

**TEST PAPERS ON
CURRENT AFFAIRS
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
WITH MODEL QUESTIONS
(From October, 2021 to February,2022)**

TSPSC GROUP I Prelims 2022 (Scheduled on 16.10.2022)

TSLPRB SI (Dt.7.8.2022) & CONSTABLES (Dt.21.8.2022)

Model Questions (for GS Paper)
Set No. 1 {Prepared on 22 .5.2022 }

For Study purpose
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1)Consider the following with reference to 'Energy for Sustainable Growth' .

1)'Energy for Sustainable Growth' not only resonates with the Indian tradition but is a pathway to achieve future needs and aspirations. Prime Minister of India said that sustainable growth is possible only through sustainable energy sources.

2)The Prime Minister reiterated his commitment made at Glasgow to reach Net Zero by 2070.

3)He also mentioned his vision of LIFE pertaining to an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

4)India is providing leadership in the global collaborations like International Solar Alliance. He also talked of target of achieving 500 gigawatt non-fossil energy capacity and achieving 50 per cent of installed energy capacity through non-fossil energy by 2030.

5)"Whatever targets India has set for itself, I do not see them as a challenges but as opportunity. India is moving with this vision in last few years and the same has been taken forward at policy level in this year's budget", he said. This budget has announced 19.5 thousand crore for high-efficiency solar module manufacturing which will help in making India a global hub for manufacturing and R&D of solar modules and related products.

6)Referring to recently announced National Hydrogen Mission, the Prime Minister said India can become hub of green hydrogen given its inherent advantage in the form of abundant renewable energy power. He asked for private sector efforts in the area.

7)Shri Modi also pointed towards challenge of energy storage which has received significant attention in the budget. "Provisions have also been made in this year's budget regarding battery swapping policy and inter-operability standards. These will reduce the problems faced in the use of electric vehicles in India," he said.

8)The Prime Minister emphasized that along with energy production, energy saving is equally important for sustainability. "You should work on how to make more Energy Efficient A/C, Efficient heaters, geysers, ovens in our country", he exhorted the participants.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 and 2 only
- (b)4,5,6,7 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, ,3,4,5,6,7
- (d) 6 and 7

Ans: c

2) Consider the following with reference to LED bulbs :

1) Stressing the need to prioritize energy efficient products, the Prime Minister gave the example of promotion of LED bulbs at large scale.

2) He said that first the government brought down the cost of LED bulbs by promoting production and then 37 crore LED bulbs were distributed under Ujala scheme.

3) This has led to saving of forty eight thousand million Kilo Watt Hour electricity and saving of about 20 thousand crore rupees in the electricity bills of poor and middle class families.

4) Furthermore, annual carbon emission saw a decline of 4 crore tonnes. Local bodies are saving 6 thousand crore rupees every year due to adoption of LED bulbs in street lights, he added.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and only

(c) 1, 2, ,3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

3) Consider the following with reference to Coal Gasification :

1) Coal gasification is a clean alternative to coal, the Prime Minister noted. In this year's budget, for coal gasification, 4 pilot projects have been announced which will help in firming up technical and financial viability of these projects.

2) Similarly, the government is also continuously promoting ethanol blending. The Prime Minister told the gathering about the extra differential excise duty for unblended fuel.

3) Recalling recent inauguration of Gobardhan Plant in Indore, the Prime Minister said that private sector can establish 500 or 1000 such plants in the country over next two years.

4) The Prime Minister talked about the future upsurge in the energy demand in India and underlined the criticality of transition towards renewable energy.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

4) Consider the following with reference to coal and coal gasification :

1) India has total reserve of 307 Billion Tonnes of thermal coal and about 80% of coal produced is used in thermal power plants.

2) Coal is a resource India is well endowed with and intends to use it for purposes other than energy generation in environmentally sustainable manner.

3)With global concerns on climate change and development of renewable energy, diversification of coal for its sustainable use has been identified as the future course for the country. Coal gasification is considered a cleaner option.

4)Gasification facilitates utilization of chemical properties of coal.

5)Syn Gas produced from coal can be used to produce Gaseous Fuels such as Hydrogen (Blue coupled with CCUS), Substitute Natural Gas (SNG or Methane), Di-Methyl Ether (DME), Liquid Fuels such as Methanol, Ethanol, Synthetic diesel and Chemical like Methanol derivatives, Olefins, Propylene, Mono-Ethylene Glycol (MEG), nitrogenous fertilizers including Ammonia, DRI, Industrial Chemicals along with Power Generation. These products will help move towards self-sufficiency under *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan*.

6)In line with the above objective, Ministry of Coal has taken initiatives for coal gasification and it has prepared National Mission document to achieve 100 MT coal gasification by the year 2030. Policy incentivizing coal gasification provides for rebate in revenue share in coal block auction and also linkage for the same.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
- (d) None

Ans: c

5)Consider the following with reference to Sagar parikrama :

1)The voyage Sagar Parikrama as Phase –I programme shall started on 5th March 2022 from Mandvi and ended at Porbandar on 6th March 2022.

2)The entire distance will be covered from the coastline of Mandvi on the coast of the Arabian Sea in the Kutch district of Gujarat, situated at the estuary where the river Rukmavati meets the Gulf of Kutch.

3)The journey of "Sagar Parikrama" started with Gujarat State.

4)The Bardoli Satyagraha, in the state of Gujarat, India during the British Raj, was a major episode of civil disobedience and revolt in the Indian Independence Movement on 12 June 1928. The movement was eventually led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and its success gave rise to Patel becoming one of the main leaders of the independence movement, especially resolving farmers issues.

5)Gujarat has a coastal length of 1214 km, covering 16 coastal districts having huge diversity of marine based ecosystems and development opportunities.

6)Fisher folk, vendors and industries have a direct stake in the development of fisheries sector in economic value, especially exports.

7)The journey of *Sagar Parikrama* shall focus on sustainable balance between the utilization of marine fisheries resources for food security of nation and livelihoods of coastal fisher communities and protection of marine ecosystems.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only

- (b) 1, 2, 3 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
 - (d) 6 and 7
- Ans: c

6) Consider the following with reference to Khawthilangtuipui (Karnaphuli)-Tuichawng River:

1) Shri Sarbananda Sonowal reviewed the ongoing projects, including the important Kaladan Multi Modal Transport project in Mizoram with top officials from Inland Waterways Authority (IWAI), Transport Department, Public Works Department (PWD) of Mizoram to develop the inland water transport (IWT) in Aizwal

2) Plans are afoot to develop the inland water transport at Khawthilangtuipui (Karnaphuli)-Tuichawng River stretching upto 23 kms. The total cost of this project Rs 22.93 crore. The PSW Ministry has sanctioned a total of Rs 6.17 crore under Central Sector Scheme. The minister was also appraised about the Hydrographical Survey & Techno Economic Feasibility study conducted covering a stretch of 87.136 kms between River Tiawng at Khamrang village in Mizoram to Gharmura in Assam.

3) A detailed report to develop IWT at River Chhimtuipui was submitted. It has now been decided to conduct Detail Hydrographic Survey and Techno Economic Feasibility Survey on this river from Tupui D to Lomasu stretching upto 138.26 kms. The cost of this survey is budgeted at Rs 82.30 lakhs.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

7) Consider the following :

1) Reiterating India's commitment to climate action and energy transition, Prime Minister urged discussion on key budget announcements like Rs 19500 crore allocation for PLI for high efficiency PV solar modules, Green Hydrogen Mission, Coal Gasification, Battery storage and clean cooking among others.

2) The industry leaders gave several concrete suggestions which included support for indigenous manufacturing for solar modules which may be extended to the entire value chain, including subcomponents and materials. This would enable growth of ancillary industry, including in MSME sector. Regarding Green Hydrogen, the industry welcomed the recent announcement of banking provisions and ISTS waiver for Green Hydrogen.

3) It was suggested that to further optimize the cost of Green Hydrogen production, a mechanism for Inter-State banking of RE may be considered.

4) For Green Hydrogen, it was suggested that Government may consider incentivising both domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers through a PLI mechanism and Green hydrogen end use. Industry leaders suggested that Solar cooking through both electric and thermal routes may be promoted. Startups have developed hybrid stoves that can work both on gas and solar power, these may also be explored. Rooftop solar promotion efforts may be

intensified, given its huge potential. Carbon pricing mechanism would be beneficial for emerging technologies. Government may also consider incentivising Carbon capture and utilization.

5)Circular Economy principles were also discussed which are being considered in MNRE's committee on the subject. MNRE would be taking time bound action for implementation of the budget announcements.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

8) Consider the following with reference to ARIES ?

1)Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) is one of the leading research institutes which specializes in observational Astronomy & Astrophysics, Solar Physics and Atmospheric Sciences.

2)The main research interests of Astronomy & Astrophysics division are in solar, planetary, stellar, galactic and extra-galactic astronomy including stellar variabilities, X-ray binaries, star clusters, nearby galaxies, quasars, and inherently transient events like supernovae and highly energetic gamma ray bursts.ARIES hosts three existing optical telescopes 3.6m DOT (India's largest), 1.3m DFOT and 1.04m ST and the upcoming 4m ILMT along with a 206.5 MHz ST Radar.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

9)Consider the following Mula – Mutha River Projects:

1)PM laid the foundation stone of rejuvenation and pollution abatement of Mula-Mutha River projects.

2)Rejuvenation will be done in 9 Km stretch of the river at a project cost of more than Rs. 1080 crores.

3)It will involve works such as river edge protection, interceptor sewage network, public amenities, boating activity etc.

4)Mula-Mutha River pollution abatement project will be implemented on the concept of "One City One Operator" at a cost of over Rs 1470 crore. A total of 11 sewage treatment plants will be constructed under the project, with a combined capacity of around 400 MLD.

5)Prime Minister also launched 140 e-buses and e-bus depot constructed at Baner.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

10) Consider the following with reference to National Waterway -1 (River Ganga) and NW-2

1) Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal received the maiden voyage of food-grains from Patna to Pandu via Bangladesh in Guwahati

2) The vessel started its sail from Patna on National Waterway-1 (river Ganga) and passed through Bhagalpur, Manihari, Sahibganj, Farakka, Tribeni, Kolkata, Haldia, Hemnagar; Indo Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route through Khulna, Narayanganj, Sirajganj, Chilmari and National Waterway-2 through Dhubri, and Jogighopa covering a distance of 2,350 km.

2) The dignitaries welcomed this wonderful beginning that has the potential to revolutionise cargo movement. Another vessel MV Ram Prasad Bismil with two barges Kalpana Chawla and APJ Abdul Kalam started voyage from Haldia on 17th Feb 22 and is on the way to Pandu. The vessel is carrying 1800MT Tata steel and already reached Bangladesh Border at Dhubri. The ODC (over Dimensional cargo, 252 MT) of Numaligarh Bio-refinery reached Silghat on 15th February from Haldia through IWT via IBP route. Another ODC (250MT) consignment is also on the way to Silghat.

3) The IWAI is also planning to run a regular scheduled service on these routes. The protocol on Inland water transit and Trade (PIWTT) between India & Bangladesh will be optimally beneficial when we can unlock the value from the cargo trade in the region. To improve the navigability, two stretches of IBP routes, i.e., Sirajganj-Daikhowa and Ashuganj-Zakiganj are also being developed at a cost of Rs. 305.84 crore on an 80:20 share basis (80% being borne by India and 20% by Bangladesh).

4) The development of these stretches is expected to provide seamless navigation to NER via the IBP route. The contracts for dredging on the two stretches for providing and maintaining requisite depth for a period of seven years (from 2019 to 2026) are underway. Once the IBP Route no. 5 & 6 from Maia near Farakka in India to Aricha in Bangladesh, the IWT distance connecting NW1 to NW2 (North Eastern Region) will further reduced by nearly 1000 km, which will reduce time and cost to a great extent.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

11) Consider the following with reference to Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) :

1) WIHG has been a dedicated research institute on Himalayan Geosciences for understanding geodynamic evolution of the mighty Himalaya; scientific explanation of geo-hazards caused by earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, flash floods, etc. with a view to provide an assessment, management and mitigation; and exploration of Geo-resources such as geothermal, minerals, ore bodies, hydrocarbons, springs, riverine system, etc. that can be exploited in a scientific manner for socioeconomic development. He said that the institute is actively involved in studying glacial dynamics and the climate-tectonic interaction in the present climate change scenario.

2)WIHG has been monitoring several glaciers in Uttarakhand, Union Territory of J&K, Ladakh and Sikkim, and has envisaged a plan for long-term monitoring of glaciers and lakes on continual mode by establishing a network of meteorological, hydrological, seismological stations, online transmission of data through VSAT/GSM, automatic analysis/modelling, and integration of data through AI/ML algorithms 24X7, setting up standard operating procedure (SOP), issuing alert to stakeholders, sensitization to locals for responding at the time of consequences for effective execution of an early warning system is the need of the hours.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

12) Consider the following with reference to landslides in Himalayas and geothermal fields :

1)Dr. Singh said that the intensity and frequency of landslides have been increased recently due to excessive rainfall, which have been felt by both the Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh Himalaya.

2)To meet the requirement, WIHG has prepared the landslides susceptibility maps in regional scale for both the states, and in local scale for the Nainital and Mussoorie towns, and Bhagirathi, Goriganga and Kali rivers valley, which can be used for the city developers, planners, local administrators to avoid the consequences.

3)The WIHG has mapped 40 geothermal springs each in the Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh Himalaya, and has been trying to generate 5 MegaWatt of electricity at initial stage by a binary power plant at Tapovan. If successful, this will be expanded to all geothermal fields for space heating and conversion into electrical energy without any carbon footprint.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

13) Consider the following with reference to Ukraine ?

