temperature rise since the pre-industrial times.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 Consider the following statements about

1- Diarrhoeal disease is the second leading cause of death in children under five years old.

2- A significant proportion of diarrhoeal disease can be prevented through safe drinking-water and adequate sanitation and hygiene.

3- Children who are malnourished or have impaired immunity as well as people living with HIV are most at risk of life-threatening diarrhoea.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 Consider the following statements about 19th ASEAN-India summit

1- Held in Manila, Philippines.

2- The delegations declared the establishment of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and reaffirmed the importance of “freedom of navigation and overflight” in the strategically important region.

3- Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the space sector including “through the establishment of Tracking, Data reception and Processing Stations in VietNam and Indonesia”.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 With reference to Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), consider the following statements

1- Prescribed by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

2- It is an area of the sea in which a sovereign state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources, including energy production from water and wind.

3- It stretches from the outer limit of the territorial sea (12 nautical miles from the baseline) out to 2000 nautical miles (nmi) from the coast of the state in question.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 With reference to Dengue, consider the following statements

1- Dengue spreads through the bite of two mosquitoes — Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus.

2- Dengue transmission is closely associated with three key factors — rainfall, humidity and temperature — which dictate the geographies in which dengue spreads and the transmission rate.

3- Aedes eggs can remain dormant for more than a year and will hatch once they come in contact with water.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 With reference to Afzal Khan, consider the following statements

1- Afzal Khan was a general who served the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur Sultanate.

2- He played an important role in the southern expansion of the Bijapur Sultanate by subjugating the Nayaka chiefs who had taken control of the former Vijayanagara territory.

3- He was killed at a truce negotiation meeting with Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and his army was defeated at the Battle of Panipat.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about India Water Week

1- The theme of the 7th India Water Week is Water Security for Sustainable Development and Equity.

2- This will address the issues of sustainability of water resources development and management in line with the sustainable development goals.

3- The 7th India Water Week will be celebrated from 11-15 November.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 What is a lab-grown diamond?

1- Lab-made diamonds are developed from a carbon seed placed in a microwave chamber and superheated into a glowing plasma ball.

2- The only difference between lab-grown diamond and natural diamond is that instead of digging the earth, it is created in a lab under a machine.

3- Lab-grown diamonds cost 30-40 per cent cheaper than mined despite being 100 per cent diamond.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (b)

- Methane is the second-most common of the six major greenhouse gases, but is far more dangerous than carbon dioxide in its potential to cause global warming.
- Unlike carbon dioxide, methane is largely a sectoral gas, and there are only a few sources of emission. It is possible, therefore, to cut down on methane emissions without having widespread impact on the economy. Because its global warming potential is about 80 times that of carbon dioxide, a reduction in methane emissions also brings big benefits in a short time.
- At the Glasgow climate conference last year, nearly 100 countries had come together in a voluntary pledge — now referred to as the Global Methane Pledge — to cut methane emissions by at least 30 per cent by 2030 from the 2020 levels. More countries have joined in this initiative since then, bringing the total to nearly 130. A 30 per cent reduction in methane emissions by 2030 is expected to result in avoiding 0.2

degree rise in temperature by the year 2050, and is considered absolutely essential in the global efforts to keep the temperature increase below the 1.5 degree Celsius target.

- The MARS initiative is intended to strengthen these efforts.

2- (c)

- Diarrhoea is usually a symptom of an infection in the intestinal tract, which can be caused by a variety of bacterial, viral and parasitic organisms. Infection is spread through contaminated food or drinking-water, or from person-to-person as a result of poor hygiene.
- Interventions to prevent diarrhoea, including safe drinking-water, use of improved sanitation and hand washing with soap can reduce disease risk. Diarrhoea should be treated with oral rehydration solution (ORS), a solution of clean water, sugar and salt.

3- (d)

- Held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- A Joint Statement issued on the occasion recognised the importance of “unimpeded lawful maritime commerce” saying that disputes should be resolved by following “universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the

Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

- Both sides also agreed to intensify maritime cooperation including anti-piracy operations, armed robbery against ships, maritime safety, search and rescue (SAR) operations, humanitarian assistance, and emergency response and relief. Among other security measures, both sides announced plans to enhance collaboration against “terrorism and transnational crimes including international economic crimes and money laundering, cybercrime, drugs and human trafficking and arms smuggling.” “Military medicine” is also an area that drew attention during the deliberation.
- Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the space sector including “through the establishment of Tracking, Data reception and Processing Stations in Viet Nam and Indonesia”. India and ASEAN agreed to expedite the review of the ASEAN-India trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) to render it “trade-facilitative”.

4- (a)

- It stretches from the outer limit of the territorial sea (12 nautical miles from the baseline) out to 200 nautical miles (nmi) from the coast of the state in question.
- It is also referred to as a maritime continental margin and, in colloquial usage, may include the continental shelf. The term does not include either the territorial sea or the continental shelf beyond the 200 nautical mile limit.
- The difference between the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone is that the first confers full sovereignty over the waters, whereas the second is merely a "sovereign right" which refers to the coastal state's rights below the surface of the sea. The surface waters, as can be seen in the map, are international waters.

5- (c)

- Currently, *Aedes aegypti* is prevalent in the southern peninsula, eastern coastline, north-eastern states and the northern plains. *Aedes albopictus* dominates the eastern and western coastlines, north-eastern states and the lower Himalayas.
- The study projected "expansion of *Aedes aegypti* in the hot arid regions

of the Thar Desert and *Aedes albopictus* in cold upper Himalayas as a result of future climatic changes."

6- (a)

- In 1659, the Bijapur government sent Afzal Khan to subjugate Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, a former vassal who had started acting independently. He was killed at a truce negotiation meeting with Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and his army was defeated at the Battle of Pratapgad.

7- (a)

- The 7th India Water Week will be celebrated from 1-5 November.

8- (c)

- Lab-made diamonds are developed from a carbon seed placed in a microwave chamber and superheated into a glowing plasma ball. The process creates particles that crystallize into diamonds in weeks.
- The only difference between lab-grown diamond and natural diamond is that instead of digging the earth, it is created in a lab under a machine.
- This tech-based manufacturing directly cuts down the capital and labour-intensive factors of the mined diamond chain and so lab-grown diamonds cost 30-40 per cent cheaper

than mined despite being 100 per cent diamond. There are two types of lab-grown diamonds -- CVD and HPHT. India particularly specialises and leads in the chemical vapour decomposition (CVD) technology that is certified as the purest type of diamonds.

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Que-1 With reference to Ninth Schedule of an Indian Constitution, consider the following statements

- 1- It contains a list of central and state laws which cannot be challenged in courts.
- 2- Most of the laws protected under the Schedule concern reservations.
- 3- The Schedule became a part of the Constitution in 1951, when the document was amended for the first time.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to Exercise 'Sea Vigil', consider the following statements

- 1- The exercise will see activation of the coastal security apparatus across India.
- 2- It is being conducted by the Indian Navy in coordination with Coast Guard and other Ministries entrusted with the task of maritime activities.
- 3- The exercise is a build up towards the major Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX), which the Indian Navy conducts every two years.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| a) 1 only | b) 1 and 3 only |
|-----------|-----------------|

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

Que-3 Consider the following statements about Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- 1- The Central government is pushing to set up 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal students — one each in every sub-district that has at least a 20,000-odd Scheduled Tribe population, which must be 25% of the total population in that area.
- 2- The EMRS model was first introduced in 1997-98 to provide quality education to tribal students with residential facilities in remote corners.
- 3- The aim was to build schools at par with the Jawahar Navoday Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about Data localisation

1- Countries mandate data that are created within their borders to remain stored within its territorial boundaries and this process of storing data locally is referred to as data localisation.

2- The requirement of data localisation strengthens the protection of personal data, as all of us while using the internet are sending data in some manner or form.

3- The motive for different governments to store data locally is only to protect the privacy of their citizens.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 With reference to 'Indian Biological Data Bank' Consider the following statements

1- This has come up at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology in Hyderabad.

2- The digitised data will be stored on a four-petabyte supercomputer called 'Brahm'.

3- The government has mandated that data from all publicly funded research should be stored in this central repository.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about Anthropomorphism

1- Anthropomorphic sites are those marked by a representation of human form above the megalithic burials.

2- Anthropomorphism is the attribution of human traits, emotions, or intentions to non-human entities.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 With reference to 'Operation Bison' in 1948, consider the following statements

1- Zojila Day was commemorated at Zojila War Memorial near Drass on November 1 to celebrate the gallant action by Indian troops in 'Operation Bison' in 1948.

2- This battle was also historic for the reason that tanks were used for the first time at such heights.

3- Liberating the Zojila pass from Chinese Intruders.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about Panamaram heronry, recently in News

1- The largest breeding ground of different species of herons in the Malabar region.

2- The heronry, formed on a sandbank on the Panamaram river, is a breeding ground for nine species of waterbirds.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (b)

- The Ninth Schedule contains a list of central and state laws which cannot be challenged in courts. Currently, 284 such laws are shielded from judicial review. Most of the laws protected under the Schedule concern agriculture/land issues.
- The Schedule became a part of the Constitution in 1951, when the document was amended for the first time. It was created by the new Article 31B, which along with 31A was brought in by the government to protect laws related to agrarian reform and for abolishing the Zamindari system. While A. 31A extends protection to 'classes' of laws, A. 31B shields specific laws or enactments.
- Article 31B reads: "Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions contained in article 31A, none of the Acts and Regulations specified in the Ninth Schedule nor any of the provisions thereof shall be deemed to be void, or ever to have become void, on the ground that such Act, Regulation or provision is inconsistent with, or takes away or abridges any of the rights conferred by, any provisions of this Part, and notwithstanding any

judgment, decree or order of any court or Tribunal to the contrary, each of the said Acts and Regulations shall, subject to the power of any competent Legislature to repeal or amend it, continue in force.”

- The First Amendment added 13 laws to the Schedule. Subsequent amendments in 1955, 1964, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1984, 1990, 1994, and 1999 have taken the number of protected laws to 284.

2- (c)

3- (d)

- The Central government is pushing to set up 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal students — one each in every sub-district that has at least a 20,000-odd Scheduled Tribe population, which must be 50% of the total population in that area.
- The EMRS model was first introduced in 1997-98 to provide quality education to tribal students with residential facilities in remote corners. The aim was to build schools at par with the Jawahar Navoday Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas. Until 2018-19, the scheme was overseen by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with maximum control of identifying new schools, recruiting, management and admissions lying with State

governments. While the Union government had sanctioned a certain number of preliminary EMRS, the guideline of the scheme noted that States and Union Territories would be responsible for seeking sanction of new schools as and when they needed it. The funds for these schools were to come from the grants under Article 275(1) and the guidelines mandated that unless States finished constructing the schools sanctioned by the Centre, they would not be entitled to funds for new ones. Apart from the infrastructural requirements of 20-acre plots for each EMRS, the guidelines did not have any criteria of where the EMRS could be set up, leaving it to the discretion of State governments.

4- (a)

- The requirement of data localisation strengthens the protection of personal data, as all of us while using the internet are sending data in some manner or form. For instance, obligations under the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), obligates businesses in the EU to keep the data secured within the boundaries of the EU. If in any case such data are to be transferred to a different country, they need to have similar protections like those that exist in the EU.

Countries like Russia on the other hand has stricter laws pertaining to the cross-border flow of data and emphasises keeping data within the Russian Federation.