1)Ukraine is the second-largest European country, after Russia.

2)Lying between latitudes 44° and 53° N, and longitudes 22° and 41° E., it is mostly in the East European Plain.

3)Ukraine covers an area of 603,628 square kilometres (233,062 sq mi), with a coastline of 2,782 kilometres (1,729 mi)

4)The landscape of Ukraine consists mostly of fertile plains (or steppes) and plateaus, crossed by rivers such as the Dnieper (*Dnipro*), Seversky Donets, Dniester and the Southern Bug as they flow south into the Black Sea and the smaller Sea of Azov. To the southwest, the delta of the Danube forms the border with Romania.

5) Ukraine's various regions have diverse geographic features ranging from the highlands to the lowlands. The country's only mountains are the Carpathian Mountains in the west, of which the highest is Hoverla at 2,061 metres (6,762 ft), and the Crimean Mountains, in the extreme south along the coast

6) Ukraine also has a number of highland regions such as the Volyn-Podillia Upland (in the west) and the Near-Dnipro Upland (on the right bank of Dnieper). To the east there are the south-western spurs of the Central Russian Upland over which runs the border with the Russian Federation. Near the Sea of Azov can be found the Donets Ridge and the Near Azov Upland. The snow melt from the mountains feeds the rivers and their waterfalls.

7) Significant natural resources in Ukraine include iron ore, coal, manganese, natural gas, oil, salt, sulphur, graphite, titanium, magnesium, kaolin, nickel, mercury, timber and an abundance of arable land.

8) Ukraine has many environmental issues. Some regions lack adequate supplies of potable water Air and water pollution affects the country, as well as deforestation, and radiation contamination in the northeast stemming from the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8

(d) None

Ans: c

14) Consider the following with reference to Pollution and Discussions in meetings (CAQM) :

1) The theme of the first session of Day-2 was "Abating Vehicular and Industrial Pollution in NCR". Discussions revolved around shift to cleaner fuels like PNG in the industries and transport sector; the road map for PNG network, infrastructure and supply in the entire NCR; E-mobility as a potential solution for addressing vehicular pollution; ways to reduce emissions from the vehicles in the transport sector; and regulation of emission from large scale use of DG sets.

2) The next session centred around sustainable agricultural stubble management, prevention and control of crop residue burning along with strategies, methodologies and schemes for both in-situ and ex-situ management of crop.

3) The last session of Day-2 of "Dialogue towards Clean Air" comprised of ingenious discussions on Greening and Plantation Measures for Abatement of Air Pollution, including the urban forestry initiatives by MoEFCC like the Nagar Van Scheme, etc. The Government of Haryana also presented their account of greening initiatives to curb air pollution in the State.

4) Whether it is about vehicular pollution, industrial emissions, stubble burning, roadside dust generation, solid waste management, vehicular pollution, use of DG sets, etc. the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM) is taking up every issue with utmost concern and it has pulled out all the stops to issue necessary Directions and Advisories to tackle it effectively

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

15) Consider the following with reference to National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) & Param Ganga :

1) The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) which is being steered jointly by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, has progressed significantly.

2) The four major pillars of the NSM, namely, Infrastructure, Applications, R&D, HRD, have been functioning efficiently to realize the goal of developing indigenous supercomputing eco system of the nation.

3) C-DAC has been entrusted the responsibility to design, development, deployment and commissioning of the supercomputing systems under the build approach of Mission.

4) The Mission plans to build and deploy 24 facilities with cumulative compute power of more than 64 Petaflops.

5) Till now C-DAC has deployed 11 systems at IISc, IITs, IISER Pune, JNCASR, NABI-Mohali and C-DAC under NSM Phase-1 and Phase-2 with a cumulative compute power of more than 20 Petaflop

6) Under the build approach, C-DAC is building an indigenous supercomputing ecosystem in a phased manner, which is leading to indigenously designed and manufactured supercomputers. It has designed and developed a compute server "Rudra" and high-speed interconnect "Trinetra" which are the major sub-assemblies required for supercomputers.

7) Some of the large-scale applications which are being developed under NSM include the following.

- NSM Platform for Genomics and Drug Discovery.
- Urban Modelling: Science Based Decision Support Framework to Address Urban Environment Issues (Meteorology, Hydrology, Air Quality).
- Flood Early Warning and Prediction System for River Basins of India.
- HPC Software Suite for Seismic Imaging to aid Oil and Gas Exploration.
- MPPLAB: Telecom Network Optimization.

8) As part of its tireless journey of success, NSM has now deployed "PARAM Ganga", a supercomputer at IIT Roorkee, with a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops. The system is designed and commissioned by C-DAC under Phase 2 of the build approach of the NSM.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2,3,4,5

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8

(d) 6 and 7

Ans: c

16) Consider the following about NEAT :

- 1) National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) is an initiative to provide the use of best-developed technological solutions in the education sector to enhance the employability of the youth on a single platform for learners' convenience.
- 2) These solutions use Artificial Intelligence for a personalized and customized learning experience for better learning outcomes and skill development in the niche areas.
- 3) AICTE, MoE is acting as the facilitator in the process while ensuring that the solutions are freely available to a large number of socially and economically backward students.
- 4) NEAT has 58 Education Technology Companies with 100 products that help to develop employable skills, capacity building, and bridge learning gaps.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

17) Consider the following :

- 1) Scheme on Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II for Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS) for addition of approximately 10,750 circuit kilometres (ckm) of transmission lines and approx. 27,500 Mega Volt-Amperes (MVA) transformation capacity of substations.
- 2) The scheme will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of approximately 20 GW of Renewable Energy (RE) power projects in seven States namely, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

18) Consider the following :

1) We are hopeful that the cargo ships will start sailing over Brahmaputra towards the later part of 2022. The dredging work at critical junctures of the river has already been initiated by the ministry.

2) The Bangladesh government, with support from Government of India, is also working on the Jamuna river to make the 2000 kms long waterway from Sadiya to Haldia via Bangladesh a smooth passage.

3) Sharing the vision of Prime Minister's vision of Gati Shakti, the minister said that the northeastern region will play a critical role in resuscitate the economic prosperity of India.

4) In order to provide a springboard for the region to act as a catalyst in India's economic rebound, there have been efforts to build waterways of the region & connect it to major ports in the Bay of Bengal. This will not only unlock the economic potential of the region but allow the landlocked region a direct access to the international trading routes.

5)The minister said that the government is working tirelessly to connect Mizoram, Tripura and Assam to strategic ports in Myanmar (Sittwe port) and Bangladesh (Mongola & Chittongong ports).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2,3
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

19)Consider the following :

The two main objectives of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav are

- 1)to try to revive the immortal saga of the unsung martyrs who made supreme sacrifice for the country's freedom and
- 2)to connect with the development of the country by awakening the spirit of patriotism in the new generation

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

20) Consider the following about Mangoes :

1) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) said that this would also provide an opportunity for the export of other delicious varieties of mangoes from North and East India such as *Langra*, *Chausa*, *Dushehri*, *Fazli*, etc from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

2) traditional mango production belts such as Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

21)

1) "Gati Shakti – The revolutionary Multi-Modal Connectivity for Integrated & Seamless Supply Chain"

2) PM GatiShakti NMP will bring in holistic planning and development across the country. It will provide complete visibility of multimodal infrastructure connectivity to the economic zones and will thus help in supplementing the various initiatives being taken to increase the share of manufacturing in the country, attract investment in manufacturing and service industry sectors, which will have a catalytic effect on upgradation and development of skills of the workforce and generation of employment opportunities.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

22) India State of Forest Report 2021' prepared by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) which has been mandated to assess the forest and tree resources of the country.

Which of the following is correct ?

1) The total forest and tree cover of the country is 80.9 million hectare which is 24.62 percent of the geographical area of the country. As compared to the assessment of 2019, there is an increase of 2,261 sq km in the total forest and tree cover of the country. Out of this, the increase in the forest cover has been observed as 1,540 sq km and that in tree cover is 721 sq km.

2) Increase in forest cover has been observed in open forest followed by very dense forest. Top three states showing increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km) followed by Telangana (632 sq km) and Odisha (537 sq km).

2) Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra. In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram (84.53%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%), Meghalaya (76.00%), Manipur (74.34%) and Nagaland (73.90%).

3) 17 states/UT's have above 33 percent of the geographical area under forest cover. Out of these states and UT's, five states/UTs namely Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have more than 75 percent forest cover while 12 states/UTs namely Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Goa, Kerala, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Assam, Odisha, have forest cover between 33 percent to 75 percent.

4) Total mangrove cover in the country is 4,992 sq km. An increase of 17 sq km in mangrove cover has been observed as compared to the previous assessment of 2019. Top three states showing mangrove cover increase are Odisha (8 sq km) followed by Maharashtra (4 sq km) and Karnataka (3 sq km).

5) Total carbon stock in country's forest is estimated to be 7,204 million tonnes and there an increase of 79.4 million tonnes in the carbon stock of country as compared to the last assessment of 2019. The annual increase in the carbon stock is 39.7 million tonnes.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

23) Consider the following :

1) Major earthquake events in last 30,000 years resulted in spectacular changes in landscape of the Katrol Hill Fault in the Kachchh region in Gujarat, a study conducted on sediment samples revealed. These surprising geological facts about the seismic history of the fault in the recent geological past necessitate a revised seismic hazard assessment and mitigation strategies in Kachchh Basin, owing to its close proximity to industrial corridor and major settlements, including Bhuj city.

2) Earthquakes are one of the natural hazards that geologists are still grappling with its complex nature. The complexity is attributed to its widespread occurrence through space and time. Seismicity in Kachchh region is highly complex as it is characterized by multiple seismic sources in the form of several East-West trending fault lines, which release continuously accumulating tectonic stresses at intervals producing earthquakes.

3) Real-time monitoring of earthquakes since the occurrence of devastating 2001 Bhuj earthquake indicate that most of the faults in the region, viz., Kachchh Mainland Fault (KMF), South Wagad Fault (SWF), Gedi Fault (GF), and Island Belt Fault (IBF) are seismically active.

4) However, seismic activity along other faults like the Katrol Hill Fault (KHF) is not apparent, thus making the task of seismic hazard estimation and mitigation in the region a scientifically complex process.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2,3,4
- (c) 1, 2 only
- (d) None of these

Ans: b

24) Consider the following about exports :

1) India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in December 2021 are estimated to be USD 57.87 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 25.05 per cent over the same period last year and a positive growth of 23.35 per cent over December 2019. Overall imports in December 2021 are estimated to be USD 72.35 Billion, exhibiting a positive

growth of 33.86 per cent over the same period last year and a positive growth of 40.30 per cent over December 2019

2) India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-December 2021 are estimated to be USD 479.07 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 36.31 per cent over the same period last year and a positive growth of 20.25 per cent over April-December 2019. Overall imports in April-December 2021 are estimated to be USD 547.12 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 57.33 per cent over the same period last year and a positive growth of 18.57 per cent over April-December 2019.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

25) Consider the following about 'Go Electric Campaign :

1) As part of the endeavor of Government of India for E-Mobility transition, Ministry of Power along with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Heavy Industries and NITI Aayog has launched a nationwide "Go Electric" Campaign.

2) This Campaign is to educate the general public on the benefits of e-mobility, inform the potential EV owners about the Government incentives for EV adoption, generate curiosity and transform the same into demand, discredit misinformation against Electric Vehicles and bring together multiple stakeholders under single platform.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

26) Consider the following about Purple Revolution :

1) "Purple Revolution" is Jammu & Kashmir's contribution to "Start-ups India", an initiative that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016 and today we are observing the first National Start-up Day.

2) Briefing about the Aroma Mission launched by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), which has led to the well-known "Purple Revolution" in India, the Minister informed that the CSIR had, to begin with introduced high-value essential oil bearing lavender crop through its Jammu based laboratory, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines (IIIM) for cultivation in districts Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and later also in the other districts including Ramban, Pulwama, etc.

3) In a brief span of time, aroma/lavender cultivation has become a popular option in farming for agricultural Start-up, he said.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

27) Consider the following about Deep Ocean Mission :

1) Government had approved the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) in June, 2021 to be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences at a total budget of Rs. 4077 Crore for 5 years. DOM is a multi-ministerial, multi-disciplinary programme with emphasis on development of deep-sea technology

2) Deep sea technology includes development of manned Submersible rated for 6000 metre water depth along with technologies for deep sea mining, exploration of deep-sea mineral resources and marine biodiversity, acquisition of a research vessel for ocean exploration, deep sea observations, and capacity building in Marine Biology

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

28) Consider the following about CCUS:

1) Under a strict climatic regime, we can realize the identification and adoption of a right balance of portfolio of emission curtailment technologies. Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) is among one such key pathways to reduce emissions while continuing to develop sustainably at an unprecedented pace.

2) CCUS clearly aligns with five of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely, climate action; clean energy; industry, innovation, and infrastructure; responsible consumption and production; and partnerships to achieve the goals," he said at the first workshop on thematic of Carbon Capture.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

29) Consider the following of Export of Engineering Goods :

1)Exports of Engineering Goods jumped to USD 81.8 Billion during April-December 2021 (Provisional) as compared to USD 52.9 Billion during same period in the previous year (2020), registering a stupendous growth of 54%. Engineering Goods sector constitutes the largest, more than 27%, share of India's total exports basket during the period.

2)India's top five export destinations for the Engineering Goods sector in April-November 2021 (as per latest available data, share per cent mentioned in bracket) are: USA (14.7%), China (5.8%), UAE (5.1%), Italy (4%) & Germany (3.4%).

3)The Engineering Goods sector comprises of metal products, industrial machinery and equipment, automobiles and its components, transport equipment, bicycles, medical devices and renewable equipment.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

30)Consider the following about ISRO :

1)In 2022, ISRO also has the distinction of launching GSAT-21, the first fully funded satellite of NSIL (New Space India Limited) and will be owned as well as operated by NSIL. This Communication Satellite will meet the DTH (Direct to Home) application needs.

2)The status of Gaganyaan programme and said that there had been a delay in timeline because of the COVID and other constraints but now things have again fallen back on the track and all the systems needed for the first unmanned mission are getting realised. Following the first unmanned mission, the second unmanned mission "Vyommitra" will carry Robot and this will then be followed by the Human Mission.

3)The Minister was also informed that the Indian Astronauts have successfully undergone Generic Space Flight Training in Russia. A dedicated ad-hoc astronaut training centre has also been established at Bengaluru for Gaganyaan specific training.

4)The preparations for the Human Mission, said the ISRO Chief, involve in-flight demonstration of Crew Escape System functioning in lower atmosphere (less than 10 Kms). The exercise recovery of the crew module after impacting in Sea is also being worked out.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

31) Consider the following about PMG Portal :

- 1) PMG portal of Invest India is a unique institutional mechanism to facilitate resolution of bottlenecks in infrastructure projects with investments upward of ₹ 500 crores and do milestone-based project monitoring of the same.
- 2) Presently, PMG is monitoring 1,351 under implementation projects with total anticipated investment of approximately INR 48.94 lakh crore. Projects of infrastructure ministries such as Road, Transport and Highways; Railways; Petroleum and Natural Gas; New and Renewable Energy; Power; etc are listed on the portal.
- 3) The PMG mechanism allows project proponents to raise issues with concerned government agencies which are causing hindrances in implementation of projects.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

32) Consider the following about India's exports of Gems and Jewellery :

India's exports of Gems and Jewellery shot up by a whopping 71% during the first three quarters of the current Financial Year, April-December 2021 (Provisional) over the same period previous year. The sector clocked USD 28.9 Billion exports as compared to USD 16.9 Billion during same period in the year 2020. Compared to the same period before the Covid pandemic struck, the Gems and Jewellery sector registered a growth of 3% over USD 28.0 Billion achieved in April-December 2019.

Centre has laid out four points to make India's Gems & Jewellery a pioneer industry in the world:

1. Focus on Design (creation of patented designs) in order to increase value add of our products and make our manufacturing more profitable.
2. Diversification of export products: Emphasis on products like pearls, silver, platinum, synthetic stones, artificial diamonds, fashion jewellery, non-gold jeweller, etc.
3. Collaboration with other nations for cost-effective methods to enhance production of fusion jewellery, and
4. Promote Lab-Grown Diamond: They are environment friendly & affordable and will contribute to India's export as well as generate employment.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) 6 and 7

Ans: c

33) Consider the following :

- 1) Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hosted the first India-Central Asia Summit in virtual format on 27 January 2022,
- 2) It was attended by Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.

3) This first India-Central Asia coincided with the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

34) Consider the following about Summer/Zaid Season in agriculture sector :

1) An interaction session was also organized with Agriculture Production Commissioners and Principal Secretaries of all the States in four groups to share the achievements, challenges and strategies to be adopted in respective states for increasing area coverage, production and productivity during summer/Zaid season in agriculture sector.

2) The objective of *Zaid* conference is to review and assess the crop performance during the preceding crop seasons and fix crop-wise targets for summer season in consultation with State Governments. The Minister assured full support to ensure supply of critical inputs and facilitate adoption of innovative technologies with a view to enhance production and productivity of the crops. The priority of government is to increase production of oilseeds and pulses where large imports are required.

3) The Government has taken new initiatives through various programmes for cultivation of summer crops such as pulses, coarse cereals, nutri-cereals, and oilseeds. Though more than half of cultivated area in summer season is under pulses, oilseeds and nutri-cereals, the farmers with irrigation source are growing rice and vegetables during the summer season.

4) He highlighted that area under cultivation of zaid crops including rice has increased progressively 2.7 times from 29.71 lakh hectares in 2017-18 to 80.46 lakh hectares in 2020-21.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

35) Consider the following about India's exports of Electronic Goods :

1) India's exports of Electronic Goods touched USD 1.67 Billion last month, registering a growth of 33.99% over \$1.25 Bn logged in December 2020. During April-December 2021, the Sector Exports registered a growth of 49% to USD 11.0 Billion (Provisional) over USD 7.4 Billion during same period in the year 2020. As compared to April-December 2019 (USD 8.8 Billion) and April-December 2014 (USD 4.8 Billion), exports of Electronic Goods registered a growth of 26% and 131% respectively.

2) Top 5 export destinations in April-November 2021 (latest available, share% in bracket) are: U S A (18%), UAE (16.6%), China (7.6%), Netherland (4.5%) & Germany (4.2%).

3) Mobile Phones constitute a major chunk of India's Electronics Goods sector exports. The sector includes IT Hardware (laptops, tablets), Consumer electronics (TV and audio), Industrial electronics, Auto electronics, Electronic components, LED Lighting, Strategic electronics, PCBA, Wearables and hearables, and Telecom equipment.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

36) Consider the following about 'Panchamrit':

1) Reiterating India's commitments to the ambitious targets announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the form of five nectar elements "Panchamrit" including the ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil energy at the COP 26 summit held in Glasgow in November 2021, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender, Yadav stated that India has embarked upon one of the most ambitious energy transition programmes in the world.

2) At COP26, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presented an ambitious agenda for India's contribution to the global efforts to combat climate change.

3) PM's vision of 5 Panchamrit or nectar elements involves installation of 500 GW non fossil energy capacity by 2030, reduction in emissions intensity of GDP by 45% over 2005 levels, 50% electric installed capacity coming from non-fossil sources by 2030, 1 billion tonnes reduction in carbon emissions till 2030 and India to become net-zero by 2070.

4) The call of Prime Minister at COP26 to the world community to embrace the mantra of LIFE- Lifestyle for Environment, for the mass movement on sustainable lifestyles for combating climate change will help the global community to accelerate climate actions and to bridge the gaps in global climate resilient transition.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

37) Consider the following about Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 :

1) Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, launched on 1st October 2021, aims to achieve the vision of 'Garbage Free Cities' over the next five years through remediation of legacy dumpsites, construction and demolition waste and plastic waste management.

2) Additionally, sustainable sanitation through faecal sludge and used water management will be a key focus under SBM-U 2.0.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

38) Consider the following :

1) Phytorid Plant: In Dhorka village of Gurugram district, a Phytorid Plant which is fed by drain water and having a capacity of 75 kld was constructed in 2019. It was designed for hydraulic loading of 0.8 m³/d/m² and organic loading of 3.4 g of BOD₅/m²/h. The parameters of the treated water collected at the outlet are as per discharge norms.

2) Phytorid is a subsurface mixed flow constructed wetland system.

3) The phytorid system is a stand-alone sewage treatment system, based on natural treatment methods which have distinct advantages over conventional treatment plants. The technology is recommended for decentralized plants with varying capacities.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

39) Consider the following about Exports of Marine Products :

1) Exports of Marine Products registered a growth of 35% to USD 6.1 Billion during April-December 2021 (Provisional) as compared to USD 4.5 Billion during same period in the year 2020. As compared to April-December 2019 (USD 5.5 Billion) and April-December 2014 (USD 4.4 Billion), exports of Marine Products registered a growth of 12% and 38% respectively.

2) Top 5 export destinations in April-November 2021 (latest available, share% in bracket) are: USA (44.5%), China (15.3%), Japan (6.2%), Vietnam (4%) & Thailand (3%).

3) Frozen shrimps constitute the major share in India's Marine Products exports items with 74% share in value terms (USD); Frozen Fish (7%), Others (6%) and Frozen Squid (5%) constitute the other major items in the Marine Products exports basket in FY2020-21.

4) Others category included primarily Surimi and Surimi analogue (imitation) products.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

40) Consider the following about PMMSY :

1) The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in May 2020 with an array of 100 diverse activities.

2) With a budget of Rs. 20,050 crore, it is by far the largest investment to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India.

3) PMMSY, being implemented over a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories, has set a target of Rs. 1,00,000 crore fisheries export, additional 70 lakh tonnes fish production, and generation of 55 lakh employment in the years to come.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

41) Consider the following about exports of RTE,RTC,RTS :

- 1)The export of products under Ready to Eat (RTE), Ready to Cook (RTC) and Ready to Serve (RTS) segment have registered an CAGR of 10.4 per cent from 2011-12 to 2020-21.
- 2)India exported more than \$ 2.14 billion worth of final food products in 2020-21.
- 3)Since final food products are time saving and readily available, the demand for food items under the categories of RTE, RTC and RTS has increased manifold in recent years.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

42) Consider the following :

1)In this period of Amrit Mahotsav, special events related to great personalities of the country are also inspiring us. My government is celebrating the sacred occasions of the 400th Prakash Parv of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo, the 150th birth anniversary of V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose with grandeur.

2)From this year onwards, the government has started the Republic Day celebrations from January 23, the birth anniversary of Netaji.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 2 only
- (d) None of these

Ans: b

43) Consider the following :

1)The present government believes that remembering the past and learning from it are equally important for a secure future of the country.

2)Observance of 'Veer Bal Diwas' on 26th December in the memory of sacrifice of Sahibzadas and 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas' on 14th August is a reflection of this thinking.

3)The government also decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda on 15th November as 'Jan-jatiya Gaurav Diwas' as a tribute to him.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

44)Consider the following about combined Index of Eight Core Industries :

1)The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 141.3 in December 2021, which is an increase of 3.8 per cent (provisional) as compared to December 2020. The production of Coal, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Cement and Electricity industries increased in December 2021 over the corresponding period of last year.

2)Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for the Month of December, 2021.

3)ICI measures combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

4)The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None of the above

Ans: c

45) The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). Consider the following :

1)Coal – Coal production (weight: 10.33 per cent) increased by 5.2 per cent in December, 2021 over December, 2020. Its cumulative index increased by 10.6 per cent during April to December, 2021-22 over corresponding period of the previous year.

2)Crude Oil – Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98 per cent) declined by 1.8 per cent in December, 2021 over December, 2020. Its cumulative index declined by 2.6 per cent during April to December, 2021-22 over the corresponding period of previous year.

3)Natural Gas - Natural Gas production (weight: 6.88 per cent) increased by 19.5 per cent in December, 2021 over December, 2020. Its cumulative index increased by 22.4 per cent during April to December, 2021-22 over the corresponding period of previous year.

4)Petroleum Refinery Products – Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04 per cent) increased by 5.9 per cent in December, 2021 over December, 2020. Its cumulative index increased by 10.0 per cent during April to December, 2021-22 over the corresponding period of previous year.

5)Fertilizers – Fertilizers production (weight: 2.63 per cent) increased by 3.5 per cent in December, 2021 over December, 2020. Its cumulative index decreased by 0.1 per cent during April to December, 2021-22 over the corresponding period of previous year.

6)Steel – Steel production (weight: 17.92 per cent) declined by 1.0 per cent in December, 2021 over December, 2020. Its cumulative index increased by 22.1 per cent during April to December, 2021-22 over the corresponding period of previous year.

7)Cement – Cement production (weight: 5.37 per cent) increased by 12.9 per cent in December, 2021 over December, 2020. Its cumulative index increased by 26.1 per cent during April to December, 2021-22 over the corresponding period of previous year.

8)Electricity – Electricity generation (weight: 19.85 per cent) increased by 2.5 per cent in December, 2021 over December, 2020. Its cumulative index increased by 9.4 per cent during April to December, 2021-22 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8
- (d) None of the above

Ans: c

46) Consider the following :

1)The President said that the government has integrated different ministries to work in a synergised manner under the Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti National Master Plan to accelerate infrastructure development.

2)Expressing confidence that the plan was going to usher in a new era of multi-modal transport in India, he said that in the future, the railways, highways and airways in India will no longer be separate and isolated infrastructures, but will be an integrated resource to the country.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

47) Consider the following about the inflow of foreign money into India :

1)The inflow of 48 billion dollars in investment in the first seven months of the current financial year was a testimony to the belief the global investor community has in India's growth story.

2)Net capital flows were higher at US\$ 65.6 billion in the first half of 2021-22, on account of continued inflow of foreign investment, revival in net external commercial borrowings, higher banking capital and additional special drawing rights (SDR) allocation.

3)As of end-November 2021, India was the fourth largest forex reserves holder in the world after China, Japan and Switzerland.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None of the above

Ans: c

48)

Consider the following about Hoysala Temples :

1)The Hoysala Temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka have been finalised as India's nomination for consideration as World Heritage for the year 2022-2023.

2)The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' are on UNESCO's Tentative list since 15th April, 2014 and represent one of the highest points of human creative genius and stand testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of our country.

3)The sacred ensembles of the Hoysalas, built in the 12th-13th centuries and represented here by the three components of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura, attest to the creativity and skill of the Hoysala artists and architects who built these masterpieces of a kind never seen before or since.

4)The Hoysala architects used their profound knowledge of temple architecture in different parts of India to their advantage.

5)The Hoysala temples have a basic Dravidian morphology but show strong influences of the Bhumija mode widely used in Central India, the Nagara traditions of northern and western India, and the Karnataka Dravida modes favoured by the Kalyani Chalukyas.

6)Therefore, the Hoysala architects made considered and informed eclectic selections of features from other temple typologies which they further modified and then complemented with their own particular innovations. The result was the birth of a completely novel 'Hoysala Temple' form.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
 - (b)1 and 2
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
 - (d) None of the above
- Ans: c

49) The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2021-22 in Parliament .