- What becomes important for us to understand here is that such strict measures may also demotivate businesses to operate in Russia and does not let neither the government nor the businesses cull-out the maximum potential that data could offer. Keeping this in mind, post-Brexit, it was decided that most data could continue to flow from the EU and the European Economic Area without the need for additional safeguards to the U.K. but, in the case of 'restricted transfers', U.K. laws are mirrored as the GDPR. One can, therefore, reasonably infer that the motive for different governments to store data locally is not only to protect the privacy of their citizens but also to exercise their control on the data, which is fuelling and driving businesses in their countries, for law enforcement purposes.

5- (d)

- The 'Indian Biological Data Bank' has come up at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology in Faridabad. The digitised data will be stored on a four-petabyte supercomputer called

'Brahm'. A petabyte equals 10,00,000 gigabytes (gb).

- The government has mandated that data from all publicly funded research should be stored in this central repository. So it will not only provide a platform to researchers to securely store their data within the country, it will also provide access to a large database of indigenous sequences for analyses.
- Such databases have traditionally played a key role in determining the genetic basis of various diseases and finding targets for vaccines and therapeutics.

6- (c)

7- (a)

- Liberating the Zojila pass from Pakistani Intruders.

8- (c)

Que-1 Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had recently came out with a detailed regulatory framework for online bond platform providers in a bid to streamline their operations. Consider the following statements about this

1- Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) would be companies incorporated in India and they should register themselves as stock brokers in the debt segment of the stock exchange.

2- An entity acting as an OBPP prior to the new rules coming into force, cannot offer products or services on its platform except listed debt securities and debt securities proposed to be listed through a public offering.

3- During the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of OBPPs offering debt securities to non-institutional investors.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to a recent report by Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change, consider the following statements

1- The world's reliance on fossil fuels increases the risk of disease, food insecurity and other illnesses related to heat.

2- Rapidly increasing temperatures exposed people, especially vulnerable populations (adults above 65 years old and children younger than one) to 3.7 billion more heatwave days in 2021 than annually in 1986–2005.

3- Higher temperatures threaten crop yields directly, with the growth season increases for many cereal crops.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 India had recently announced its long-term strategy to transition to a “low emissions” pathway at the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) ongoing in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Consider the following statements about this

1- It is premised on expanding its nuclear power capacity by at least three-fold in the next decade, apart from becoming an international hub for producing green hydrogen and increasing the proportion of ethanol in petrol.

2- The LT-LEDS (Long Term-Low Emission Development Strategy) has been prepared in the framework of India's right to an equitable and fair share of the global carbon budget.

3- India "aspires" to maximise the use of electric vehicles, with ethanol blending to reach 50% by 2025 (it is currently 10%) and a "strong shift" to public transport for passenger and freight traffic.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about World Bank recent report Titled "Financing India's Infrastructure Needs: Constraints to Commercial Financing and Prospects for Policy Action"

1- India will need to invest \$840 billion over the next 15 years— that is an average investment of \$55 billion per annum— into urban infrastructure to effectively meet the needs of its fast-growing urban population.

2- The report underlines an urgent need to leverage more private and commercial investments to meet emerging financial gaps.

3- Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across India, according to the report, have so far executed only about one-fifth of the

cumulative cost or outlay of approved projects under Smart Cities Mission (SCM) and AMRUT over the last six financial years.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 With reference to Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) Summit, consider the following statements

1- It gathers countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the Paris Agreement.

2- It was launched by the governments of Norway and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and is supported by the World Economic Forum.

3- LeadIT members subscribe to the notion that energy-intensive industry can and must progress on low-carbon pathways, aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about Photonic crystals

- 1- Photonic crystals are optical nanostructures in which the refractive index is constant.
- 2- Photonic crystals occur in nature in the form of structural coloration and animal reflectors.
- 3- When artificially produced or engineered in laboratories, photonic crystals promise to be useful in a range of applications ranging from reflection coatings to optical computers.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about Press Council of India

- 1- India celebrates 16th November as National Press Day every year and the day is observed in honor of the Press Council of India.
- 2- The council is traditionally chaired by a retired Chief Justice of India and 28 additional members of which 20 are members of the media outlets operating in India.
- 3- The Press Council of India is responsible for examining the quality of

reportage from the Indian media, while also keeping a check on other journalistic activities.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about Bonalu Festival

- 1- Bonalu is a traditional Hindu festival centered on the Goddess Mahakali from Telangana.
- 2- It is celebrated in the month of Ashada Masam, which is around July and/or August.
- 3- The word Bonam is a contraction of the word Bhojanam, a Sanskrit loanword which means a meal or a feast in Telugu.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (c)

- During the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of OBPPs offering debt securities to non-institutional investors. Most of them are fintech companies or are backed by stock brokers.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of registered users who have transacted through such OBPs.
- While OBPs provide an avenue for investors, particularly non-institutional investors to access the bond market, their operations were outside Sebi's regulatory purview.
- After obtaining registration as a stock broker in the debt segment of a stock exchange, an entity would have to apply to the bourse to act as an OBPP.
- In its application, the entity will have to ensure that roles and obligations, technology, operating framework -- access and participation, Know Your Client (KYC) for on-boarding investors and sellers and risk profiling of investors -- are complied with.
- The entity would have to ensure compliance with the minimum disclosure requirements. It would also have to disclose on its platform all

instances of conflict of interest, if any, arising from its transactions or dealings with related parties.

2- (a)

- The changing climate is affecting the spread of infectious disease, raising the risk of emerging diseases and co-epidemics. For instance, it records that coastal waters are becoming more suited for the transmission of Vibrio pathogens. It also says that the number of months suitable for malaria transmission has increased in the highland areas of the Americas and Africa.
- The WHO has predicted that between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 2,50,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.
- Every dimension of food security is being affected by climate change. Higher temperatures threaten crop yields directly, with the growth season shortening for many cereal crops. Extreme weather events disrupt supply chains, thereby undermining food availability, access, stability, and utilisation. The prevalence of undernourishment increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and up to 161 million more people faced hunger in 2020 than in 2019. This situation is

now worsened by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the report underscores.

3- (a)

- India “aspires” to maximise the use of electric vehicles, with ethanol blending to reach 20% by 2025 (it is currently 10%) and a “strong shift” to public transport for passenger and freight traffic. India will also focus on improving energy efficiency by the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme, the National Hydrogen Mission, increasing electrification, enhancing material efficiency, and recycling and ways to reduce emissions.
- India's forest and tree cover are a net carbon sink absorbing 15% of CO₂ emissions in 2016, and the country is on track to fulfilling its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitment of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of additional carbon sequestration in forest and tree cover by 2030.
- The NDCs, which India must periodically update, are voluntary commitments by countries to reduce emissions by a fixed number relative to a date in the past to achieve the long-term goal of climate agreements of preventing global temperature rising beyond 1.5 or 2 degrees Centigrade by the end of the century. Thus, India's most updated NDC

commits to ensuring half its electricity is derived from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, and reducing the emissions intensity by 45% below 2005 levels by 2030.

- The LT-LEDS are qualitative in nature and are a requirement emanating from the 2015 Paris Agreement whereby countries must explain how they will transition their economies beyond achieving near-term NDC targets, and work towards the larger climate objective of cutting emissions by 45% by 2030 and achieve net zero around 2050. This is what, scientists say, offers the best chance of keeping temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Centigrade. So far, no country is on track towards such a pathway.

4- (c)

- While policy decisions to keep tariffs and service charges below levels required for cost recovery and financial sustainability are contributing to low revenue were also flagged by the report, there has also, the report noted, been slow implementation performance by states and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) on several of the Centre's flagship Urban Missions— such as the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for instance— due to constraints on

implementation capacity at the city level.

- The total cost of projects approved under these missions is \$27 billion and \$10 billion for SCM and AMRUT respectively which ULBs have been able to execute only to the extent of 22% (SCM) and 18% (AMRUT), respectively.
- Public Private Partnership (PPP) transactions for urban infrastructure in India, the report also noted, registered a marked decline in the last decade both in monetary value and transaction volume— 124 PPP projects have been awarded in the urban sector since the year 2000 worth a total cost of \$5.5 billion.

5- (b)

- It was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and is supported by the World Economic Forum.

6- (d)

- A soft tunable photonic crystal with enhanced thermal stability and optical purity developed by researchers that reflects vivid colours in the visible spectrum has potential applications in making more durable and better reflective displays and laser devices.

- Photonic crystals are optical nanostructures in which the refractive index changes periodically. This affects the propagation of light in the same way that the structure of natural crystals gives rise to X-ray diffraction and that the atomic lattices (crystal structure) of semiconductors affect their conductivity of electrons. Photonic crystals occur in nature in the form of structural coloration and animal reflectors. Examples found in nature include opal, butterfly wings, peacock feathers, etc., exhibiting distinct iridescent colours.

- When artificially produced or engineered in laboratories, photonic crystals promise to be useful in a range of applications ranging from reflection coatings to optical computers. They enable the PCs to exhibit structural colours in the visible spectral regime. Ever since researchers have learnt how to fabricate photonic crystals, they have been on the constant lookout for tuning the properties in-situ post-fabrication. Liquid crystalline (LC) materials exhibiting self-organization, phase transition, and molecular orientation behaviors in response to external stimuli are attracting significant attention for tuning of advanced photonic materials and devices.

7- (b)

- The day is meant to mark the presence of the free and responsible press in India. The Press Council of India is responsible for examining the quality of reportage from the Indian media, while also keeping a check on other journalistic activities.
- In the year 1956, the First Press Commission decided to form a body bestowed with statutory authority, meant to fulfill the responsibility of maintaining the ethics of journalism. The Commission felt that a managing body was required in order to connect with the people of the press and also to arbitrate on any issues that arose.
- In 1966, on 16th November, the PCI was formed and following this, the National Press Day has been celebrated ever since on 16th November, every year to commemorate the establishment of the council.
- The council is traditionally chaired by a retired Supreme Court Judge and 28 additional members of which 20 are members of the media outlets operating in India. Five members are nominated from the Houses of the Parliament and the remaining three represent cultural, legal and literary fields.

8- (c)

Que-1 With reference to NASA's Artemis Mission, consider the following statements

1- Artemis 1 is only a lunar Orbiter mission even though, unlike most Orbiter missions, it has a return-to-Earth target.

2- Artemis II mission in 2023 will take astronauts around the Moon but will not land.

3- Artemis III will send astronauts, including the first woman, to the Moon in 2024.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 What are carbon border taxes?

1- This involves imposing an import duty on a product manufactured in a country with more lax climate rules than the one buying it.

2- Its advocates, like the EU, claim the tax will benefit the environment and provide a level playing field to companies, those opposing it call the tax unfair and protectionist.

3- Need for tax was felt because businesses can potentially sidestep by moving production to a country with less stringent rules, a practice called carbon leakage.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 As per the United Nations Population Fund, which said the world's population reached 8 billion, consider the following statements

1- While India's population growth is stabilising, it is "still growing at 0.7% per year" and is set to surpass China in 2023 as the world's most populous country.

2- India's fertility rate has hit 2.1 births per woman — replacement-level fertility — but still increasing.

3- This unprecedented growth is due to the gradual increase in human lifespan owing to improvements in public health, nutrition, personal hygiene and medicine.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 With reference to Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, consider the following statements

1- This is a program which is set to be launched to serve the economically weaker community of the country.

2- The program comes with an index to measure the design of disabled-friendly buildings and human resource policies.

3- The initiative also in line with the Article 9 of the (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) to which India is a signatory since 2007.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements about Friendshoring

1- This is a strategy where a country sources the raw materials, components and even manufactured goods from countries that share its values.

2- It is also called "allyshoring".

3- Friendshoring may push the world towards a more isolated place for trade and reverse the gains of globalisation and is a part of the "deglobalisation" process.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 With reference to Patan Patola scarf, recently in News, consider the following statements

1- The ancient art of double ikat or Patola woven in pure wool dates back to the 11th century.

2- The Patola fabrics bear an equal intensity of colours and design on both sides.

3- The last surviving family into Patola weaving is the Salvi family in Patan.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about Digital Shakti

1- Digital Shakti started in June 2018 to help women across the nation to raise the awareness level on the digital front.

2- It is helping women in reporting & redressal mechanisms, data privacy and usage of technology for their benefits.

3- The National Commission for Women (NCW) had recently launched the first phase of Digital Shakti Campaign, a pan-India project on digitally empowering and skilling women and girls in the cyberspace.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 With reference to Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report on school education in India for 2021-22, consider the following statements

1- Only 44.85% schools had computer facilities while nearly 34% had internet connection.

2- The decline in total number of schools is mainly due to closure of schools under private- and other management.

3- In UDISE+ 2021-22, additional data on important indicators such as digital library, peer learning, hard spot identification, number of books available in school library, etc., have been collected for the first time to align with the National Education Policy 2020 initiatives.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (c)

- Artemis 1 is seen as the first step into that new space age. In the missions that will follow, human beings will go back to the Moon, explore the possibilities of long lunar stays, and assess the potential of the Moon as a launch pad for explorations into deep space.
- While the mission objectives of Artemis 1 itself are humble — it is only a lunar Orbiter mission even though, unlike most Orbiter missions, it has a return-to-Earth target — it is intended to lay the foundations for more complex and ambitious missions.
- The CubeSats it will carry are equipped with instruments meant for specific investigations and experiments, including searching for water in all forms and for hydrogen that can be utilised as a source of energy.

2- (c)

- Some developed nations, in efforts to cut emissions, impose high costs on carbon-intensive businesses in their own countries. Businesses can potentially sidestep this simply by moving production to a country with

less stringent rules, a practice called carbon leakage.

3- (b)

- India's fertility rate has hit 2.1 births per woman — replacement-level fertility — and is falling.
- The UN said while it took the global population 12 years to grow from 7 billion to 8 billion, it will take approximately 15 years — until 2037 — for it to reach 9 billion — “a sign that overall growth rate of global population is slowing”.
- As of 2022, more than half the world's population lives in Asia, China and India being the two most populous countries with more than 1.4 billion people each.
- According to the UN, 60% of the global population lives in a region where the fertility rate is below replacement level — up from 40% in 1990 — and international migration is now the driver of growth in many countries, with 281 million people living outside their country of birth in 2020.
- All South Asian nations — India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka — have seen high levels of emigration in recent years.

4- (d)

- This is a program which is set to be launched to serve the differently-able community of the country.
- The flagship program has been launched by the Prime Minister on 3 December 2015, the International Day of people with Disabilities. The initiative also in line with the Article 9 of the (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) to which India is a signatory since 2007.
- The scheme also comes under Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 under section 44, 45, 46 for equal Opportunities and protection of rights which provides non-discrimination in Transport to Persons with Disabilities.

5- (c)

- Friendshoring is a strategy where a country sources the raw materials, components and even manufactured goods from countries that share its values. The dependence on the countries considered a "threat" to the stability of the supply chains is slowly reduced.
- It is also called "allyshoring".
- Apart from geopolitical and security risks, the US will also reduce the reliance on manufacturers whose

human rights values clash with America's.

8- (c)

- Total number of schools in 2021-22 stood at 14.89 lakh as compared to 15.09 lakh in 2020-21. The decline in total number of schools is mainly due to closure of schools under private- and other management.
-

6- (d)

- The ancient art of double ikat or Patola woven in pure silk dates back to the 11th century. The Patola fabrics bear an equal intensity of colours and design on both sides. This peculiar quality has its origins in an intricate and difficult technique of dyeing or knot dyeing, known as 'bandhani', on the warp and weft separately before weaving.
- One of the major practitioners of the dwindling art form is the Salvi family from North Gujarat.
- Patola is woven on primitive hand-operated harness looms made out of rosewood and bamboo strips. The loom lies on a slant. The other commonly worn Patola is the Rajkot Patola, woven on a flat loom.

7- (a)

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) had recently launched the fourth phase of Digital Shakti Campaign, a pan-India project on digitally empowering and skilling women and girls in the cyberspace.

Que-1 With reference to offshore wind power, consider the following statements

1- It is the generation of electricity through wind farms in bodies of water, usually at sea.

2- Offshore farms generate less electricity per amount of capacity installed.

3- Offshore wind turbines are much larger in size (in range of 5 to 10 MW per turbine) as against 2-3 MW of an onshore wind turbine.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to The Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA), consider the following statements

1- Established to "remove barriers" to the energy, was set up by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Denmark and the Global Wind Energy Council.

2- GOWA aims to reach a total of "at least 1000GW installed capacity" by the end of the decade.

3- Recently Belgium, Colombia, Ireland, Norway and the Netherlands were joined this alliance.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 With reference to Green Voyage 2050 project, consider the following statements

1- This is a partnership project between the Government of France and IMO launched in May 2019.

2- Aiming to transform the shipping industry towards a lower carbon future.

3- The global partnership is supporting developing countries, including Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in meeting their commitment towards relevant climate change and energy efficiency goals.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about Baliyatra, recently in News

1- This year's Baliyatra found a place in the Guinness World Records for achieving an impressive feat of origami, the creation of beautiful paper sculptures.

2- Baliyatra, literally 'voyage to Bali', is one of the country's largest open-air fairs, which is organised every year to commemorate the 2,000-year-old maritime and cultural links.

3- The origins of the festival, which begins on Kartik Purnima (full moon night in the month of Kartik) can be traced back more than 1,000 years.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements about Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

1- It is a global health and development threat that requires urgent multisectoral action in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2- WHO has declared that AMR is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity.

3- Misuse and overuse of antimicrobials are the main drivers in the development of drug-resistant pathogens.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

1- It is India's first infrastructure specific investment fund or a sovereign wealth fund that was set up by the Government of India in February 2015.

2- The objective behind creating this fund was to maximize economic impact mainly through infrastructure investment in commercially viable projects, both Greenfield and brownfield.

3- It was proposed to be established as an Alternative Investment Fund to provide long tenor capital for infrastructure projects with an inflow of ₹2,000 crore from the Government of India.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about U.K.-India Young Professionals Scheme under which U.K. will offer

- 1- Annually 3,000 degree-holding Indians
- 2- In the 18–30-year age group.
- 3- Places to work in the U.K. for up to ten years.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about Red-crowned roofed turtle

- 1- The turtle, native to Australia and New Zealand, is at a high risk of extinction.
- 2- The red-crowned roofed turtle classified as critically endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.
- 3- Overharvesting the animal for illegal consumption and illegal international trade are other reasons for its extinction threat.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

- 1- (b)
- Offshore farms generate more electricity per amount of capacity installed.
 - There are higher wind speeds offshore than on land, so offshore farms generate more electricity per amount of capacity installed.
 - Offshore wind turbines are much larger in size (in range of 5 to 10 MW per turbine) as against 2-3 MW of an onshore wind turbine.
 - Offshore wind power offers a plausible alternative in such a scenario. Absence of any obstruction in the sea offers much better quality of wind and its conversion to electrical energy. Offshore wind turbines are much larger in size (in range of 5 to 10 MW per turbine) as against 2-3 MW of an onshore wind turbine. While, the cost per MW for offshore turbines are higher because of stronger structures and foundations needed in marine environment, the desirable tariffs can be achieved on account of higher efficiencies of these turbines after development of the eco system.

2- (b)

- GOWA aims to reach a total of "at least 380GW installed capacity" by the end of the decade.

3- (d)

- The global partnership is supporting developing countries, including Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in meeting their commitment towards relevant climate change and energy efficiency goals, for international shipping, through supporting the Initial IMO GHG Strategy.
- This is a partnership project between the Government of Norway and IMO launched in May 2019.

4- (c)

- Baliyatra, literally 'voyage to Bali', is one of the country's largest open-air fairs, which is organised every year to commemorate the 2,000-year-old maritime and cultural links between ancient Kalinga (today's Odisha) and Bali and other South and Southeast Asian regions like Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).
- The origins of the festival, which begins on Kartik Purnima (full moon night in the month of Kartik) can be traced back more than 1,000 years.

The Bay of Bengal region had several ports, and sadhavas (traders) traditionally began their voyage across the sea on this auspicious day, when the winds were favourable for the boats, known as boita, to sail.

- According to historians, popular items of trade between Kalinga and Southeast Asia included pepper, cinnamon, cardamom, silk, camphor, gold, and jewellery.
- Even today, thousands of people across Odisha sail decorative miniature boats made of banana stems, paper, or thermocol to celebrate boita bandana, or the worshipping of the boats.

5- (c)

- Antimicrobials – including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitics – are medicines used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals and plants.
- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.
- As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial

medicines become ineffective and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat.

6- (a)

- It was proposed to be established as an Alternative Investment Fund to provide long tenor capital for infrastructure projects with an inflow of ₹20,000 crore from the Government of India.
- NIIF manages three funds: Master Fund, Fund of Funds and Strategic Fund. The funds were set up to make investments in India by raising capital from domestic and international institutional investors.
- The Master Fund is an infrastructure fund with the objective of primarily investing in operating assets in the core infrastructure sectors such as roads, ports, airports, power etc.
- The Fund of Funds anchor and/or invest in funds managed by fund managers who have good track records in infrastructure and associated sectors in India. Some of the sectors of focus include Green Infrastructure, Mid-Income & Affordable Housing, Infrastructure services and allied sectors.
- Strategic Opportunities Fund is registered as an Alternative

Investment Fund II under SEBI in India. The objective of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund II (“Strategic Opportunities Fund”) is to invest largely in equity and equity-linked instruments. The Strategic Opportunities Fund has been established with the objective to provide long-term capital to strategic and growth oriented sectors in the country with the aim to build domestic leaders.

7- (a)

- Under the U.K.-India Young Professionals Scheme, the U.K. will offer, annually, 3,000 degree-holding Indians in the 18–30-year age group places to work in the U.K. for up to two years. The scheme will commence in early 2023 and be on a reciprocal basis.

8- (d)

- The turtle, native to India and Bangladesh, is at a high risk of extinction.
- The red-crowned roofed turtle is already classified as critically endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. The list cites threats like habitat loss due to pollution and hydrological projects specific in the Ganga

lowlands of northern India and Bangladesh.

- Overharvesting the animal for illegal consumption and illegal international trade are other reasons for its extinction threat. Over 11,000 tortoises and freshwater turtles have been seized in India from 2009-2019, found a study by TRAFFIC, a global NGO working on trade in wild animals and plants and their conservation.
- The poached animals were illegally traded year after year and identification were absent in 51.5 per cent of the cases.

GES
REPORTER

Que-1 With reference to the concerns with the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), consider the following statements

- 1- The pension liability remained unfunded.
- 2- The OPS was unsustainable.
- 3- The 'pay-as-you-go' scheme created inter-generational equity issues — meaning the present generation had to bear the continuously rising burden of pensioners.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 Consider the following statements

- 1- Between 1900 and now, developed countries have benefitted from industrial development, which also led to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- 2- Developing countries were relatively late in starting out on economic development and they may be contributing to emissions now, but that is a weak reason to ask them to stop economic development.
- 3- Between 1751 and 2017, 90% of the CO₂ emissions came from the U.S. and the EU-28. In total, just 29 countries.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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Que-3 Consider the following statements

- 1- Almost half, or 43 per cent, of the world's rivers are contaminated with active pharmaceutical ingredients in concentrations that can have disastrous ramifications on health.
- 2- The interdependence between human and animal health was first recognised in 1856 by Rudolf Virchow, the father of modern medicine
- 3- The recently adopted Paris Climate Pact has called upon countries to facilitate the adoption of greener technologies to phase out the use of fossil fuels.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 With reference to No Money for Terror (NMFT) conference, consider the following statements

- 1- The idea behind the NMFT ministerial conference is to share expertise and good practice in combating terror financing that can be implemented internationally.
- 2- Germany in 2015 held the first NMFT conference in April 2018.