Consider the following :

1)Indian economy estimated to grow by 9.2 percent in real terms in 2021-22 (as per first advanced estimates) subsequent to a contraction of 7.3 percent in 2020-21.

2)GDP projected to grow by 8- 8.5 percent in real terms in 2022-23.

3)The year ahead poised for a pickup in private sector investment with the financial system in good position to provide support for economy's revival.

4)Projection comparable with World Bank and Asian Development Bank's latest forecasts of real GDP growth of 8.7 percent and 7.5 percent respectively for 2022-23.

5)As per IMF's latest World Economic Outlook projections, India's real GDP projected to grow at 9 percent in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1 percent in 2023-2024, which would make India the fastest growing major economy in the world for all 3years.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
 - (b)1 and 2
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
 - (d) None of the above
- Ans: c

50)) The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2021-22 in Parliament .

Consider the following:

1)Agriculture and allied sectors expected to grow by 3.9 percent; industry by 11.8 percent and services sector by 8.2 percent in 2021-22.

2)On demand side, consumption estimated to grow by 7.0 percent, Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) by 15 percent, exports by 16.5 percent and imports by 29.4 percent in 2021-22.

3)Macroeconomic stability indicators suggest that the Indian Economy is well placed to take on the challenges of 2022-23.

4)Combination of high foreign exchange reserves, sustained foreign direct investment, and rising export earnings will provide adequate buffer against possible global liquidity tapering in 2022-23.

5)Economic impact of "second wave" was much smaller than that during the full lockdown phase in 2020-21, though health impact was more severe.

6)Government of India's unique response comprised of safety-nets to cushion the impact on vulnerable sections of society and the business sector, significant increase in capital expenditure to spur growth and supply side reforms for a sustained long-term expansion.

7)Government's flexible and multi-layered response is partly based on an "Agile" framework that uses feedback-loops, and the use of eighty High Frequency Indicators (HFIs) in an environment of extreme uncertainty.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7
- (d) None of the above

Ans: c

51) Services Sector contributed over 50% to India's GDP, highlighted the Economic Survey 2021-22 which was tabled by the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament . The Survey also noted that Services Sector registered a steady recovery during the first half of the current fiscal year. *"Overall, the Services Sector grew by 10.8% Year on Year (YoY) in first half (H1) 2021-22"*, stated the Survey.

Consider the following about Trade In Services :

1)IT-BPM (Information technology - Business Process Management) Sector

2)Startups and Patents

3)Tourism Sector

4)Ports, Shipping and Waterways Services

5)Space Sector

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None of the above

Ans: c

52) Consider the following about Nominal GDP , Real GDP , PCI of India, and PFCE :

1) Nominal GDP or GDP at current prices for the year 2020-21 is estimated at Rs.198.01 lakh crore as against Rs.200.75 lakh crore for the year 2019-20, showing a contraction of 1.4 per cent during 2020-21 as compared to growth of 6.2 per cent during 2019-20.

2. Real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for the years 2020-21 and 2019-20 stands at Rs.135.58 lakh crore and Rs.145.16 lakh crore, respectively, showing a contraction of 6.6 per cent during 2020-21 as compared to growth of 3.7 per cent during 2019-20.

3.Per Capita Income i.e. Per Capita Net National Income at current prices is estimated at Rs.1,32,115 and Rs.1,26,855 respectively for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

4.Per Capita PFCE at current prices for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21 is estimated at Rs.91,254 and Rs.88,775 respectively

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None of the above

Ans: c

53) Consider the following :

1)GVA at basic prices (Production Approach) = Output at basic price – Intermediate Consumption

2)GVA at basic prices (Income Approach) = CE + OS/MI + CFC + Production taxes less Production subsidies⁽ⁱ⁾

3)GDP = \sum GVA at basic prices + Product taxes less Product subsidies⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

3)NDP/NNI = GDP/GNI - CFC

4)GNI = GDP + Net primary income from ROW (Receipts less payments)

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None of the above

Ans: c

54) Consider the following :

1) Primary Incomes = CE + Property and Entrepreneurial Income

2) NNDI = NNI + other current transfers⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ from ROW, net (Receipts less payments)

3) GNDI = NNDI + CFC = GNI + other current transfers⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ from ROW, net (Receipts less payments)

4) Gross Capital Formation^(iv) (Financing Side) = Gross Savings + Net Capital Inflow from ROW

5) GCF (Expenditure Side) = GFCF + CIS + Valuables

6) Gross Disposable Income of Govt. = GFCE + Gross Saving of General Government

7) Gross Disposable Income (GDI) of Households = GNDI - GDI of Govt. - Gross Savings of All Corporations

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7
- (d) None of the above

Ans: c

55) Consider the following :

1) *Production taxes or subsidies are paid or received with relation to production and are independent of the volume of actual production. Some examples are:*

2) *Production Taxes - Land Revenues, Stamps & Registration fees and Tax on profession*

3) *Production Subsidies - Subsidies to Railways, Subsidies to village and small industries.*

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

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

56) Consider the following :

1) Product taxes or subsidies are paid or received on per unit of product. Some examples are:

Product Taxes- Excise duties, Sales tax, Service Tax and Import, Export duties

Product Subsidies- Food, Petroleum and fertilizer subsidies.

2) Other Current Transfers refers to current transfers other than the primary incomes.

3) Gross Capital Formation (GCF) at the current as well as the constant prices is estimated by two approaches: – (i) through flow of funds, derived as Gross Saving plus net capital flow from Rest of the World (RoW); and (ii) by the commodity flow approach, derived by the type of assets. The estimates of GCF through the flow of funds approach are treated as the firmer estimates. GCF by industry of use and by institutional sectors does not include 'valuables' and therefore, these estimates are lower than the estimates available from commodity flow approach.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

TSPSC GROUP I Prelims 2022 (Scheduled on 16.10.2022)
TSLPRB SI & CONSTABLES

Model Questions (for GS Paper)
Set No. 2 {Prepared on 23 .5.2022 }

For Study purpose

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1)Consider the following with reference to the term 'Inflation' :

1)Headline inflation is measured by year-on-year changes in the all-India consumer price index (CPI) produced by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

2) Core CPI, i.e., CPI excluding food and fuel is worked out by eliminating the groups 'food and beverages' and 'fuel and light' from the headline CPI.

3) The CPI diffusion index, a measure of dispersion of price changes, categorises items in the CPI basket according to whether their prices have risen, remained stagnant or fallen over the previous month. A reading above 50 for the diffusion index signals a broad expansion or generalisation of price increases and a reading below 50 signals broad-based price decline

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, ,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

2) Consider the following with reference to 'movements in inflation' ?

1)Historical decomposition estimates the contribution of each shock to the movements in inflation over the sample period (Q4:2010-11 to Q4:2021-22) based on a vector autoregression (VAR) with the following variables (represented as the vector Y_t) – crude oil prices; exchange rate (INR per US\$), asset price (BSE Sensex), CPI; the output gap; rural wages; the policy repo rate; and money supply (M3).

2)All variables other than policy repo rate are growth rates.

3)The VAR can be written in reduced form as: $Y_t = c + A Y_{t-1} + e_t$; where e_t represents a vector of shocks.

4) Using Word decomposition, Y_t can be represented as a function of its deterministic trend and sum of all the shocks etc. This formulation facilitates decomposition of the deviation of inflation from its deterministic trend into the sum of contributions from various shocks.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
 - (d) None of these
- Ans: c

3) Consider the following in the context of Consumer Expenditure Survey:

1) The CPI weighting diagrams use the modified mixed reference period (MMRP) data based on the 2011-12 Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

2) Under MMRP, data are collected on expenditure incurred for frequently purchased items – edible oil, eggs, fish, meat, vegetables, fruits, spices, beverages, processed foods, pan, tobacco and intoxicants – during the last seven days; for clothing, bedding, footwear, education, medical (institutional), durable goods, during the last 365 days; and for all other food, fuel and light, miscellaneous goods and services including non-institutional medical services, rents and taxes, data relate to the last 30 days.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1 only
 - (d) None of these
- Ans: a

4) What are the drivers of private consumption?

- 1) Income, wealth, inflation,
- 2) interest rate and
- 3) consumer confidence

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, 3 are potential determinants of private consumption
 - (d) None of these
- Ans: c

5) : Consider the following :

- 1) Private Sector Investment Cycle Drivers: An Investigation with Firm-Level Data
- 2) A revival in the investment cycle is vital for ensuring a durable recovery.

3) Despite congenial financial conditions and a strengthening of corporate balance sheets – moderation in listed firms' leverage in terms of debt/asset and debt/equity ratios – private investment remains weak in India

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans:a

4) Consider the following about Gati Shakti :

1) Gati Shakti – the National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity – incorporates the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports and UDAN for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

2) The multi-modal plan will help improve India's logistics network and competitiveness, providing integrated and seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services from one mode of transport to another.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

5) Consider the following about agriculture :

1) GVA in agriculture and allied activities expanded by 3.0 per cent in H2, supported by adequate and wellspread southwest and northeast monsoon rains, good reservoir levels and improved soil moisture, which helped rabi acreage to increase by 1.5 per cent over the previous year.

2) Foodgrains production touched a new record in 2021-22 with both kharif and rabi output exceeding the final estimates for 2020-21 as well as the targets .

3) The production of pulses in 2021- 22 rose by 5.9 per cent, while oilseeds and sugarcane production achieved record levels.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans:a

10) Consider the following :

1) Horticulture production fell by 0.4 per cent to 3,332.5 lakh tonnes during 2021-22 due to lower output of tomato, other vegetables, spices, flowers, aromatics and medicinal plants; the output of total fruits and onion production, on the other hand, rose.

2) Allied activities – livestock, forestry and fishing – impart substantial resilience to the agricultural sector as a whole.

3) Though allied activities have a share of around 45 per cent in the overall GVA of the sector, their contribution to growth in aggregate agricultural GVA for 2020-21 was higher at 68 per cent

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans: a

12) Consider the following :

1) High-frequency indicators of the rural economy suggest a mixed picture during H2 .

2) Agriculture and allied exports and agriculture credit registered robust growth in H2.

3) Demand for jobs under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was lower than a year ago due to higher rabi sowing, although it was still above pre-pandemic levels.

4) Sales of tractors, fertilisers and two-wheelers remained lower than in the previous year.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 4 only
- (d) None of these

Ans: a

13) Consider the following :

1) The agricultural sector will benefit from measures announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 which include strengthening public and private investment in agriculture, research and education, promotion of domestic oilseed production, use of Kisan drones, delivery of digital and high-tech agriculture services.

2) The Ken-Betwa River Linking Project with an outlay of Rs.44,605 crore aims to bring 9.1 lakh hectare area under irrigation.

3) Under the PM Gati Shakti plan, transport and infrastructure facilities will be expanded/upgraded to revamp agri-supply chain efficiency.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

14) Consider the following :

1) Industrial activity lost momentum in H2 (2021-2022), as manufacturing was affected by supply side shortages and input cost pressures .

2) Mining activity was supported by coal and natural gas, offsetting the contraction in crude oil production.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

15) Consider the following, during financial year 2021-2022 about electricity generation:

1) Electricity generation edged up by 2.4 per cent in Q3 over the corresponding period of the previous year and 7.6 per cent over its 2019-20 level.

2) Electricity generation from thermal and renewable sources increased by 1.0 per cent and 6.0 per cent, respectively, in Q3 .

3) The thermal generation was hindered for a short period due to coal supply bottlenecks owing to unseasonal rains impacting domestic coal production and dispatches on the one hand and higher import prices of coal sharply curtailing imports on the other .

4) In Q4, electricity generation growth improved to 4.0 per cent .

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 4 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

16) Consider the following about Services sector during 2021-2022

1) Services sector activity grew by 5.7 per cent in H2 and crossed its pre-pandemic level (8.0 per cent over 2019-20).

2) The contact-intensive services, viz., trade, hotels, transport, and communication inched towards normalisation, though their rebound was held back by the Omicron variant.

3) Construction activity contracted in H2 due to unseasonal rains in Q3 .

4) Among its proximate indicators, finished steel consumption contracted in Q3 as well as Q4, while cement production rose in December-February after a temporary setback in November, 2021.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1, 2, 3, 4 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 4 only

(d) None of these

Ans: a

17) Consider the following about Asset Purchase Programmes :

1) Asset purchase programs (APPs) have been undertaken by several central banks (including EMEs i.e., Emerging Market Economies) following the COVID-19 outbreak to ease monetary and financial conditions in support of economic recovery (IMF, 2020).

2) APPs lower yields through two main channels, viz., (i) the supply channel by which an APP announcement can immediately moderate the risk premium in anticipation of reduced net supply of government bonds in the market; and (ii) the signalling channel as market participants may perceive the recourse to an APP as an indication that the economic outlook is weak necessitating lower policy rates for a longer period

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1, 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 only

(d) None of these

Ans: a

18) Consider the following about APPs in India :

1) In the Indian context, the Reserve Bank purchased G-secs of Rs. 2.2 lakh crore under G-SAP in H1: 2021-22 to anchor yield expectations in the context of the large borrowing programme of the Government.

2) Asset purchases under G-SAP were different from regular open market operation (OMO) purchases as (i) these provided an upfront commitment on amounts in contrast to regular OMOs, which are discretionary; (ii) the size of G-SAP auctions was larger than conventional OMOs; and (iii) purchases included both liquid and illiquid securities .

3) The market response to the nine G-SAP auctions was favourable .

4) The last two auctions were liquidity neutral with purchases being offset by simultaneous sales of an identical amount (special OMOs)

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1, 2, 3, 4 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 4 only

(d) None of these

Ans:a

19) Consider the following :

Geopolitical hostilities in Ukraine are casting a strong downside to the global macroeconomy. The immediate direct hit on commodities and financial markets has aggravated, with financial sanctions and retaliation.

1)The closure of shipping routes and air space, suspension of logistic and shipping services and shutting down of pipelines, on account of sanctions/apprehensions/ voluntary private decisions are creating a new wave of supply disruptions. This is likely to further add to freight costs, ultimately feeding into inflation and impacting trade and output.

2)A surge in geopolitical risk is associated with significant economic contraction, particularly in emerging market economies .

3)Russia and Ukraine were the 11th and 55th largest economies in the world in 2020, accounting for about 1.7 per cent and 0.2 per cent, respectively, of the world's nominal GDP. Their shares in world exports at 2.3 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively, notwithstanding, they have a dominant influence on supplies of key commodities, resulting in an outsized impact on inflation, trade and output at the global level.

4)The world runs a high exposure to fuel, gas, some agro, wood products, edible oil, wheat, minerals and metals produced by these two countries . Global food inflation and food security are hostage to the war, as are energy-dependent nations and fertiliser importers, including India.

5)There are second-order spillovers too – it is estimated that the global light vehicle production would be reduced by 2.6 million units in 2022 and 2023 as the conflict has disrupted supplies of vehicle components, including electric power communication parts, palladium, aluminium, nickel and semiconductor grade neon

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1, 2, 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) ,1,2,3,4,5

(d) None of these

Ans:c

20) Consider the following :

Since the release of the October 2021 Monetary Policy Report (MPR) by Reserve Bank of India, the global economic environment has drastically altered, with the escalating geopolitical situation clouding the outlook for both growth and inflation in India and across the world warranting a revision in forecasts.

- 1) Amidst persisting global supply chain disruptions, elevated energy and input prices and tighter labour markets, apprehensions of heightened global financial and commodity market volatility come together in a perfect storm.
- 2) Brent crude prices crossed US\$ 130 per barrel on March 8, 2022 and have hovered in the US\$ 100-120 range since mid-March, posing the biggest risk to India's economic prospects and putting the global recovery at heightened risk.
- 3) The Bloomberg commodity index spiked by around 10 per cent since the war erupted on February 24 and 52 per cent on a year-on-year basis (as on April 5, 2022) as supply concerns exacerbated across commodities.
- 4) Gold prices crossed US\$ 2,000 per ounce on safe haven demand before some correction.
- 5) Global food prices were at an all-time high in February 2022 and are expected to harden further in view of potential supply disruptions.
- 6) With inflation turning out to be persistent and broad-based and well above targets, major advanced economies (AEs) quickened the pace of unwinding of their ultra-accommodative monetary policies.
- 7) A number of emerging market economies (EMEs) have been in a tightening mode since 2021, and more are expected to follow.
- 8) Sovereign bond yields in major AEs had hardened substantially in anticipation of a faster and steeper tightening of policy rates, but geopolitical risks have imparted high volatility as risk sentiment experiences sudden and sizeable shifts by every passing day.
- 9) Equity markets have seen sharp corrections since the start of the calendar year with the market volatility index rising to a one-year high amidst geopolitical tensions.
- 10) Currency markets have turned highly volatile in response to these developments, with the US dollar index reaching its highest since June 2020 due to flight to safety.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

21) NITI Aayog released the State Energy and Climate Index-Round 1 on 11 April 2022.

The index released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, in the presence of NITI Aayog Member, and CEO, secretaries of various government departments and stakeholders from the energy sector.

Consider the following :

- 1) The State Energy and Climate Index (SECI) Round-1 aims to rank states and UTs on six parameters: (1) Discoms' Performance (2) Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy (3) Clean Energy Initiatives (4) Energy Efficiency (5) Environmental Sustainability; and (6) New Initiatives.
- 2) These parameters include a total of 27 indicators.
- 3) Based on the outcome of SECI Round-1 scores, states and union territories have been categorized into three groups: 'Front Runners', 'Achievers', and 'Aspirants'.

4)The index can be used by the states and UTs to benchmark their performance against their peers, analyze the potential challenges to develop better policy mechanisms, and efficiently manage their energy resources.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) None of these
- Ans:a

22) Consider the details of the satellites included in the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS) series of ISRO are as follows:

1)EOS-01: Earth Observation satellite meant for Agriculture, Forestry & disaster management support

2)EOS-02: Technology demonstration satellite for various new technologies with applications that include agriculture, forestry, geology, hydrology etc. and forming the payload for SSLV-1.

3)EOS-03 : First Agile Earth Observation satellite in Geostationary orbit and applications which include near real time imaging, quick monitoring of natural disasters, spectral signatures for agriculture, forestry etc.

4)EOS-04 : Radar Imaging satellite meant to provide high quality images under all weather conditions for applications such as Agriculture, Forestry & Plantations, Soil Moisture & Hydrology and Flood Mapping.

5)EOS-05 : Earth Observation Satellite in the Geostationary Orbit.

6)EOS-06 : Earth Observation satellite meant for applications, which include ocean related services and advisories towards potential fishing zone forecast , ocean state forecast

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) None of these
- Ans:a

23) Dwelling on the reasons for the failure of the launch of the EOS-3 satellite, it is said, initial investigations with the post-flight data conducted immediately after the launch indicated that an anomaly in the Cryogenic Upper Stage led to failure of the mission. A National level Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) consisting of experts from academia & ISRO was immediately

constituted to identify the causes of the anomaly in the Cryogenic Upper Stage of GSLV, that led to mission abort and to recommend corrective actions for future missions.

Consider the following :

1)The Committee observed that the build-up of pressure in the propellant (Liquid Hydrogen or LH2) tank during the flight was not normal leading to a lower tank pressure at the time of ignition of the engine. This resulted in anomalous operation of the Fuel Booster Turbo Pump (FBTP) mounted inside the LH2 tank which feeds the main turbopump of the engine resulting in insufficient flow of Liquid Hydrogen into the engine thrust chamber.

2)Detailed studies indicate that the most likely reason for the observed reduction in LH2 tank pressure is a leak in the respective Vent and Relief Valve (VRV), which is used for relieving the excess tank pressure during flight. Computer simulations as well as multiple confirmatory ground tests, closely simulating the conditions in the GSLV-F10 flight, validated the analysis by the FAC.

3)It is informed that the Failure Analysis committee has recommended improvements to enhance the robustness of the Cryogenic Upper Stage for future GSLV missions.

4)The GSLV vehicle with the required modifications in the Cryogenic Upper Stage is expected to be ready by the third quarter of 2022.

5)The satellite identified for the next GSLV mission is expected to be ready for launch in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

24)Consider the following :

1)The percentage of e-waste collected, dismantled & recycled/ disposed out of the total e-waste generated in the country from twenty-one (21) types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) notified Under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 during the last three years is given below:

2)Ministry has notified E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 which were further amended in 2018 for management of electronic waste generated due to discarding of electronic equipment by the consumers. The rules came into force since 1st October, 2016 and have the following specific objectives:

3)Extended Responsibility to producers to manage a system of E-waste collection, storage, transportation and environmentally sound dismantling and recycling through EPR Authorization (EPRA).

4)To promote and encourage establishment of an efficient e-waste collection mechanism.

5)To promote environmentally safe and sound recycling through authorized dismantlers and recyclers of e-waste.

6)To minimize illegal recycling / recovery operations.

7)Reduce hazardous substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE).

8)The EEE after their useful life when they become e-waste, may not cause any harm to health and environment if it is stored safely. However, if un-scientific and crude methods are used for processing for retrieval of useful components or material or if the material is disposed in open, then it may cause health risks and damage to environment. Under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, collection and processing of e-waste can be carried out only by Producers or their authorised associates/ partners, authorised dismantlers, recyclers and authorised refurbisher. Non-compliance of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 may lead to adverse impact on environment and human health. Following steps have been taken to curb informal collection and unscientific dismantling and recycling of e-waste:

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1, 2, 3,4,5,6,7,8 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None of these

Ans:a

25)Consider the following :

1)Under EPRA, a producer is required to get its e-waste managed only through an authorized dismantler or recycler of e-waste.

2)Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) grants EPRA only to those producers who have set up a system of collection of e-waste through authorised entity as per the above said rules.

3)An Action Plan for enforcement of E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, across the country is in place since May, 2019. The action plan is to be implemented by all the States/UTs and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are required to submit their quarterly progress reports to CPCB to review progress. In the said action plan, checking informal traders, dismantlers, recyclers of e-waste have been taken-up as one of the action points. Drives for identification of informal activities are to be done by all the SPCBs along with district administration of the State. An e-waste management review portal has also been developed for uploading status & progress of e-waste action plan.

4)Actions, such as, constitution of teams for carrying out drives, issuing of notices, closure of operation, seizing the E-Waste against the informal processing are being taken up by the SPCBs/PCCs. Seventeen SPCBs/ PCCs started the drive against informal recycling as per the aforesaid Action Plan during Financial Year 2020-2021.

5)Under the aforesaid rules, provisions have been made for recognition and registering of workers involved in dismantling and recycling of E-Waste. Under Rule 12(1) of the said rules, State

Government has been entrusted with the responsibility to ensure earmarking or allocation of industrial space or shed for E-Waste dismantling and recycling in the existing and upcoming industrial park, estate and industrial clusters.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

26) At the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, India shared the mantra of LIFE - Lifestyle for Environment - to combat climate change.

Consider the following :

1)The United Nations has created a framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which is a comprehensive strategy to reorient economies toward long-term sustainability. The SDGs address issues such as health and education, inequity, climate change, and the preservation of our oceans and forests, among others. Goal 12 of the SDG is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns focussing on waste management (both municipal and hazardous), food loss reduction, waste recycling and reuse, and sustainability in industries such as tourism.

2)SDG 12 calls for a change in present lifestyle to one that is more sustainable.

3)As part of the United Nations Decade of Action for attainment of SDGs, India has initiated several measures for promoting Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy, including for prevention and management of waste. Concepts of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Circular Economy are based on principles of reduce-reuse-recycle and are relevant for promoting sustainable consumption and production.

4)NITI Aayog has constituted Committees for development of circular economy (CE) action plans for different categories of wastes.

5)MoEFCC is the Nodal Ministry for Circular Economy Action Plan for Tyre and Rubber and has notified on 16.02.2022 'Guidelines on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Plastic Packaging' under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

- (c) 3 only
 - (d) None of these
- Ans:a

27) Consider the following :

In January 2018, MoEFCC launched the Green Good Deeds (GGDs) movement as a social movement with the aim to bring about mass environmental awareness in the society at all levels.

1)GGDs are simple, practical steps that every individual may perform in day-to-day life in order to adopt an environment-friendly lifestyle.

2)A compilation of such deeds has also been published under the title ‘Green Deeds & Habits for Sustainable Environment’.

3)Promotion of GGDs among school and college students has been taken up under the National Green Corps (NGC) “Eco-club” programme. Cleanliness drives, plantation drives, awareness on waste management, minimizing use of single-use plastic, eco-friendly celebration of festivals, etc. are some of the activities undertaken by Eco-club students.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

28) Consider the following :

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Guidelines on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Plastic Packaging vide Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022, on 16th February, 2022.

1)The enforceable prescription of targets for reuse of rigid plastic packaging and use of recycled plastic content in plastic packaging will reduce the use of fresh plastic material for the manufacture of plastic packaging.

2)The use of recycled plastic in packaging for processed food and reuse of rigid plastic packaging for food contact applications is subject to the standards and regulations issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006) by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) Both 1 and 2
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

29) Consider the following :

1) Indian tent turtle is listed in Schedule –I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and is thereby provided the highest degree of protection.

2) There are no reports to indicate that the Indian tent turtle is on the verge of extinction due to illegal mining in Narmada River.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) Both 1 and 2

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 only

(d) None of these

Ans: a

30) Consider the following :

The following action has been taken by Government to further enhance the production and supply of coal in the country:

1) Commercial Auction of coal on revenue share mechanism: Auction of commercial mining on Revenue Sharing Mechanism was launched on 18.06.2020 by Hon'ble Prime Minister. Under this scheme, total of 2 tranches have been successfully completed and third Tranche is currently under process. From these two tranches total of 28 coal mines have been successfully auctioned for which Vesting order have in signed for 27 coal mines.

2) Rolling auction: In order to expedite the process for conducting auction and to carry out more rounds of auction in a year, a mechanism of rolling auctions of coal mines has been planned. Under this mechanism, upon completion of the electronic auction process of a tranche, the next tranche of auction would be launched for following mines:

3) Mines where no bid or only single bid was received in the previous tranche of auction (except for those mines where Ministry of Coal decides to go for second attempt of auction)

4) New mines, if any, identified by Ministry of Coal.

5) In the current III tranche of commercial auction, total of 48 coal mines have been rolled over from the II tranche of mines.

6) Single Window Clearance: The Union government has already launched Single Window Clearance portal on 11.01.2021 for the coal sector to speed up the operationalisation of coal mines. It is an unified platform that facilitates grant of clearances and approvals required for starting a coal mine in India. Now, the complete process shall be facilitated through Single Window Clearance Portal, which will map not only the relevant application formats, but also process flow for grant of approval or clearances.