3- This year conference was hosted by India.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
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Que-5 Consider the following statements about Melocanna baccifera, a tropical bamboo species

1- This has long fascinated researchers for its association with the occurrence of 'bamboo death,' 'rat floods' and famines in northeast India.

2- 'Mautam', the cyclical, mass bamboo flowering that occurs once in 100 years.

3- Called 'Muli' in northeast India, Melocanna baccifera is the largest fruit-producing bamboo and is native to the northeast India-Myanmar region.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about World Toilet Day

1- World Toilet Day is observed by the United Nations on November 19 annually focusing on the impact of the sanitation crisis on groundwater.

2- The theme for this year's World Toilet Day as decided by United Nations is, 'Making the visible invisible'.

3- The day is observed widely as there is a requirement for sufficient sanitation to achieve Goal 6 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about important instances when Article 142 was invoked

1- Bhopal Gas tragedy case

2- Babri Masjid demolition case

3- Liquor sale ban case

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only
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Que-8 Consider the following statements about a report by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) regarding Amazon rainforest

- 1- Some 35 per cent of the rainforest is either totally lost or highly degraded.
- 2- Its forests are threatened due to deforestation, fires and degradation.
- 3- Economic activities, most notably extensive cattle ranching and agriculture, illegal activities and poorly planned infrastructure, threaten the region and cause deforestation and degradation throughout the biome.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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| a) 1 and 2 only | b) 1 and 3 only |
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ANSWER

- 1- (c)
 - The main problem was that the pension liability remained unfunded — that is, there was no corpus specifically for pension, which would grow continuously and could be dipped into for payments.
 - The OPS was also unsustainable. For one, pension liabilities would keep climbing since pensioners' benefits increased every year; like salaries of existing employees, pensioners

gained from indexation, or what is called 'dearness relief' (the same as dearness allowance for existing employees). And two, better health facilities would increase life expectancy, and increased longevity would mean extended payouts.

- 2- (a)
 - Between 1751 and 2017, 47% of the CO2 emissions came from the U.S. and the EU-28. In total, just 29 countries.
 - Ourworldindata.org cites data from the Global Carbon Project to show that between 1751 and 2017, 47% of the CO2 emissions came from the U.S. and the EU-28. In total, just 29 countries.
 - The report says that India is among the top seven emitters (others being China, the EU-27, Indonesia, Brazil, the Russian Federation and the U.S.). These seven, plus international transport, accounted for 55% of global GHG emissions in 2020. Collectively, G-20 members are responsible for 75% of global GHG emissions.
 - If we seek economic development, some GHG emissions are unavoidable. But, put in the context of India's population, its emissions are far lesser per head, than for others. World average per capita GHG emissions were 6.3 tonnes of CO2 equivalent

(tCO₂e) in 2020. The U.S. is way above this level at 14, followed by 13 in the Russian Federation and 9.7 in China. India remains far below the world average at 2.4.

3- (a)

- The recently adopted Glasgow Climate Pact has called upon countries to facilitate the adoption of greener technologies to phase out the use of fossil fuels. The development and deployment of such technologies is also critical for the pharmaceutical sector that has formed the backbone of the growth of many economies including India.
- While the sector plays a fundamental role in improving health outcomes through the invention of life-saving products, its emission intensity is 55 per cent more than the automotive sector.
- The release of untreated effluents into the soil and water bodies add to the pollution of the environment during the manufacturing of various pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics. Further, untreated antibiotic residues also accelerate the build-up of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- AMR is often dubbed as one of the top 10 public health threats facing

humanity. It occurs when disease-causing pathogens develop a resistance against the pharmaceuticals that could have neutralised them.

- The build-up of AMR can happen due to several factors across the human, animal, and environmental ecosystems.

4- (b)

- The idea behind the NMFT ministerial conference is to share expertise and good practice in combating terror financing that can be implemented internationally.
- France, which was subjected to one of the deadliest Islamic State/ISIS attacks on European soil, with gunmen killing almost 147 people in Paris and its suburbs in 2015 held the first NMFT conference in April 2018.

5- (b)

- 'Mautam', the cyclical, mass bamboo flowering that occurs once in 48 years.
- Called 'Muli' in northeast India, *Melocanna baccifera* is the largest fruit-producing bamboo and is native to the northeast India-Myanmar region. During its gregarious flowering, the bamboo produces large fruits which draw animal visitors/predators. Of these, black rats

greatly relish the fleshy, berry-like fruit. During this period, they also multiply rapidly, a phenomenon dubbed as 'rat flood.' Once the fruits are gone, they start devouring standing crops, causing famines that have claimed thousands of human lives.

- Earlier, it was presumed that 'high protein in fruits/seeds' was attracting the rats. However, a JNTBGRI study in 2016 that was part of the research found that the fruit actually contains very little protein. The predation is mainly due to the high content of sugars.

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- The theme for this year's World Toilet Day as decided by United Nations is, 'Making the Invisible Visible'.
- It aims to raise public awareness of broader sanitation systems such as wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and hand washing.
- Singaporean philanthropist Jack Sim, in 2001, established World Toilet Day on November 19. Sim also founded the World Toilet Organization. Notably, the UN officially recognised the right to water and sanitation as a human right in 2010, which focused attention on the campaigns to raise awareness of the sanitation crisis.

- In 2013, United Nations developed a resolution -- 'Sanitation for everyone' in partnership with the Singaporean government and the World Toilet Organization. This resolution recommended collective action to address the sanitation crisis on a worldwide scale.

- The day is observed widely as there is a requirement for sufficient sanitation to achieve Goal 6 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Notably, due to poor sanitation practices, human waste contaminates water resources by getting into rivers, lakes, and soil. According to the UN, there has to be universal access to hygienic restrooms that are part of a sanitation system that efficiently collects and handles human waste.

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- Article 142 titled 'Enforcement of decrees and orders of the Supreme Court and orders as to discovery, etc.' has two clauses.
- Article 142(1) reads: The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or order so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as

may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe.

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as well as State highways in order to prevent drunken driving.

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- An estimated 17 per cent of the Amazon forests have been degraded, while another 18 per cent have been converted for other purposes.
- The report outlined the current status of the Amazon biome and basin, summarised key pressures and drivers of change and outlined a conservation strategy. A biome is an extensive area marked by its vegetation, soil, climate and wildlife.
- The Amazon biome covers 6.7 million square kilometres and encompasses the world’s largest complex of forests and rivers. It is the source of 20 per cent of freshwater discharge into the Atlantic and stores 150-200 billion tonnes of carbon in its soils and vegetation.
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Que-1 With reference to Great Nicobar, consider the following statements

- 1- The southernmost of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- 2- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a cluster of about 836 islands in the eastern Bay of Bengal, the two groups of which are separated by the 150-km wide Nine Degree Channel.
- 3- Indira Point on the southern tip of Great Nicobar Island is India's southernmost point, less than 150 km from the northernmost island of the Indonesian archipelago.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to recently announced National Suicide Prevention Strategy, consider the following statements

- 1- The first of its kind in the country, with time-bound action plans and multi-sectoral collaborations to achieve reduction in suicide mortality by 50% by 2030.
- 2- The strategy broadly seeks to establish effective surveillance mechanisms for suicide within the next three years.
- 3- Establish psychiatric outpatient departments that will provide suicide

prevention services through the District Mental Health Programme in all districts within the next five years, and to integrate a mental well-being curriculum in all educational institutions within the next eight years.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 With reference to Quasi-judicial body, consider the following statements

- 1- It is an entity such as an arbitration panel or tribunal board, that can be a public administrative agency.
- 2- This can also a contract- or private law entity, which has been given powers and procedures resembling those of a court of law or judge.
- 3- Their powers are mostly for all areas like that of judicial body.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about differences between judicial and quasi-judicial bodies

- 1- Judicial decisions are bound by precedent in common law, whereas quasi-judicial decisions usually are not so bound.
- 2- In the absence of precedent in common law, judicial decisions may create new law, whereas quasi-judicial decisions must be based on conclusions of existing law.
- 3- Quasi-judicial bodies are always need to follow strict judicial rules of evidence and procedure.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements about Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2022

- 1- India has improved its position by six slots and is now placed at 21st rank.
- 2- NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 131 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact covering a total of 58 variables.
- 3- India secured 1st rank in “AI talent concentration”, 2nd rank in “Mobile broadband internet traffic within the

country” and “International Internet bandwidth”, 3rd rank in “Annual investment in telecommunication services”.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 With reference to Olive Ridley sea turtles, consider the following statements

- 1- They accorded a Schedule-1 animal category under the Wildlife (Protection) Act for their highly threatened status.
- 2- An Olive Ridley sea turtle usually lays about 120 to 150 eggs from which hatchlings emerge after about 45 to 60 days.
- 3- For mass nesting, these threatened aquatic animals turn up only at Gahirmatha, every year.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 With reference to a great knot, recently in News, consider the following statements

- 1- The great knot is a small wader.
- 2- Their breeding habitat is tundra in northeast Siberia.
- 3- They are strongly migratory wintering on coasts in southern Asia through to Australia.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a) 1 and 2 only | b) 1 and 3 only |
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Que-8 Consider the following statements about Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)

- 1- Aimed at developing such rural areas by provisioning of economic, social and physical infrastructure facilities.
- 2- The objective is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well planned Rurban clusters.
- 3- Aibawk cluster in the Aizwal district of Mizoram has become the first cluster to be completed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM).

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- | | |
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| a) 1 and 2 only | b) 3 only |
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ANSWER

- 1- (b)
 - Great Nicobar, the southernmost of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has an area of 910 sq km. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a cluster of about 836 islands in the eastern Bay of Bengal, the two groups of which are separated by the 150-km wide Ten Degree Channel. The Andaman Islands lie to the north of the channel, and the Nicobar Islands to the south.
 - Indira Point on the southern tip of Great Nicobar Island is India's southernmost point, less than 150 km from the northernmost island of the Indonesian archipelago. Great Nicobar is home to two national parks, a biosphere reserve, and the Shompen and Nicobarese tribal peoples, along with ex-servicemen from Punjab, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh who were settled on the island in the 1970s.
- 2- (d)
 - The first of its kind in the country, with time-bound action plans and multi-sectoral collaborations to achieve

reduction in suicide mortality by 10% by 2030.

- In India, more than one lakh lives are lost every year to suicide, and it is the top killer in the 15-29 years category. In the past three years, the suicide rate has increased from 10.2 to 11.3 per 1,00,000 population, the document records. The most common reasons for suicide include family problems and illnesses, which account for 34% and 18% of all suicide-related deaths.

3- (a)

- A quasi-judicial body is non-judicial body which can interpret law. It is an entity such as an arbitration panel or tribunal board, that can be a public administrative agency but also a contract- or private law entity, which has been given powers and procedures resembling those of a court of law or judge, and which is obliged to objectively determine facts and draw conclusions from them so as to provide the basis of an official action. Such actions are able to remedy a situation or impose legal penalties, and they may affect the legal rights, duties or privileges of specific parties.
- Their powers are usually limited to a very specific area of expertise and authority, such as land use and zoning,

financial markets, employment law, public standards, and/or a specific set of regulations of an agency.