7)Project Management Unit (PMU): Project Management Unit has been appointed by Ministry for handholding of coal block allottees for obtaining various approvals / clearances for early operationalisation of coal mines.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

30) Government of India in its Budget 2022-2023 has announced establishment of Digital University. Consider the following :

- 1)The University will provide access to students across the country for world-class quality universal education with personalised learning experience at their doorsteps.
- 2)This will be made available in different Indian languages and ICT formats.
- 3)The University will be built on a networked hub-spoke model, with the hub building cutting edge ICT expertise. The best public universities and institutions in the country will collaborate as a network of hub-spokes.
- 4)The Department of Higher Education, in consultation with University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and other stakeholders has initiated the process to ensure the early start of this digital university.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

31) Consider the following about melting of glaciers in the Indian Himalayan region:

the government has carried out studies and maintains data regarding melting of glaciers in the Indian Himalayan region.

1)Several Indian institutes/universities/organizations (Geological Survey of India (GSI), Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology(WIHG), National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), National Institute of Hydrology(NIH), Space Application Centre (SAC), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) etc.) monitor Himalayan glaciers for various scientific studies including glacier melting and have reported accelerated heterogeneous mass loss in Himalayan glaciers.

2)The mean retreat rate of Hindu Kush Himalayan glaciers is 14.9 ± 15.1 meter/annum (m/a); which varies from 12.7 ± 13.2 m/a in Indus, 15.5 ± 14.4 m/a in Ganga and 20.2 ± 19.7 m/a in Brahmaputra river basins. However, glaciers in the Karakoram region have shown comparatively minor length change (-1.37 ± 22.8 m/a), indicating the stable conditions.

3) Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through its center National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has been monitoring six glaciers in the Chandra basin (2437km² area) in western Himalaya since 2013.

4) A state-of-the-art field research station 'Himansh' established in Chandra basin and operational since 2016 for conducting field experiment and expeditions to glaciers.

5) The rate of annual mass balance (melting) ranging from -0.3 ± 0.06 meter water equivalent per year (m w.e.y⁻¹) to -1.13 ± 0.22 m.w.e.y⁻¹ during 2013-2020 is observed. Similarly, a mean thinning of $\sim 50 \pm 11$ m with a mean annual mass loss of -1.09 ± 0.32 m.w.e. a⁻¹ was observed for the Baspa basin during 2000-2011.

6) GSI has conducted studies on melting of the glaciers by assessment of mass balance on nine glaciers and also carried out monitoring the recession/ advancement of 76 glaciers in Himalayan region. Majority of Himalayan glaciers are observed melting/ retreating at varying rates in different regions.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans: a

32)

Department of Science and Technology (DST) has supported various R&D projects for studying Himalayan Glaciers under the National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) and National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC). The mass balance studies conducted for some Himalayan glaciers by University of Kashmir, Sikkim University, IISc and WIHG, revealed that majority of Himalayan glaciers are melting or retreating at varying rates.

Consider the following :

1) WIHG is monitoring a few glaciers in Uttarakhand, which reveal that the Dokriani Glacier in the Bhagirathi basin is retreating at 15-20 m/a since 1995, whereas Chorabari Glacier in the Mandakini basin is retreating at 9-11 m/a during 2003-2017.

2) WIHG is also monitoring Durung-Drung and Pensilungpa glaciers in Suru basin, Ladakh, which are retreating at 12 m/a and ~ 5.6 m/a, respectively.

3) NIH has been conducting several studies for the assessment of runoff from melting of glaciers at catchment and basin scales across Himalaya.

4) Melting glaciers have significant impact on water resources of Himalayan rivers due to change in glacier basin hydrology, downstream water budget, impact on hydropower plants due to variation in discharge, flash flood and sedimentation. They also increase in risk related to glacier hazards due to enhanced number and volume of glacier lakes, accelerated flash flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), impact on agro practices in high Himalayan region etc.

5) Divecha Centre for Climate Change, IISc Bangalore under the aegis of DST has investigated Satluj River basin and reported that there will be an increase in glacier melt contribution until the middle of the century and then there will be a decline. Numerous small glaciers located in the low altitude region of the Satluj basin indicate significant loss in the area till the middle of the century, creating a scarcity of water during the dry summer season.

6) The melting of glaciers is a natural process and cannot be controlled. However, melting of glaciers does increase the risks related to glacier hazards.

7) Various Indian institutes, organizations and universities are monitoring the Himalayan glaciers using remote sensing data at large scale to assess the calamities associated with the melting. Recently, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC), prepared the Guidelines, Compendium and Summary for Policy Makers on the management of the Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans: a

33) Consider the following:

1) Ministry of Mines has announced the National Mineral Policy 2019 ("NMP 2019") in March, 2019 which replaced the National Mineral Policy 2008. Subsequently, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) 1957 was amended in the years 2020 and 2021.

2) The objectives of Mineral Laws (Amendment) Act, 2020 is to allow State Governments to take advance action for auction of mineral blocks before the expiry of lease period and to allow transfer of statutory clearances, permissions etc. to a new lessee facilitate seamless continuity of mining operations.

3) Further, the MMDR Amendment Act, 2021 *inter alia* provides for increasing mineral production and time bound operationalisation of mines, increasing employment and investment in the mining sector, maintaining continuity in mining operations after change of lessee, increasing the pace of exploration and auction of mineral resources and resolving long pending issues that have slowed the growth of the sector.

4) These reforms will ensure self sufficiency in mineral requirement of the country.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans: a

34) Consider the following about Green Hydrogen :

- 1) Green H₂ is produced through electrolysis of water using electricity produced from renewable energy.
- 2) Green H₂ is not commercially viable at present. However, with declining costs of renewable power generation and electrolyzers, production of green hydrogen is likely to become cost competitive in future.
- 3) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has proposed setting up of National Hydrogen Energy Mission with an aim to develop and scale up green hydrogen production technology, make it affordable and widely accessible.
- 4) The steel sector has also been made a stakeholder in the Mission. Under this initiative, it has been proposed to set up pilot plants with part funding from Government to explore the feasibility of using green H₂ in Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) production, by partly replacing natural gas with H₂ in gas based DRI plants. Based on the success of the pilot projects, the gas based DRI units shall be encouraged for large scale adoption of the process.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans: a

35) Consider the following about Natural Farming :

- 1) Natural farming is a traditional indigenous livestock based agricultural practices which gives freedom to farmers from all kinds of externally purchased inputs like chemical fertilizer or pesticides as well as organic fertilizers like vermicompost, organic manure, biofertiliser, bio-pesticides hence reduce the cost of farming and thereby provide benefit mostly to small and marginal farmers.
- 2) Transition of natural farming requires large scale access to natural farming techniques as farmers shift from traditional fertilizer and pesticide based system to a system where no inorganic chemical is added to the farm.
- 3) Government is implementing Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) introduced during 2020-21 as a sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) for the promotion of agro-ecological farming system which have many variants and is based on sound ecological principles and traditional indigenous practices including Natural Farming.
- 4) The scheme is generic in nature and gives freedom to farmers to adopt indigenous practices with emphasis on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and also promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and other plant-based preparations.
- 5) Training through capacity building is integral part of the scheme. Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, training capacity building, organising conferences and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification and residue analysis.

6) An area of 4.09 lakh ha area has been covered under natural farming and a total fund of Rs. 4980.99 lakh has been released to 8 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Apart from this an additional area of 5.68 lakh ha has been approved for 3 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

36)

Welcoming the Summary of Policymakers (SPM) and the Working Group III (WG3) contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said in his tweet message that the historical responsibility of developed countries for consuming the carbon budget is scientifically established by the report, and called for the need of taking deep and urgent global emissions reduction.

Consider the following :

The report justifies India's emphasis on equity at all scales in climate action and sustainable development. Equity is essential for

- 1)The social and economic transformation required for climate mitigation,
- 2)Manage the negative consequences of climate mitigation on vulnerable populations,
- 3)Enable just transition towards low-emissions development,
- 4)And ensure sustainable development.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

37) Consider the following about Plastic Waste :

The Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, launched 'Prakriti', a mascot to spread greater awareness among masses about small changes that can be sustainably adopted in our lifestyle for a better environment, and various green initiatives taken by Ministry of Environment,

Forest & Climate Change and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to ensure effective Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in the country and senior officials of the government.

1) To tackle the challenge of plastic pollution, the Prime Minister, announced India's pledge to phase out Single Use Plastics (SUPs) by 2022.

2) Taking the momentum forward and stressing on the need for active public participation, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change also administered 'Swachh Bharat Harit Bharat Green Pledge' to the gathering.

3) Plastic has become one of the most pressing environmental issues that we are facing today.

4) India is generating about 3.5 Million Tonnes of plastic waste annually and the per capita plastic waste generation has almost doubled over the last five years. Plastic Pollution adversely affects our ecosystems and is also linked to air pollution.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) None of these
- Ans: a

38) Consider the following **green initiatives for plastic waste management launched**:

1) National Dashboard on Elimination of Single Use Plastic and Plastic Waste Management (MoEFCC) to bring all stakeholders including Central Ministries/ Departments, State/UT Governments at one place and track the progress made for elimination of single use plastic (SUP) and effective management of plastic waste.

2) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Portal for Plastic Packaging (CPCB) for improving accountability, traceability, transparency and facilitating ease of reporting compliance to EPR Obligations by Producers, Importers and Brand-owners

3) Mobile App for Single Use Plastics Grievance Redressal (CPCB) to empower citizens to check sale/usage/manufacturing of SUP in their area and tackle the plastic menace.

4) Monitoring module for SUP (CPCB), for local bodies, SPCBs/PCCs and CPCB, to inventorize details of SUP production/ sale & usage in commercial establishments at district level, and on-ground enforcement of ban on SUP.

5) Industrial production of Graphene from Waste Plastic (G B Pant NIHE & NRDC) to promote more industries to come forward to up cycle plastic waste

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

39)

Consider the following :

1)The State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round I ranks the states' performance on 6 parameters, namely, (1) DISCOM's Performance (2) Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy (3) Clean Energy Initiatives (4) Energy Efficiency (5) Environmental Sustainability; and (6) New Initiatives. The parameters are further divided into 27 indicators.

2)Based on the composite SECI Round I score, the states and UTs are categorized into three groups: Front Runners, Achievers, and Aspirants.

3)The states have been categorized based on size and geographical differences as larger states, smaller states, and UTs.

4)Gujarat, Kerala, and Punjab have been ranked as the top three performers in the category of larger states.

5)Goa, emerged as the top-performing state in the smaller states category, followed by Tripura, and Manipur.

6) Among UTs, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli are the top performers.

7)Detailed state profiles and scorecards have been included in the report which provides a comprehensive snapshot of each state and union territory on the various parameters.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None of these

Ans:a

40)

Consider the following :

1)Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog said that there is a need to convert our efforts towards achieving the 'Panchamrit' targets announced by the hon'ble PM at COP-26, Glasgow into a peoples' movement.

2)In order to do this, the role of the States is going to be critical. Governance innovation and mutual learning by states shall go a long way in improving outcomes and SECI Round I is the right step in this direction.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) Both 1 and 2

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 only

(d) None of these

Ans:a

41) Consider the following :

1)A group of scientists have computationally designed a hybrid material which can absorb greenhouse gas methane, converting it to clean Hydrogen and also simulated a process of capturing carbon dioxide in-situ and converting it to high purity hydrogen from non-fuel grade bioethanol. They have also designed a facility that can test such materials and help further carbon capture research at the institute

2)Responding to the challenge, in a series of researches on carbon capture and utilization scientists from Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad have not only computationally designed a hybrid material that can capture methane and also act as catalyst to convert it to high purity hydrogen, but also simulated and designed a process for *in situ* capture of carbon dioxide and its conversion to high purity hydrogen from non-fuel grade bioethanol through a mechanism called the optimized intensified chemical looping reforming.

3)The later research has been published in the Elsevier journal Chemical Engineering and Processing
Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

41)

Consider the following :

1)Facial recognition System is part of the Digi Yatra initiative of the government for providing passengers seamless and hassle-free experience at airports. It is to be implemented in a phased manner.

2)The first phase is planned at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune, Vijayawada, Bangalore, Delhi and Hyderabad Airports by March 2023.

3)Preliminary testing of the Digi Yatra Biometric boarding system with registration for the 'Day of Travel' at these airports has been completed.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

42) Consider the following regarding coal mines in India :

1)As per the Inventory of India published by GSI for Coal and Lignite as on 01.04.2021, the total assessed geological coal resource is 352125.97 million tonnes.

2)The cumulative coal production since 1950 up to 2020-21 is 17,297.94 million tonne as per Coal Controller, Ministry of Coal, Government of India.

3)As per present rate of demand/consumption of coal there is sufficient resources of coal in India.

4)Every year CMPDI is adding about 4000-6000 MT of proved resources in the coal inventory of

India. There is no threat of coal resources for future coal demand in our country at present rate of extraction / demand.

5)The total number of blocks under Coal India Limited (CIL) is 456 as on 01.04.2021.

6)The coal demand is expected to remain in the range of 1,192 – 1,325 Million Tonnes by 2030.

7)The cumulative coal production since 1950 up to 2020-21 is 17,297.94 million tonne as per Coal Controller, Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India.

8)As per present rate of demand/ consumption of coal there is sufficient coal resource in India which may provide thermal power.

9)Total 391 coal mines (operational) are being operated under Government agencies (CIL/SCCL/NLCIL).

10)In North Eastern Region, the coal mines being operated under Government agencies are coal mines of North Eastern Coalfields, Coal India Limited, Margherita. At present only Tirap Colliery and Tikak Colliery are being operated and mining is being carried out only in Tikak Colliery.

11)Recently direction have been issued regarding successful bidder of 02 coal blocks located in Assam viz Garampani and Koilajan cola blocks

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

(d) None of these

Ans:c

43) India's merchandise import in March 2022 was USD 59.07 billion, an increase of 20.79% over USD 48.90 billion in March 2021 and an increase of 87.68% over USD 31.47 billion in March 2020.

Consider the following :

Top 10 major commodity groups covering 77% of total imports in April 2021-March 2022, are

1)Petroleum, Crude & products

2)Electronic goods

3)Gold

4) Machinery, electrical & non-electrical

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1, 2, 3, 4, only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None of these

Ans:a

44) India achieved an all-time high annual merchandise exports of USD 417.81 billion in FY 2021-22, an increase of 43.18% over USD 291.81 billion in FY2020-21 and an increase of 33.33% over USD 313.36 billion in FY2019-20.

Consider the following :

Top 10 major commodity groups covering 80% of total exports in April 2021-March 2022, are

- 1) Engineering goods
- 2) Petroleum products
- 3) Gems and Jewellery
- 4) Organic and Inorganic chemicals

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

45) India's trade deficit in March 2022 was USD 18.69 billion, while it was USD 192.41 billion during April 2021-March 2022.

Consider the following :

1) Value of non-petroleum imports was USD 40.66 billion in March 2022 with a positive growth of 5.26% over non-petroleum imports of USD 38.63 billion in March 2021 and a positive growth of 89.79% over non-petroleum imports of USD 21.42 billion in March 2020.

2) Value of non-oil, non-GJ (gold, silver & Precious metals) imports was USD 36.18 billion in March 2022 with a positive growth of 31.21% over non-oil and non-GJ imports of USD 27.58 billion in March 2021 and a positive growth of 93.52% over non-oil and non-GJ imports of USD 18.70 billion in March 2020

3) Non-oil, non-GJ (Gold, Silver & Precious Metals) imports was USD 369.19 billion in April 2021-March 2022, recording a positive growth of 43.39%, as compared to non-oil and non-GJ imports of USD 257.47 billion in April 2020-March 2021 and a positive growth of 26.98% over USD 290.74 billion in April 2019-March 2020.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

46) Consider the following :

1) Procurement of wheat has recently commenced in Rabi Marketing Season 2022-23 in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

2) A quantity of 34917 MT of wheat has been procured upto 03.04.2022 benefitting 3510 farmers with MSP value of Rs. 70.36 crore.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) Both 1 and 2
 - (b) 1 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) None of these
- Ans: a

47) Consider the following :

1) The paddy procurement is progressing smoothly in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2021-22 at MSP from farmers.

2) A quantity of 750.29 LMT of Paddy has been procured in KMS 2021-22 upto 03.04.2022 in procuring States/UTs.

3) About 108.01 Lakh farmers have been benefitted with MSP value of Rs. 1,47,055.95 crore

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) None of these
- Ans: a

48) Consider the following :

1) At present, the domestic production of edible oils is unable to meet the country's domestic demand.

2) The Country has to rely on a large scale on imports to meet the gap between demand and supply.

3) Around 56% of the edible oils segment consumed in the country is met through imports. The recent geo-political events have pushed the international prices of all edible oils to all time high levels. Hence, a need was felt to inspect the domestic market participants to ensure that no unfair practices are being resorted to by unscrupulous elements like hoarding and profiteering.

4) In order to curb the rising edible oil prices owing to overall global inflation in commodities brought about by current geo-political situation and the supply chain disruptions, the Government has notified a Central Order on 30th March, 2022 amending the Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs Order, 2016 and its Central Order dated 3rd February, 2022 by extending the stock limits for all Edible Oils and Oilseeds put together for a period upto 31st December, 2022 for all States/Union Territories.

5) This order is effective from 1st April, 2022 upto 31st December 2022. Six States viz Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan & Bihar which had issued their own control order in pursuance of Central Order dated 8th Oct. 2022 have also been brought under the purview of the latest order with effect from 1st April, 2022. With the issue of this Central Order, all States/UTs have been brought under one single order. It is mentioned that the six states mentioned above were earlier exempted from the Central Order dated 3rd Feb. 2022 as they had issued their own Central Orders.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None of these

Ans: a

49)

Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has conducted the latest i.e., 20th Livestock Census in 2019 in participation with all States and Union Territories.

It covers all domesticated animals and its headcounts for total 16 species of animals like Cattle, Buffalo, Mithun, Yak, Sheep, Goat, Pig, Horse, Pony, Mule, Donkey Camel, Dog, Rabbit and Elephant and poultry birds (Fowl, Duck, Turkeys and other poultry birds) possessed by the households, household enterprises/non-household enterprises and institutions at their site. Moreover, the 20th livestock census is indeed a unique attempt as for the first-time data collected in using tablets computers to digitize household level data through online transmission from the field. Some of the significant findings of the 20th Livestock Census is summarized :

Consider the following:

1) The total Livestock population is 536.76 million in the country showing an increase of 4.8% over Livestock Census-2012.

2) The total Livestock population in rural and urban area is 514.11 million and 22.65 million respectively with percentage share of 95.78% for rural and 4.22% for urban area.

3) Total Bovine population (Cattle, Buffalo, Mithun and Yak) is 303.76 million in 2019 which shows an increase of 1.3% over the previous census.

4) The total number of Cattle in the country is 193.46 million in 2019 showing an increase of 1.3 % over previous Census.

5) The Exotic/Crossbred and Indigenous/Non-descript Cattle population in the country is 51.36 million and 142.11 million respectively.

6)The Indigenous/Non-descript Female Cattle population has increased by 10% in 2019 as compared to previous census.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3,4,5,6 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

50) Consider the following :

1)Considering the number and past trends over last two decades, there is no livestock species which are on the verge of extinction.

2)However, only Camel and Donkey population is showing declining trends over last four Livestock Censuses i.e., 17th (2003), 18th (2007), 19th (2012) and 20th (2019) Livestock Census.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

51) Consider the following Livestock census:

1)The population of the total Exotic/Crossbred Cattle has increased by 29.3% in 2019 as compared to previous census.

2)There is a decline of 6% in the total Indigenous (both descript and non-descript) Cattle population over the previous census. However, the pace of decline of Indigenous Cattle population during 2012-2019 is much lesser as compared to 2007-12 which was about 9%.

3)The total Buffalo in the country is 109.85 million showing an increase of about 1.1% over previous Census.

4)The total Milch Animals (in-milk and dry) in Cows and Buffalo is 125.75 million, an increase of 6.0 % over the previous census.

5)The total Sheep in the country is 74.26 million in 2019, increased by 14.1% over previous Census.

6)The Goat population in the country in 2019 is 148.89 million showing an increase of 10.1% over the previous census.

7)The total Pigs in the country is 9.06 million in the current Census, declined by 12.03% over the previous Census.

8)The total Mithun and Yak in the country is 3.9 lakh and 58thousandin 2019, increased by 29.5% and 24.9% respectively over previous Census.

9)The total Horses and Ponies in the country is 3.4 lakhs in 2019, decreased by 45.2% over previous Census.

10)The total population of Mules and Donkeys in the country is 84thousandand 1.2 lakhs in 2019, decreased by 57.1% and 61.2% respectively over previous Census.

11)The total Camel population in the country is 2.5 lakhs in 2019, decreased by 37.1% over previous Census.

12)The total Poultry in the country is 851.81 million in 2019, increased by 16.8% over previous Census.

13)The total Backyard Poultry in the country is 317.07 million in 2019, increased by 45.8% over previous Census.

14)The total Commercial Poultry in the country is 534.74 million in 2019, increased by 4.5% over previous Census.

15)Total number of Stray Cattle and Stray Dogs in 2019 is 50 lakhs and 153 lakhs respectively in the country.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None of these

Ans:a

52) Consider the following :

1)The Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) was launched on 20th June 2020, for a period of 125 days, with resource envelop of Rs. 50,000 crore to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers returning to villages and similarly affected citizens in rural area.

2)The Abhiyaan adopted a multipronged strategy of providing immediate employment & livelihood opportunities to the distressed, to saturate the villages with public infrastructure and creation of livelihood assets to boost the income generation activities and enhance long term livelihood opportunities by giving focus on 25 works (including works under Mahatma Gandhi

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) in 116 selected districts across 6 States namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

3)The GKRA ended on 22nd October, 2020 and a total of 50.78 crore person-days employment were provided with a total expenditure of Rs. 39,293 crore during the Abhiyaan.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of these

Ans:a

TSPSC GROUP I Prelims 2022 (Scheduled on 16.10.2022)
TSLPRB SI & CONSTABLES

Model Questions (for GS Paper)
Set No. 3 {Prepared on 24 .5.2022 }

For Study purpose

Prepared by :Praturi Potayya Sarma
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1)Consider the following about the stages of a cyclonic storm prediction:

The Director General, India Meteorological Department, briefed the Committee about the current status of a low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal, which is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by 3rd December.

1)It is expected to cross the coasts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha by the morning of 4th December, with wind speeds ranging from 90 kmph to 100 kmph, accompanied by heavy rainfall and tidal waves in the coastal districts of these states.

2)The cyclonic storm is likely to affect the districts of Srikakulam, Vishakhapatnam and Vijayanagaram in Andhra Pradesh and coastal districts of Odisha.

3)It is also likely to bring heavy to very heavy rainfall in the coastal areas and Gangetic parts of West Bengal

4)Prime Minister directed officials to take every possible measure to ensure that people are safely evacuated and to ensure maintenance of all essential services such as Power, Telecommunications, health, drinking water etc. and that they are restored immediately in the event of any disruption. 5)He further directed them to ensure adequate storage of essential medicines & supplies and to plan for unhindered movement. He also directed for 24*7 functioning of control rooms.

6)India Meteorological Department (IMD) informed that low pressure region in the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into Cyclone Jawad and is expected to reach coast of North Andhra Pradesh – Odisha around morning of Saturday 4th December 2021, with the wind speed ranging upto 100 kmph.

7)It is likely to cause heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha & W.Bengal. IMD has been issuing regular bulletins with the latest forecast to all the concerned States.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(c) 1, 2, ,3,4,5,6,7

(d) None of these

Ans: c

2) Consider the following :

Conducting elections in India is a mammoth task with over 937 million registered electors in the country by now.

1)ECI sets up polling booths within walking distance of every village, hamlet and habitation with the aim of 'No Voter to be Left Behind'.

2)While sharing the experience of conducting elections in six states amidst the COVID pandemic, it is that mentioned several initiatives adapted to ensure smooth conduct of elections despite challenges posed.

3)It is highlighted steps like curtailing the maximum number of voters at a polling station from 1500 to 1000 and extending polling hours by an hour in order to decongest polling spaces; postal ballot facility for 80+ senior citizens, PwDs and COVID affected individuals where ECI literally brought the polling station to their doorstep.

4) The speaker of the talk also gave an insight into the participation of women in Indian elections, which has seen remarkable increase over the years.

5)It is pointed out ECI's efforts at digitization & use of technology, citing example of Electronic Voting Machines, VVPATs and mobile apps like c-vIGIL app for citizens to report violation of Model Code of Conduct; the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System facility for service voters and those posted at our missions abroad

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, ,3,4,5

(d) None of these

Ans: c

3) Consider the following about agroforestry scheme:

1)Sub-Mission on Agroforestry Scheme is being implemented by this Department since 2016-17 to encourage tree plantation on farm land in a complementary and integrated manner with crops and livestock, to help the farmers to get additional income and make their farming systems more climate resilient and adaptive.

2)The Agro-forestry scheme envisages a lot of quantifiable benefits like additional income, protection from crop damage, higher carbon sequestration along with climate change adaptation and mitigation

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

4)Consider the following :

1)The Government of India plans to migrate towards technology based yield estimation from the conventional Crop Cutting Experiment (CCE) based yield estimation approach.

2)Towards this, few pilot studies have been initiated by taking various Government and Private Agencies On-board. During Kharif 2019, pilot studies were conducted through 12 agencies in 64 districts of 15 States for 9 crops envisaging innovative technologies such as High Resolution Satellite data (Optical and microwave), Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), Advanced multi-parameter crop models, Mobile Applications for Field Data Collection, Artificial intelligence/ Machine learning approach, Sensor Networks, Internet of Things, Field based digital photographs, Hand held instruments and Scientifically designed Sampling Plans.

3)These approaches were validated in Rabi 2019-20 in 15 blocks of 6 States.

4)The pilot studies were scaled up to 100 districts with the help of 07 agencies for Paddy crop in Kharif - 2020, and for Paddy and Wheat in Rabi season of 2020-21 in 100 districts of 13 states.

5)The agencies have submitted the technical reports to Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC)

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, ,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

5) Consider the following :

1)As per Provisional Estimates of Annual National Income, released by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on 31st, May 2021, the

share of Agriculture and Allied Sectors in total Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country has increased from 18.4% in 2019-20 to 20.2% in 2020-21 at current prices.

2)The Gross Value Added of Agriculture and Allied Sectors at current price has increased from 33.94 lakh crore in 2019-20 to 36.16 lakh crore in 2020-21.

3)In order to facilitate the marketing of agricultural produce of the farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government had issued advisory to States/Union Territories (UTs) to facilitate Direct Marketing, enabling direct purchase from the farmers/ Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)/ Cooperatives etc. by liberalizing regulations under respective State Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Acts.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, ,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

6)Consider the following :

Government undertakes periodical review of performance of various schemes. Due to Government's interventions from time to time, the following achievements were recorded and new schemes were initiated for the benefit of farmers:-

(1) Food grain production has increased from 265.05 million tonnes in 2013-14 to record 305.43 million tonnes in 2020-21 (Third advance estimate) which is the highest ever food grain production.

(2) Government has increased the MSP for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other commercial crops with a return of at least 50 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production from 2018-19.

(3) Launch of PM-KISAN in 2019 -an income support scheme to farmers providing Rs. 6000 per year in 3 equal installments.