- The decisions of such a body are often made after a quasi-judicial proceeding which may resemble a court.

4- (a)

There are some key differences between judicial and quasi-judicial bodies, in that:

- Judicial decisions are bound by precedent in common law, whereas quasi-judicial decisions usually are not so bound;
- In the absence of precedent in common law, judicial decisions may create new law, whereas quasi-judicial decisions must be based on conclusions of existing law;
- Quasi-judicial bodies need not always follow strict judicial rules of evidence and procedure;
- Quasi-judicial bodies must hold formal hearings only if mandated to do so under their governing laws, regulations or agreements;
- Quasi-judicial bodies, unlike courts, may be a party in a matter and issue a decision thereon at the same time, depending on the specifically governing rules.

5- (d)

- India has improved its position by six slots and is now placed at 61st rank.
- India is top ranked in AI talent concentration, second in mobile broadband internet traffic within a country and international internet bandwidth". It is ranked third in annual investment in telecom services/domestic market size, fourth on ICT services exports and fifth on FTTH/building internet subscriptions and AI scientific publications.
- Separately, India recorded the highest median mobile download speed in the last 13 months -- from 13.87 Mbps in September 2021 to 16.50 Mbps in October 2022 – making it to the 113th spot on the global ranking of median mobile download speeds, according to the Ookla Speedtest Global Index (OSGI).

6- (a)

- Apart from Gahirmatha, these threatened aquatic animals turn up at the Rushikulya river mouth in Ganjam district and the Devi river mouth in Puri district for mass nesting.
- After the end of the mating season, most of the male turtles usually return leaving behind the female turtles to lay their eggs.

- The female turtles virtually invade the nesting beaches usually in the dead of the night for laying eggs, the phenomenon otherwise described as 'arribada'.
- The turtles then leave the nesting ground to stride into the deep seawater. Hatchlings emerge from these eggs after 45-60 days. It is a rare natural phenomenon where the babies grow without their mother.
- The ban on sea fishing remains in force throughout the year in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary as the seawater here is the most conducive habitat for these delicate marine species.
- A rise in the mortality rate of mating turtles along the coastal water surface led to the clamping of prohibition as the gill nets used by the trawls prove to be messengers of death for breeding turtles.

7- (c)

- The genus name is from Ancient Greek kalidris or skalidris, a term used by Aristotle for some grey-coloured waterside birds.
- Their breeding habitat is tundra in northeast Siberia. They nest on the ground laying about four eggs in a ground scrape. They are strongly

migratory wintering on coasts in southern Asia through to Australia. This species forms enormous flocks in winter.

8- (c)

GES
REPORTER

Que-1 With reference to Total fertility rate (TFR), consider the following statements

- 1- The TFR is the average number of births by women aged 15-49 based on surveys for a particular period/year.
- 2- Populations immediately declines with TFRs falling.
- 3- De-growth requires TFRs to remain below replacement levels for extended periods.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 Consider the following statements about India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)

- 1- Duties on 100 percent tariff lines would be eliminated by Australia under this.
- 2- For the first time, decisions completely based on extensive stakeholder consultations with every industry, Ministries, trade associations etc unlike the previous FTAs was undertaken.
- 3- ECTA would give a big boost to several sectors of the economy, especially textiles, gems and jewellery and pharmaceuticals.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 With reference to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), consider the following statements

- 1- No Chief Election Commissioner has completed a six-year tenure since independence.
- 2- Article 324 gives the Election Commission the power to "direct, control, and conduct elections to all legislatures in India."
- 3- When any other Election Commissioner is so appointed the Chief Election Commissioner shall act as the Chairman of the Election Commission.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 With reference to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023, consider the following statements

- 1- India, the world's third largest energy consumer, has jumped two positions higher and is now ranked at the eight spot in the index.
- 2- In the CCPI 2023, Norway reached the best ranking.
- 3- Published by German Watch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network International based in Germany.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements about Assam's legendary war hero Lachit Borphukan

- 1- Borphukan was a commander in the erstwhile Ahom kingdom.
- 2- He is known for his leadership in the 1671 battle of Saraighat that thwarted an attempt by Mughals to capture Assam.
- 3- November 26 is celebrated as 'Lachit Divas' across the Assam.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage site

- 1- Located in Tamil Nadu.
- 2- Arittapatti village, known for its ecological and historical significance, houses around 250 species of birds including three important raptors - birds of prey, namely the Laggar Falcon, the Shaheen Falcon and Bonelli's Eagle.
- 3- It is home to wildlife such as the Indian Pangolin, Slender Loris and pythons.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about India's first National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS)

- 1- Aim to develop a regulatory framework and alternative technology adoption roadmap for Green Shipping to foster carbon neutrality and circular economy (CE) in the shipping sector in India.
- 2- India intends to increase the share of renewable energy to 60 per cent of the total power demand of each of its major ports from a present share of less than 10 per cent, through solar and wind-generated power.

3- The NITI Aayog is the knowledge and implementation partner for this project.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about Malabar multilateral naval exercise

1- Malabar is a multilateral war-gaming naval exercise that was started in 1992.

2- It began as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the United States.

3- Japan and Australia first participated in 2007, and since 2014, India, the US and Japan have participated in the exercise every year.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (b)

- Populations can keep growing even with TFRs falling.

2- (c)

- Australia is an important strategic partner of India and both the democracies are part of the four nation QUAD, Trilateral Supply Chain Initiative and the Indo-Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF). The trade relationship facilitated through ECTA will open a new chapter on India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership between two vibrant economies with shared interest and trade complementarities. This agreement initiated by the Hon'ble Prime Ministers of both the sides, is the cornerstone of our multi-faceted bilateral relations. ECTA is the first trade agreement of India with a developed country after more than a decade. The Agreement encompasses cooperation across the entire gamut of bilateral economic and commercial relations between the two friendly countries. This will also connect with more than seven lakhs of Australia's Indian diaspora, second highest taxpaying diaspora, which makes a significant contribution to Australia's society and economy.

3- (d)

- No Chief Election Commissioner has completed a six-year tenure since 2004.

Detailed reading of Article 324

- Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.

1. The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under this Constitution 1 *** shall be vested in a Commission (referred to in this Constitution as the Election Commission).

2. The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President.

3. When any other Election Commissioner is so appointed the Chief Election Commissioner shall act

as the Chairman of the Election Commission.

4. Before each general election to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of each State, and before the first general election and thereafter before each biennial election to the Legislative Council of each State having such Council, the President may also appoint after consultation with the Election Commission such Regional Commissioners as he may consider necessary to assist the Election Commission in the performance of the functions conferred on the Commission by clause (1).

5. Subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Election Commissioners and the Regional Commissioners shall be such as the President may by rule determine:

- Provided that the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court and the conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment:

- Provided further that any other Election Commissioner or a Regional Commissioner shall not be removed from office except on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

6. The President, or the Governor 1 *** of a State, shall, when so requested by the Election Commission, make available to the Election Commission or to a Regional Commissioner such staff as may be necessary for the discharge of the functions conferred on the Election Commission by clause (1).

4- (b)

- In the CCPI 2023, Denmark reached the best ranking
- India rose two spots to rank 8th in this year's CCPI and earns a high rating in the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy use categories, with a medium for climate policy and renewable energy. It is on track to meet its 2030 emissions targets (compatible with a well-below-2°C scenario).
- In the CCPI 2023, Denmark reached the best ranking. Again, no country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall "very high" rating in the index. Therefore, the first three ranks in the overall

ranking remain empty. In the overall ranking, Sweden (5th), Chile (6th), Morocco (7th) and India (8th) follow Denmark.

- The CCPI aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries. Published annually since 2005, the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance of 59 countries and the EU. Every year, the CCPI sets off important public and political debates within the countries assessed. The climate protection performance of these 59 countries, which together account for 92% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, is assessed in four categories: GHG Emissions (40% of overall score), Renewable Energy (20% of overall score), Energy Use (20% of overall score) and Climate Policy (20% of overall score).

5- (a)

- The 'Battle of Saraighat' was fought on the banks of Brahmaputra in Guwahati.
- November 24 is celebrated as 'Lachit Divas' across the Assam.

6- (c)

- The Tamil Nadu Government had recently issued a notification declaring Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district the first biodiversity heritage site in the State.
- The area is surrounded by a chain of seven hillocks or inselbergs that serve as a watershed, charging “72 lakes, 200 natural springs and three check dams”.
- The Anaikondan tank, built during the reign of Pandiyan kings in the 16th century is one among them.
- Several megalithic structures, rock-cut temples, Tamil Brahmi inscriptions and Jain beds add to the historical significance of the region.

7- (a)

- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is the knowledge and implementation partner for this project.
- The ports have also aimed to reduce Carbon emissions per ton of cargo handled by 30% by 2030. The Maritime Vision Document 2030, released by Prime Minister is a 10 Year blueprint on India's vision of a sustainable Maritime sector and vibrant blue economy. India has been selected as the first country under the

IMO Green Voyage 2050 project to conduct a pilot project related to Green Shipping.

- India will also be implementing IMO energy efficiency requirements for existing ships and carbon intensity requirements on all its vessels whether coastal or international in order to help achieve IMO GHG reduction targets. India is already supplying shore power to ships with a power demand of less than 150 KW at present and targeting to supply shore power to all visiting ships. India is working actively at Marine Environmental Protection Committee of IMO to help devise acceptable regulatory requirements for GHG emission reduction in line with IMO GHG initial strategy.

8- (c)

- Malabar is a multilateral war-gaming naval exercise that was started in 1992. It began as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the United States. Two more editions of the exercise were carried out in 1995 and 1996, after which there was a break until 2002 in the aftermath of India's nuclear tests.
- From 2002 onward, the exercise has been conducted every year. Japan and Australia first participated in 2007, and since 2014, India, the US and

Japan have participated in the exercise every year.

GES
REPORTER

Que-1 Consider the following statements about ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus

- 1- Recently convened in Java, Indonesia.
- 2- The ADMM Plus is an annual meeting of Defence Ministers of ten ASEAN countries and its eight dialogue partner countries, viz., India, USA, Russia, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.
- 3- The Inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Ha Noi, VietNam, in 2010.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to sea cucumbers, consider the following statements

- 1- Sea cucumbers are marine invertebrates that live on the seafloor.
- 2- They help recycle nutrients, breaking down detritus and other organic matter, after which bacteria can continue the decomposition process.
- 3- Sea cucumbers have an endoskeleton just below the skin.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

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

Que-3 Consider the following statements about Rural daily wage, according to data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- 1- Agricultural workers in the states of Kerala and Madhya Pradesh get the lowest daily wages in the country.
- 2- Rural jobs are dependent on agriculture which in turn is influenced by monsoon and rabi and kharif production.
- 3- Wage growth for agricultural and non-agricultural labourers remained muted during the year, during May 2021-February 2022, on account of subdued demand conditions coexisting with lower rural inflation.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 With reference to draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, (Amendment) Bill-2022, consider the following statements

- 1- The draft includes 'bestiality' as a crime under the new category of 'gruesome cruelty' and it defines gruesome cruelty as "an act that leads to extreme pain and suffering to the animals which may cause lifelong disability or death".

2- Gruesome cruelty...shall be punishable with a maximum fine of Rs 50,000.

3- The draft proposes a maximum 5-year imprisonment, along with a fine, for killing an animal.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 With reference to Assam and Meghalaya border dispute, consider the following statements

1- Assam and Meghalaya have a longstanding dispute in 12 stretches of their 884-km shared border.

2- Meghalaya was carved out in 1958, its boundaries demarcated as per the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act of 1969, but has held a different interpretation of the border since.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

1- CITES is an international agreement between governments — 184 at present — to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.

2- All import, export and re-export of species covered under CITES must be authorised through a permit system.

3- Every year, the Conference of the Parties (CoP), the supreme decision-making body of CITES, applies a set of biological and trade criteria to evaluate proposals from parties to decide if a species should be in Appendix I or II.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 With reference to International ivory trade, consider the following statements

1- The international ivory trade was globally banned in 1989 when all African elephant populations were put in CITES Appendix I.

2- In 1986, India amended The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to ban even domestic sales of ivory.

3- India decides not to vote against a proposal to re-open the international trade in ivory at the ongoing conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about MAARG portal, recently in News

1- The National Mentorship Platform by Startup India.

2- MAARG portal - Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Result and Growth.

3- To facilitate efficient and expert mentorship for startups and build an outcome-oriented mechanism that allows

timely tracking of the mentor-mentee engagements

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (d)

- Recently convened in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Objectives

The objectives of the ADMM-Plus, are:

- To benefit ASEAN Member States in building capacity to address shared security challenges, while cognisant of the differing capacities of various ASEAN Member States;
- To promote mutual trust and confidence between defence establishments through greater dialogue and transparency;
- To enhance regional peace and stability through cooperation in defence and security, in view of the transnational security challenges the region faces;
- To contribute to the realisation of an ASEAN Security Community which, as

stipulated in the Bali Concord II, embodies ASEAN's aspiration to achieve peace, stability, democracy and prosperity in the region where ASEAN Member States live at peace with one another and with the world at large;

- To facilitate the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme, which calls for ASEAN to build a peaceful, secure and prosperous ASEAN, and to adopt greater outward-looking external relation strategies with our friends and Dialogue Partners.

2- (c)

- Sea cucumbers serve a useful role in the marine ecosystem as they help recycle nutrients, breaking down detritus and other organic matter, after which bacteria can continue the decomposition process.
- Like all echinoderms, sea cucumbers have an endoskeleton just below the skin, calcified structures that are usually reduced to isolated microscopic ossicles (or sclerites) joined by connective tissue. In some species these can sometimes be enlarged to flattened plates, forming an armour. In pelagic species such as *Pelagothuria natatrix* (order Elaspodida, family Pelagothuriidae),

the skeleton is absent and there is no calcareous ring.

- Sea cucumbers are named for their resemblance to the fruit of the cucumber plant.

3- (d)

- According to data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in Madhya Pradesh, male agricultural workers in rural areas got a daily wage of just Rs 217.8 while in Gujarat, it worked out to Rs 220.3 in the year ended March 2022. Significantly, daily wages in both the states are below the national average of Rs 323.2. A rural farm worker in Kerala, which pays the highest wage among states, gets an average of Rs 18,170 for 25 days work in a month.
- Rural jobs are dependent on agriculture which in turn is influenced by monsoon and rabi and kharif production. "Wage growth for agricultural and non-agricultural labourers remained muted during the year, averaging 4.4 per cent and 3.6 per cent, respectively, during May 2021-February 2022, on account of subdued demand conditions coexisting with lower rural inflation.
- However, agricultural wage growth picked up to 6.0 per cent in February 2022 from a low of 1.1 per cent in June

2021, while non-agricultural wage growth increased to 6.1 per cent in February 2022 from 0.2 per cent in May 2021, partly reflecting unfavourable base effects,” said the RBI’s Annual Report for 2021-22.

4- (b)

- In a move to overhaul the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act-1960, the Centre has proposed to introduce 61 amendments in the six-decade-old law, including provision of three-year jail for committing “gruesome cruelty” and five-year imprisonment for killing an animal.
- The draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, (Amendment) Bill-2022 has been prepared by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- Gruesome cruelty...shall be punishable with a minimum fine of Rs 50,000 which may be extended up to Rs 75,000 or the cost may be decided by judicial magistrate in consultation with the jurisdictional veterinarians whichever is more or with the imprisonment of one year which may extend up to three years or with both.
- The draft also proposes insertion of a new Section 3A, which provides ‘five freedoms’ to animals. “It shall be the duty of every person having charge of

an animal to ensure that the animal in his care or under his charge has: 1) Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition; 2) Freedom from discomfort due to environment; 3) Freedom from pain, injury and diseases; 4) Freedom to express normal behaviour for the species; and 5) Freedom from fear and distress.

5- (a)

- Meghalaya was carved out in 1972, its boundaries demarcated as per the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act of 1969, but has held a different interpretation of the border since.
- A 2008 research paper from the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses refers to the Bordoloi Committee’s recommendation that Blocks I and II of Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya) be transferred to the Mikir Hill (Karbi Anglong) district of Assam, besides some areas from Meghalaya’s Garo Hills to Goalpara district of Assam. The 1969 Act is based on these recommendations, which Meghalaya rejects, claiming these areas originally belong to the Khasi–Jaintia Hills. On the other hand, Assam says Meghalaya does not have the requisite documents to prove these areas historically belonged to Meghalaya.

6- (a)

- CITES is an international agreement between governments — 184 at present — to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. The convention entered into force in 1975 and India became the 25th party — a state that voluntarily agrees to be bound by the Convention — in 1976.
- All import, export and re-export of species covered under CITES must be authorised through a permit system.
- CITES Appendix I lists species threatened with extinction — import or export permits for these are issued rarely and only if the purpose is not primarily commercial. CITES Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction but in which trade must be strictly regulated.
- Every two years, the Conference of the Parties (CoP), the supreme decision-making body of CITES, applies a set of biological and trade criteria to evaluate proposals from parties to decide if a species should be in Appendix I or II.

7- (c)

- The international ivory trade was globally banned in 1989 when all African elephant populations were put in CITES Appendix I. However, the populations of Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe were transferred to Appendix II in 1997, and South Africa's in 2000 to allow two "one-off sales" in 1999 and 2008 of ivory stockpiled from natural elephant deaths and seizures from poachers.
- Subsequently, Namibia's proposal for allowing a regular form of controlled trade in ivory by delisting the elephant populations of the four countries from Appendix II was rejected at CoP17 (2016) and CoP18 (2019). At the ongoing CoP19, the proposal was moved by Zimbabwe but met the same fate.
- The four southern African countries argue that their elephant populations have bounced back and that their stockpiled ivory, if sold internationally, can generate much-needed revenue for elephant conservation and incentivising communities.
- Opponents of the ivory trade counter that any form of supply stokes demand and that sharp spikes in elephant poaching were recorded across the globe after the one-off

sales allowed by the CITES in 1999 and 2008.

8- (b)

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has launched a call for startup applications for registration on the MAARG portal, the National Mentorship Platform by Startup India.

The objectives of the MAARG portal are –

- To provide sector focused guidance, handholding, and support to startups throughout their lifecycle.
 - To establish a formalized and structured platform that facilitates intelligent matchmaking between the mentors and their respective mentees.
 - To facilitate efficient and expert mentorship for startups and build an outcome-oriented mechanism that allows timely tracking of the mentor-mentee engagements.
-

Que-1 With reference to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), consider the following statements

- 1- GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region — Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Israel, Oman and Bahrain.
- 2- The council is the largest trading bloc of India.
- 3- GCC countries contribute almost 35% of India's oil imports and 70% of its gas imports.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to cryosphere, consider the following statements

- 1- Cryosphere comprises all regions on and beneath the surface of the Earth and ocean where water is in solid form.
- 2- The cryosphere draws its importance to the climate system from its high reflectivity, its low thermal conductivity, its large thermal inertia and, especially, its critical role in driving deep ocean water circulation.
- 3- Changes in the cryosphere have major impacts on water supply, agriculture, transportation, freshwater ecosystems,

hydropower production, health, and recreation.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 With reference to the newly formed 'Ambition on Melting Ice on Sea-level Rise and Mountain Water Resources' group, consider the following statements

- 1- The group comprising 18 governments brings special attention to the role of cryosphere loss in global sea-level rise — one of the most visible and immediate impacts of climate change.
- 2- The countries that signed the declaration recently at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change concluded in Qatar include those in the mountains as well as low-lying areas.
- 3- They aim to promote awareness on the effect of cryosphere loss among global leaders and citizens.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

1- It was formulated in line with One Nation–One Scheme theme by replacing earlier two schemes National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).

2- The scheme is being administered by Ministry of Finance.

3- It aims to reduce the premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claim for the full insured sum.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements

1- The worker-population ratio (WPR) is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.

2- The labour force participation rate (LFPR), defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force who are working or seeking or available for work in the population.

3- The unemployment ratio is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed in the population.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 With reference to draft Aircraft Security Rules, 2022, consider the following statements

1- This enable the aviation security regulator, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) to impose penalties upto ₹10 crore on airports and airlines for violation of security measures.

2- Individuals will also face penalties ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹25 lakh depending on the nature of offence.

3- The draft rules now restrict airports to engage only CISF personnel at “non-core areas” and assign security duties as per the recommendation of the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about Leith's Softshell Turtle

- 1- It is classified as 'threatened' by the IUCN.
- 2- Endemic to peninsular India and it inhabits rivers and reservoirs.
- 3- A large fresh water soft-shelled turtle.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr' (Sea Breeze)

- 1- Indian Navy (IN) - Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) bilateral exercise.
- 2- Exercise had three phases: harbour phase, sea phase and debrief.
- 3- The exercise was recently conducted off the coast of Oman.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

- 1- (d)
 - GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region — Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.
 - India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have agreed to pursue a free trade agreement (FTA) between the two regions and resume negotiations.
 - India's exports to the GCC member countries grew by 58.26% to about \$44 billion in 2021-22 against \$27.8 billion in 2020-21.
- 2- (c)
 - Cryosphere comprises all regions on and beneath the surface of the Earth and ocean where water is in solid form, including sea ice, lake ice, river ice, snow cover, glaciers and ice sheets, and frozen ground, including permafrost.
 - The cryosphere draws its importance to the climate system from its high reflectivity, also known as albedo, for solar radiation, its low thermal conductivity, its large thermal inertia and, especially, its critical role in driving deep ocean water circulation; and for the reason that the ice sheets store a large amount of water, variations in their volume are a

potential source of sea level variations.

3- (b)

- The countries that signed the declaration recently at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change concluded in Egypt include those in the mountains as well as low-lying areas.
- Elevated sea-levels can erase entire geographies off the world map, endanger marine and coastal ecosystems and cause immense economic losses.
- Melting cryosphere and thermal expansion of sea-water due to global warming were always seen as the major contributors to sea-level rise by policymakers.
- Melting of glaciers, ice sheets, river and lake ice as well as permafrost accelerated over the last couple of years, propelled by global warming. This year was annus horribilis for many frozen regions of the world, with September breaking multiple records.
- Switzerland lost 6 per cent of the glacier ice volume from 2021-2022, according to the Provisional State of

the Global Climate in 2022 report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

- In the Swiss Alps, “for the first time in history, no snow outlasted the summer season even at the very highest measurement sites and thus no accumulation of fresh ice occurred”.
- The Greenland ice sheet lost mass in 2022 for the 26th year in a row, the report added. In September, it rained on the ice sheet instead of snowing for the very first time.
- The founding governments of the group include Chile (co-chair), Iceland (co-chair), Peru, Czech Republic, Nepal, Finland, Senegal, Kyrgyz Republic, Samoa, Georgia, Switzerland, New Zealand, Monaco, Vanuatu, Sweden, Tanzania, Liberia, Norway and Mexico.

4- (b)

- The scheme is being administered by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- The Pradhan Mantri fasal bima yojana (PMFBY) launched on 18 February 2016 by Prime Minister, is an insurance service for farmers for their yields. It was formulated in line with One Nation–One Scheme theme by

replacing earlier two schemes National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) by incorporating their best features and removing their inherent drawbacks (shortcomings).

5- (a)

- The unemployment rate in urban areas for persons aged above 15 eased to 7.2% in July-September 2022 from 9.8% a year ago and 7.6% in the previous quarter, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- The unemployment rate was 6.6% for men and 9.4% for women. It was 9.3% and 11.6%, respectively, in July--September 2021. The unemployment ratio is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
- The WPR in urban areas for persons aged 15 and above stood at 44.5% in July-September 2022, an increase from 42.3% in the corresponding period in 2021. It was 43.9% in April-June 2022. The WPR among men was 68.6% and 19.7% among women. It was 66.6% and 17.6%, respectively, in 2021.

- The labour force participation rate (LFPR), defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force who are working or seeking or available for work in the population, in urban areas for persons aged 15 and above, increased to 47.9% in July-September 2022, from 46.9% in the corresponding period in 2021. It was 47.5% in April-June 2022.

- The LFPR among men was 73.4% and 21.7% among women. In 2021, it was 73.5% and 19.9%, respectively.

6- (a)

- Once the draft Rules are finalised, the BCAS can impose a fine of ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore (depending on the size of the company) on airports and airlines if they fail to prepare and implement a security programme, or if they commence operations without seeking a security clearance.
- Large airports can also face a penalty of ₹1 crore if they fail to plan the design and layout of the airport in accordance with the National Civil Aviation Security Programme. Individuals will also face penalties ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹25 lakh depending on the nature of offence. According to the proposed rules, the BCAS will also be able to suspend or cancel an entity's airport security clearance and security programme.

- In order to deal with cyber security threats, the rules also require each entity to protect its information and communication technology systems against unauthorised use and prohibit disclosure of sensitive aviation security information. The draft rules now authorise airports to engage private security agents instead of CISF personnel at “non-core areas” and assign security duties as per the recommendation of the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016.

7- (d)

- India’s proposal for transferring Leith’s Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonina leithi*) from Appendix II to Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) has been adopted by the Conference of Parties (CoP) to CITES in its 19th Meeting at Panama.
- Leith’s Softshell Turtle is a large fresh water soft-shelled turtle which is endemic to peninsular India and it inhabits rivers and reservoirs. The species has been subject to intensive exploitation over the past 30 years. It has been poached and illegally consumed within India. It has also been illegally traded abroad for meat and for its calipee. The population of this turtle species is estimated to have

declined by 90% over the past 30 years such that the species is now difficult to find. It is classified as ‘Critically Endangered’ by the IUCN.

8- (c)

- India and Oman have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly relations, sharing common cultural values. Naval exercises have added strength and substance to these bilateral ties. The first IN-RNO exercise was conducted in 1993. This year marks 30 years of IN-RNO bilateral exercises.
-

Que-1 Consider the following statements about Why are countries racing towards the Arctic?

- 1- To augment their capabilities in a bid to be ready to capitalise on the melting Arctic.
- 2- Russian military modernisation in the Arctic has prompted other Arctic states to join the bandwagon.
- 3- Unlike Antarctica, the Arctic is not a global common accentuating the problem.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 Consider the following statements about Constitution Day

- 1- The Constitution Day - or 'Samvidhan Divas' - is celebrated on November 26 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.
- 2- Since 2015 November 26 was celebrated as "Constitution Day", earlier known as 'Law day'.
- 3- Constituent Assembly took almost four years (three years, eleven months, and seventeen days to be precise) to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 Consider the following statements about Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP)

- 1- It is the largest nuclear power station in India, situated in Kudankulam in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.
- 2- Built in collaboration with Atomstroyexport, the French state company and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).
- 3- This is scheduled to have six VVER-1000 reactors.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 With reference to National Milk Day 2022, consider the following statements

- 1- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is celebrating "National Milk Day" to commemorate 101st birth anniversary of the "Father of the White Revolution in India", Dr. M S Swaminathan.
- 2- Celebrated on 26th November.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Rooftop solar capacity installations in India fell 29% to 320 megawatt (MW) in July-September 2022, according to Mercom Research India. Consider the following statements about this

- 1- Tamil Nadu became the leading state with the highest rooftop solar installations, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
- 2- The top 10 states accounted for approximately 73% of cumulative rooftop solar installations.
- 3- In the third quarter of 2022, 46% of rooftop solar capacity was installed in the industrial sector, followed by 32% in residential, commercial 21%, and the remaining in the government sector.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about "Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2022" (IPRD-2022)

- 1- The IPRD is an annual international conference that seeks to foster exchange of ideas and promote deliberations on maritime issues relevant to the Indo-Pacific.
- 2- The IPRD-2022, was organised by the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi, as the Indian Navy's knowledge partner.
- 3- Based on the overarching theme of "Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative" (IPOI), the IPRD 2022 explored sub-themes that could provide a greater degree of specificity and traction to the seven 'pillars' or 'spokes' of the IPOI.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about Early warning system (EWS)

1- Early warning system is an adaptive measure for climate change, using integrated communication systems to help communities prepare for hazardous climate-related events.

2- A successful EWS saves lives and jobs, land and infrastructures and supports long-term sustainability.

3- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2050 was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in 2015, requires increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2050.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about Neelakurinji flowers

1- It is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

2- The purplish blue flower blossoms only once in 20 years, and gave the Nilgiri

Mountains range its name, from the Tamil language Kurinji (flower).

3- The Paliyan tribal people living in Tamil Nadu used it as a reference to calculate their age.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (c)

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) has been conducting regular exercises in the region while partner countries are investing in upgrading military capabilities. At the same time, China, which calls itself to be a near-Arctic state, has also announced ambitious plans for a 'polar silk route' to connect to Europe as well building massive icebreakers.

- Since 2007, India has an Arctic research programme with as many as 13 expeditions undertaken till date. In March 2022, India unveiled its first Arctic policy titled: 'India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development' which lays down six pillars: strengthening India's scientific research and cooperation,

climate and environmental protection, economic and human development, transportation and connectivity, governance and international cooperation, and national capacity building in the Arctic region. India is also one of the 13 Observers in the Arctic Council, the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation in the Arctic.

- As the earth further heats up, which is more profound at the poles, the race for the Arctic is set to accelerate which makes the Arctic the next geopolitical hotspot with all interests converging on it – environmental, economic, political and military.

2- (a)

- On this day, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect on 26th January 1950.
- Constituent Assembly took almost three years (two years, eleven months, and seventeen days to be precise) to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, was the President of the Constituent Assembly, which was established in 1946. It took almost three years (two years, eleven

months, and seventeen days to be precise) to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India.

- On August 29, 1947, the Constituent Assembly set up a Drafting Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to prepare a draft. While deliberating upon the draft Constitution, the Assembly moved, discussed, and disposed of as many as 2,473 amendments out of a total of 7,635 tabled.
- During this period, it held eleven sessions covering a total of 165 days. Of these, 114 days were spent on the consideration of the Draft Constitution.

3- (b)

- Built in collaboration with Atomstroyexport, the Russian state company and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).
- The water-water energetic reactor (WWER), or VVER is a series of pressurized water reactor designs originally developed in the Soviet Union, and now Russia, by OKB Gidropress.

4- (b)

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is celebrating “National

Milk Day” to commemorate 101st birth anniversary of the “Father of the White Revolution in India”, Dr. Verghese Kurien also known as the Milkman of India, as a part of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” on 26th November 2022 in Bengaluru. The prestigious National Gopal Ratna Awards 2022 will also be conferred during the event.

5- (d)

- Gujarat became the leading state with the highest rooftop solar installations, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
- According to the report, at the end of Q3 2022, cumulative rooftop solar installations reached 8.3 GW.
- We are seeing rooftop solar installations trending down as costs have risen. The market is struggling with supply issues because of the Approved List of Module and Manufacturers (ALMM), and installers are finding it a tough environment to operate in overall.
- The tendering process increased 46% year-on-year to about 311 MW of rooftop solar projects in July-September 2022, of which 33% were announced by the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, 16% by Solar Energy

Corporation of India (SECI) and 51% by other state agencies.

6- (c)

- The IPRD is an annual international conference that seeks to foster exchange of ideas and promote deliberations on maritime issues relevant to the Indo-Pacific which, for India, stretches over a vast, predominantly maritime expanse from the eastern shore of Africa to the western shore of America.
- The IPOI proposes cooperation in seven sectors (or ‘pillars’) – Maritime security; maritime ecology; maritime resources; capacity building and resource sharing; disaster risk reduction and management; science, technology and academic cooperation; trade, connectivity and maritime transport.

7- (a)

- Early warning system is an adaptive measure for climate change, using integrated communication systems to help communities prepare for hazardous climate-related events. A successful EWS saves lives and jobs, land and infrastructures and supports long-term sustainability. Early warning systems will assist public officials and administrators in their planning, saving money in the long run

and protecting economies. The UN, working in diverse partnerships, has introduced a number of innovative early warning systems initiatives in vulnerable areas around the world.

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in 2015, requires increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

8- (b)

- The purplish blue flower blossoms only once in 12 years, and gave the Nilgiri Mountains range its name, from the Tamil language Kurinji (flower).
 - This plant flowers during September–October.
-

Que-1 With reference to to a draft Bill to amend the Registration of Birth and Death (RBD) Act, 1969, consider the following statements

1- It shall be mandatory for hospitals and medical institutions to provide a copy of all death certificates, stating the cause of death, to the local registrar apart from the relative of the deceased.

2- Birth certificates issued by the local registrars will be used to prove the date and place of birth of a person born on or after the date of Amendment.

3- Provisions exist for compulsory registration of births and deaths but after the law is amended, it will be mandatory to produce birth and death certificates for myriad purposes.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 Consider the following statements about Rare earth minerals

1- India has 26% of the world's rare earth reserves.

2- India produces 10% of global output.

3- India meets most of its requirements of such minerals from China.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 With reference to Indian Ocean Rim Association, (IORA), consider the following statements

1- It is an international organisation consisting of 23 states bordering the Indian Ocean.

2- The Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

3- The IORA is a regional forum, tripartite in nature, bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia, for promoting co-operation and closer interaction among them.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about India Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) PSLV-C54 rocket, recently in News

- 1- This successfully placed the Earth Observation Satellite (Oceansat) and eight other customer satellites into sun-synchronous orbits.
- 2- This mission was PSLV's 56th flight and 24th flight of PSLV-XL version with six XL boosters.
- 3- The nanosatellites included India's first privately built earth observation satellite Aarabh.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 The Dhamma Dipa International Buddhist University (DDIBU) is expected to become the first Buddhist-run university in India to offer Buddhist education along with courses in other disciplines of modern education as well. This would be situated at

- a) Bihar
- b) Assam
- c) Sikkim
- d) Tripura

Que-6 Consider the following statements about Bluebugging

- 1- It is a form of hacking that lets attackers access a device through its discoverable Bluetooth connection.
- 2- Bluebugging can happen whenever a Bluetooth enabled device is within a 10-metre radius of the hacker.
- 3- Once a device or phone is bluebugged, a hacker can listen to the calls, read and send messages and steal and modify contacts.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards

- 1- The Sangeet Natak Akademi has bestowed special one-time awards commemorating 75 years of India's independence on 86 artistes.
- 2- This includes artistes who are above the age of 75 years and haven't been accorded any national honour in their career so far in the field of the performing arts.
- 3- The award carries a purse of ₹10,00,000.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation

1- Andhra Pradesh scored a double win at the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

2- For the restoration of the stepwells inside the Qutb Shahi Tombs Complex in Hyderabad

3- An Award of Merit for the conservation work on the Domakonda Fort in Kamareddy district.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (c)

- Though registration of birth and death is already compulsory under the RBD Act, 1969 and violating it is a punishable offence, the government intends to improve compliance by making the registration mandatory to avail basic services such as admission in schools and registration of marriages.
- The Bill to amend the RBD Act, 1969, proposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), states that birth certificates issued by the local registrars will be “used to prove the date and place of birth of a person born on or after the date of Amendment for: admission into educational institutions; issuance of driving licence; preparation of voter list; registration of marriage; appointment in Central Government, State Government, local bodies and Public Sector Undertakings, statutory bodies, autonomous bodies under Central and State government; Issuance of passport and other cases as prescribed by rules.”
- Provisions exist for compulsory registration of births and deaths but after the law is amended, it will be mandatory to produce birth and death

certificates for myriad purposes. The database will be linked to electoral rolls. When a person turns 18, the name will be included in the voters list and after a person has died, the name will be deleted from the rolls. The entire process will be online.

2- (b)

- Though India has 6% of the world's rare earth reserves, it only produces 1% of global output, and meets most of its requirements of such minerals from China.

3- (b)

- The Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at Ebene, Mauritius.
- The IORA is a regional forum, tripartite in nature, bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia, for promoting co-operation and closer interaction among them. It is based on the principles of Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment, Promotion as well as Social Development of the region.

4- (a)

- The nanosatellites included India's first privately built earth observation satellite Anand.

- EOS-06 is a third-generation satellite in the Oceansat series. This is to provide continuity services of Oceansat-2 spacecraft with enhanced payload specifications as well as application areas. The payloads in the satellite include ocean colour monitor, sea surface temperature monitor, Ku-band scatterometer and Argos.

- After placing EOS-06 in orbit, PSLV-C54 travelled around the earth in less than an hour and placed eight nanosatellites in their orbits. The nanosatellites included two Thybolt satellites, communication payloads made by Dhruva Space to enable rapid technology demonstration and constellation development for multiple users.

- It was followed by INS-2B satellite (India-Bhutan Sat) which was be injected into a 528.8km altitude. The Isro nanosatellite-2 for Bhutan (INS-2B) has two payloads including NanoMx, a multispectral optical imaging payload developed by Space Applications Centre.

- The rocket placed Anand nanosatellite in a low earth orbit. The satellite was built by Bengaluru-based startup Pixxel. It is a technology demonstrator to demonstrate the capabilities and commercial applications of

miniaturized earth-observation cameras for earth observation using a microsatellite.

- Four nanosatellites from US firm Spaceflight would also be injected into orbit. They were a technology demonstrator for the Internet of Things as the payload.

5- (d)

- Shakya Gasan, chief monk of the World Buddhist Pope Association of South Korea, will lay the foundation stone for the International Buddhist University at Manu Bankul in Sabroom of South Tripura district.

6- (c)

What is bluebugging?

- It is a form of hacking that lets attackers access a device through its discoverable Bluetooth connection. Once a device or phone is bluebugged, a hacker can listen to the calls, read and send messages and steal and modify contacts. It started out as a threat for laptops with Bluetooth capability. Later hackers used the technique to target mobile phones and other devices.
- Independent security researcher Martin Herfurt blogged about the threat of bluebugging as early as 2004. He noted that the bug exploited a

loophole in Bluetooth protocol, enabling it to download phone books and call lists from the attacked user's phone.

7- (a)

- The 86 awardees for the one-time prizes, named Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards, including artistes who are above the age of 75 years and haven't been accorded any national honour in their career so far in the field of the performing arts. The award carries a purse of ₹1,00,000.
- The General Council of the Akademi also selected 128 artistes from the fields of music, dance, theatre, folk, tribal and puppetry for the Sangeet Natak Akademi awards, better known as the Akademi Puraskars, for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. These include three joint awards.
- While the Akademi fellowship carries a purse of ₹3,00,000, for the Akademi Puraskar it is ₹1,00,000.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards will be conferred by the President of India at a special investiture ceremony
- Apart from this, the Akademi announced the names of 102 young artistes for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2019,

2020 and 2021. These include three joint awards.

8- (d)

- Telangana scored a double win at the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
 - The 17th century stepwells inside the Qutb Shahi tombs complex were in a state of ruin and were disused. It was only after the Aga Khan Trust for Culture signed an agreement with the State Government that the wells were restored, beginning with the Badi Baoli.
 - The Domakonda Fort is a private property and was built in the 18th century with an amalgam of styles including stucco work, arched pillars, flat ceiling, and a courtyard with a water garden pond. The fort was part of the celebration of the marriage function of Upasana Kamineni (a scion of the family that built the fort) and actor Ram Charan in 2012.
-

Que-1 The Himalayan yak has been accepted as a food animal by the scientific panel of Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI). Consider the following statements about this

- 1- Recommended by Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD).
- 2- The categorisation is expected to help check the decline in the population of the high-altitude bovine animal by making it a part of the conventional milk and meat industry.
- 3- Yaks are traditionally reared under a transhumance system which is primitive, unorganised and full of hardship.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to Black corals, consider the following statements

- 1- Black corals can be found growing only in shallow waters.
- 2- Many of these corals are branched and look like feathers, fans or bushes, while others are straight like a whip.
- 3- They have historically been used by Pacific Islanders for medical treatment and in rituals, its only modern use is making jewelry.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 Consider the following statements about Direct benefit transfers (DBT)

- 1- This is an attempt to change the mechanism of transferring subsidies launched by Government of India in 2013.
- 2- It is hoped that crediting subsidies into bank accounts will reduce leakages, duplicity and delay and the new processes will increase transparency and accountability.
- 3- It was set up under the Planning Commission, shifted to the Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry and then the NITI Aayog in September 2015.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 Consider the following statements about Red Planet Day

- 1- It is being celebrated on November 26.
- 2- This day is observed annually to mark the launch of Mariner 4 spacecrafts on the Planet Mars in 1964.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 With reference to Nai Chetana campaign, recently in News, consider the following statements

- 1- A gender campaign launched under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission in five States.
- 2- Activities will be centred on the theme of 'Gender equality and gender-based violence.'
- 3- This aims at equipping women to recognise and prevent violence and making them aware of their rights.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 With reference to recent 4th India-France annual defence dialogue, consider the following statements about their discussion

- 1- Defence industrial cooperation with a focus on 'Make in India'.
- 2- Means to strengthen maritime cooperation.
- 3- Increase the scope and complexity of bilateral exercises.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 Consider the following statements about International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

- 1- The United Nations General Assembly has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
- 2- This year theme is UNITE! States to End Violence against Women & Girls.
- 3- This date was selected to honour the Mirabal sisters, three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country's ruler, Rafael Trujillo (1930-1961).

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about SARAS 3 telescope

1- A radio telescope designed and built at the Raman Research Institute (RRI).

2- This has been deployed over the Dandiganahalli Lake and Sharavati backwaters in Uttarakhand since 2020.

3- Using data from the telescope astronomers and researchers have been able to determine properties of radio luminous galaxies formed just 200 million years post the Big Bang, a period known as the Cosmic Dawn.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (c)

- The yak plays a multidimensional socio-cultural-economic role for the pastoral nomads who rear it mainly for earning their nutritional and livelihood security due to the lack of other agricultural activity in the higher reaches of the Himalayan region where it is difficult for animals except the yak to survive.
- According to a census carried out in 2019, India has some 58,000 yaks – a drop of about 25% from the last livestock census conducted in 2012. Apart from the government and the local users, the drastic drop in the yak's number has become a major cause of concern for animal genetic diversity conservationists.
- The drastic decline in yak population could be attributed to less remuneration from the bovid, discouraging the younger generations from continuing with nomadic yak rearing. It is mainly because yak milk and meat are not a part of the conventional dairy and meat industry, their sale is limited to local consumers.
- According to the nutritional analysis, yak milk contains 78-82% water, 7.5-8.5% fat, 4.9-5.3% protein, 4.5-5.0%

lactose and 12.3-13.4% solids-not-fat. The products which are traditionally produced from yak milk are churkum, churpi, ghee and paneer.

2- (d)

- Black corals can be found growing both in shallow waters and down to depths of over 26,000 feet (8,000 metres), and some individual corals can live for over 4,000 years.
- Many of these corals are branched and look like feathers, fans or bushes, while others are straight like a whip. Unlike their colourful, shallow-water cousins that rely on the sun and photosynthesis for energy, black corals are filter feeders and eat tiny zooplankton that are abundant in deep waters.
- These corals can be recognized by their jet-black or dark brown chitin skeletons, surrounded by the polyps (part of coral that is alive).
- A black coral reproduces both sexually and asexually throughout its lifetime. Many black corals provide housing, shelter, food, and protection for other animals.
- Black corals have been declining in numbers and are expected to continue declining due to the effects

of poaching, ocean acidification and climate change.

3- (a)

- It was set up under the Planning Commission, shifted to the Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry and then the Cabinet Secretariat in September 2015.
- The primary aim of this Direct Benefit Transfer program is to bring transparency and terminate pilferage from distribution of funds sponsored by Central Government of India. In DBT, benefit or subsidy will be directly transferred to citizens living below poverty line.

4- (b)

- Every year on November 28, the Red Planet Day is observed which marks the remembrance of the 1964 NASA launch of Mariner which was actually one of the first spacecraft to land on the Red Planet aka Mars. After being on the planet for nearly a year, the spacecraft finally took off the red planet on July 14, 1965, after traveling there for nearly eight months. The aircraft was sent to the planet to facilitate planetary exploration and near scientific investigations of Mars.
- NASA has a lander (Mars Insight), a rover (Curiosity), and three orbiters

(Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, Mars Odyssey, MAVEN); India has an orbiter (Mangalyaan-1); the EU has 2 orbiters (Mars Express and ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter); and China and UAE will have an orbiter each (Hope and Tianwen-1 respectively).

- The UAE mission will study the Martian atmosphere, and will seek to address the billion-dollar question of how and why Mars lost its atmosphere. India's Mars Orbiter Mission — a technology demonstration venture — carried five scientific payloads (total 15 kg) collecting data on surface geology, morphology, atmospheric processes, surface temperature and atmospheric escape process.

6- (c)

7- (b)

- This year theme is UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women & Girls.
- Women's rights activists have observed 25 November as a day against gender-based violence since 1981. This date was selected to honour the Mirabal sisters, three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country's ruler, Rafael Trujillo (1930-1961).
- On 20 December 1993, the General Assembly adopts the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women through resolution 48/104, paving the path towards eradicating violence against women and girls worldwide.
- Finally, on 7 February 2000, the General Assembly adopts resolution 54/134, officially designating 25 November as the International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and in doing so, inviting governments, international organizations as well as NGOs to join together and organize activities designed to raise public awareness of the issue every year on that date.

5- (d)

- Nai Chetana, a gender campaign launched under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission in all States, is off to a start in Kerala too under the umbrella of the Kudumbashree Mission.
- As part of the four-week campaign, a State-level core committee was formed. Twenty-five gender resource centres were started under the Kudumbashree in various districts. Activities will be centred on the theme of 'Gender equality and gender-based violence.'

8- (b)

- This has been deployed over the Dandiganahalli Lake and Sharavati backwaters in Northern Karnataka since 2020.
 - SARAS is a niche high-risk high-gain experimental effort of RRI initiated and led by Prof. Ravi Subrahmanyan, along with Prof. N. Udaya Shankar. It was a courageous attempt to design, build and deploy in India a precision radio telescope to detect extremely faint radio wave signals from the depths of time, from our “Cosmic Dawn” when the first stars and galaxies formed in the early Universe.
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