(4) PMFBY was launched in 2016 addressing problems of high premium rates for farmers and reduction in sum insured due to capping. In past 5 Years of implementation 29.22 crore farmer applicants enrolled and over 8.83 crore (Provisional) farmer applicants have received claims of over Rs. 101875 crore.

(5) Institutional credit increased from Rs.7.3 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 16.5 lakh crore in 2021-22.

(6) Soil Health Cards have been issued free of cost to nearly 11 crore farmers under a nationwide program.

(7) Paramparagat Krishi VikasYojana (PKVY) was initiated in 2015-16 to promote organic farming in the country. Two-year achievement under PKVY scheme-19043 clusters have been formed and an area of 3.81 lakh ha has been covered benefitting 9.52 lakh farmers.

(8) Neem Coated Urea has been introduced since 2015-16 to ensure long availability of nutrients in the soil by slow release of nitrogen. It has also helped in curtailing diversion of urea for non-agricultural activities.

(9) Within a year of the launch of AIF, the scheme mobilized Rs.7700 Crore agriculture infrastructure in the country for more than 7300 projects.

10) Scheme for Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs launched with a total budgetary provision of Rs. 6865 Crore in February 2020.

(11) A National Bee and Honey Mission (NBHM) has been launched in 2020 as part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Rs.500 crore for the period 2020-2021 to 2022-2023 has been allocated for the sector.

(12) Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhanmantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY_PDMC) aims to increase water use efficiency at the farm level through Micro Irrigation technologies, i.e., drip and sprinkler irrigation systems.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12

(d) None of these

Ans: c

7)Consider the following :

1)The guidelines of the various beneficiary oriented schemes of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare provide that States and other implementing agencies should incur atleast 30% expenditure on women farmers.

2)These schemes include Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms, National Food Security Mission, National Mission on Oilseed & Oil Palm, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, Sub-Mission for Seed and Planting Material, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) None of these

Ans: c

8) Consider the following for coal supply :

1) There is no shortage of coal in the country.

2) Due to increased demand of power, less power generation by imported coal based power plants and some interruption in supply of coal due to heavy rains, the coal stock at the power plants depleted to 7.2 MT (sufficient for 4 days) as on 8th October, 2021.

3) Subsequently with increased coal supplies, the coal stock has started increasing and has now reached 16.74 MT (sufficient for 9 days) as on 25.11.2021. Coal India Limited (CIL) has dispatched around 54 Million Tonnes (MT) more coal during April - October'21 in comparison to the same period of last year. 4) CIL has dispatched 291.72 MT coal during this period, against 237.75 MT during the same period of last fiscal.

5) The coal stock at CIL pithead was 40.23 MT as on 08.10.2021 and 32.30 MT as on 24.11.2021.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

(d) None of these

Ans: c

9) Consider the following in connection with Scientific Expedition to Antarctica :

1) First batch of 23 scientists and support staff reached the Maitri station on November 10, 2021 under the 41st Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (ISEA) launched recently.

2) The 41st expedition has two major objectives. The first encompasses geological exploration of the Amery ice shelf at Bharati station to understanding the geological link between India and Antarctica in the past. The second goal involves ice core drilling work near the Maitri station, focusing primarily towards improving the understanding of Antarctic climate, westerly winds, sea ice and greenhouse gases.

3) Apart from these, other long-term observations in the field of geology, glaciology, ocean observations, and upper atmospheric sciences are continuing.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

10) Consider the following about Population Census 2021 :

1)The intent of the Government for conducting Census 2021 was notified in Gazette of India on 28th March, 2019.

2)Due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the Census 2021 and related field activities have been postponed.

3)The forthcoming Census is to be the first digital Census. Mobile App for collection of data and a Census Portal for management and monitoring of various Census related activities have been developed.

4)In Census, the castes and tribes which are specifically notified as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, as amended from time to time, are enumerated.

5)The State Governments of Bihar, Maharashtra and Odisha have requested to collect caste details in the forthcoming Census.

6)The Government of India has not enumerated caste wise population other than SCs and STs in Census since independence.

7)The names of the mother tongue and two other languages known in order of proficiency are to be recorded by the enumerator in the forthcoming Census as responded by each person.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3,4,5,6,7

(d) None of these

Ans: c

11) Consider the following about gold :

1)As per National Mineral Inventory, the total resources of primary gold ore in the country as on 1.4.2015 are estimated at 501.83 million tonnes with 654.74 tonnes of gold metal and out of this, Bihar is endowed with 222.885 million tonnes (44%) of ore containing 37.6 tonnes of metal.

2)These resources of gold in Bihar are categorized under United Nations Framework Classification[UNFC] code-333 (128.885 million tonnes containing 21.6 tonnes metal) and UNFC code-334 (94 million tonnes containing 16 tonnes metal).

3)The entire resource of gold ore in Bihar is located in Sono area of Jamui district.

4)During the last five years, Geological Survey of India [GSI], an attached office of Ministry of Mines, has carried G4 stage 'reconnaissance survey' for gold in parts of West Champaran district and G3 stage 'preliminary exploration' in Gaya district of Bihar following the guidelines of UNFC.

5) In West Champaran district, G4 stage exploration was carried out for placer gold in foothills of Siwalik Himalayas, but the average concentration of placer gold in this area is low (0.0061ppm to 1.96 ppm) and no resource has been estimated.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

12) Consider the following about women reservation :

1) Article 243D of the Constitution of India provides for not less than one-third reservation for women out of total number of seats to be filled by direct election and number of offices of chairpersons of Panchayats.

2) However, as per the information available with the Ministry, 21 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, have made provision of 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions in their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts.

3) In respect of remaining States, Constitutional provision as prescribed in Article 243D applies.

4) 'Panchayat', being 'Local Government', is a State subject and part of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

5) Accordingly, all Panchayat related matters, including representation of women in Panchayat systems, are governed by the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts and rules, subject to the provisions of the Constitution. However, Government has been encouraging increased involvement of women in the functioning of Panchayats through active participation in the Gram Sabha meetings for preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans and various schemes being implemented by the Panchayats. The Ministry has also issued advisories to the States to facilitate holding of separate Ward Sabha and Mahila Sabha meetings prior to Gram Sabha meetings, enhancing the presence and participation of women in Gram Sabha and Panchayat meetings, allocation of Panchayat funds for women centric activities, combating the evil of women trafficking, female foeticide, child marriage etc.

6) Article 280 (3) (bb) of the Constitution of India provides for the Finance Commission to make recommendations regarding the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State. Accordingly, to improve the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions, including women related activities; funds have been recommended by Central Finance Commissions successively.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

13) Consider the following about Vehicle Scrapping Policy :

- 1) The Vehicle Scrapping Policy includes a system of incentives/dis-incentives for creation of an ecosystem to phase out older, unfit polluting vehicles.
- 2) The policy is based on the criterion of fitness of the vehicle.
- 3) In order to enforce provisions of the policy, rules have been issued/amended under the framework of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

14) Consider the following about ISRO and IN-SPACe :

- 1) As part of the space sector reforms, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) is created to ensure greater participation of private sector in space activities.
- 2) While ISRO will largely focus on developing newer technologies, undertaking technology demonstrator missions, first-of-its kind satellites, space science missions, human space flights while ensuring continuity of missions to cater to national imperatives, New Space India Limited (NSIL) is entrusted with the realization operational satellites, launch vehicles and services.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(d) None of these

Ans: c

15) Consider the following about Greenfield airports :

1) During the last 3 years, six **Greenfield airports** have become operational:

2) These are Kannur Airport in Kerala (2018), Pakyong Airport in Sikkim (2018), Kalaburagi Airport in Karnataka (2019), Kurnool Airport in Andhra Pradesh (2021), Sindhudurg Airport in Maharashtra (2021) and Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh (2021).

3) In addition, during the last 3 years, construction of Greenfield airports at Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra, Mopa in Goa, Hirasar in Rajkot, Jewar (Noida) in Uttar Pradesh and Hollongi in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh are being undertaken.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, ,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

16) Consider the following about Flood Management :

1) Erosion, movement and deposition of sediment in a river are natural regulating functions of a river.

2) Rivers tend to maintain a balance between the silt load carried & silt load deposited, maintaining a river regime.

3) Soil erosion caused by heavy floods is a matter of concern as it leads to several associated problems like changes in river course, causing loss of land, damages to the embankments, etc.

4) Flood management including erosion control falls within the purview of the States. Flood management and anti-erosion schemes are formulated and implemented by concerned State Governments as per their priority. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical guidance and also promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas.

5) The Government of India has been making continuous efforts to assist the State Governments in effective flood management and erosion control. Morphological Studies by various IIT and NIIT have been carried out for major rivers like Ganga, Sharda, Rapti, Kosi, Bagmati, Subansari, Krishna, Mahanadi Mahanada, etc.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

17) Consider the following about ground water pollution :

1)Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data of the country on a regional scale as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies.

2)These studies indicate the occurrence of contaminants such as Fluoride, Arsenic, Nitrate, Iron and Heavy Metals beyond permissible limits in various States / UTs.

3)The ground water contamination is mostly geogenic in nature and does not show significant change over the years.

4)However, nitrate contamination is mostly anthropogenic and its spread has been noticed in some areas, particularly areas adjoining habitations.

5)Further, nitrate contamination can also be caused by excessive use of fertilizers.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

18) Government has taken various initiatives for promotion of electric vehicles in the country.

Consider the following :

(1) GST on electric vehicles has been reduced from 12% to 5%; GST on chargers/ chargingstations for electric vehicles has been reduced from 18% to 5%.

(2) Ministry of Power released a notification on charging infrastructure standards permitting private charging at residences and offices.

(3)Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) announced that battery-operated vehicles will be given green license plates and be exempted from permit requirements.

(4) MoRTH issued a notification advising states to waive road tax on EVs, which in turn will help reduce the initial cost of EVs.

(5) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) amended the Model Building Byelaws2016 to establish charging stations and infrastructure in private and commercial buildings.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

19) Consider the following about Global Hunger Index 2021 report :

1) As per Global Hunger Index 2021 report prepared by 'Welthungerhilfe' and 'Concern Worldwide', India's score is 27.5 and it has ranked 101 among 116 countries.

2) Global Hunger Index is based on four indicators - Undernourishment, Child Stunting, Child Wasting and Child Mortality.

3) Global Hunger Index (GHI) does not reflect India's true picture as it is a flawed measure of 'Hunger'. It should not be taken at face value as it is neither appropriate nor representative of hunger prevalent in a country. Out of its four indicators, only one indicator, i.e., undernourishment, is directly related to hunger. The two indicators, namely, Stunting and Wasting are outcomes of complex interactions of various other factors like sanitation, genetics, environment and utilisation of food intake apart from hunger which is taken as the causative/outcome factor for stunting and wasting in the GHI.

4) Also, there is hardly any evidence that the fourth indicator, namely, child mortality is an outcome of hunger

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

20) Consider the following elephants and bees RE-HAB :

1) Buoyed by the success of its innovative Project RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees) in Karnataka, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has now replicated the project in Assam.

2) Chairman KVIC, launched Project RE-HAB at Village Mornoi in Goalpara district of Assam which severely grapples with elephant-human conflicts. The project has been implemented in Assam with the support of the local forest department.

3) Surrounded by dense forests, a large part of Assam is infested by elephants with 332 human deaths reported between 2014 and 2019 due to elephant attacks.

4) Under Project RE-HAB, "Bee-fences" are created by setting up bee boxes in the passage ways of elephants to block their entrance to human territories. The boxes are connected with a string so that when elephants attempt to pass through, a tug or pull causes the bees to swarm the elephant herds and dissuade them from progressing further. It is a cost-effective way of reducing human-wild conflicts without causing any harm to the animals. It is scientifically recorded that elephants are annoyed by the honey bees. Elephants also fear that the bee swarms can bite their sensitive inner side of the trunk and eyes. The collective buzz of the bees is annoying to elephants that force them to return.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

21) Consider the following about PM GatiShakti National Master Plan :

1) The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP) is an integrated plan depicting all the existing and proposed development initiatives of various Ministries/Departments for better synergy.

2) The NMP will help in achieving the objective of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' by providing visibility to various stakeholders involved in development of infrastructure. It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments. Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defense corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones etc. will also be covered under the master plan.

3) This will boost economic growth, attract investments and enhance the country's global competitiveness.

4) During a presentation made by Special Secretary, Logistics Division, DPIIT, the ministry wise progress on the targets set under the PM GatiShakti were discussed. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has completed 1,41,190 Kms of National Highways as on 31st March 2022 out of the set target of 2,00,000 kms for 2024-25.

5) Similarly, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has completed laying of gas pipeline of 20,000 kms out of 34,500 for the same time period. The Ministry of Power has already surpassed its target for laying of the transmission network of 4,54,200 kms till the end of March 2022.

6) The Department of Telecommunication has created the OFC network of 33,00,997 kms as on 31st March 2022 against the set target of 50,00,000 kms for 2024-25.

7)The benefits and on-ground impact of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan portal were also illustrated. Various ministries/departments and state governments have started using this portal for integration and synchronization of implementation efforts, optimization of cost and time at the stage of planning of infrastructure projects.

To achieve its objective to provide 50 Mbps of bandwidth to the citizens under the National Broadband Mission, planning for connecting all the non-fiberized towers through the OFC is being done through the PM GatiShakti NMP. All the non-fiberized towers and existing OFC Network is mapped on the Department of Telecommunication GatiShakti Portal.

8)Based on the data and Planning criteria, the tool is being developed to get the length of required OFC and cost of OFC Laying.

9)The portal has also been used by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), Ministry of Railways for firming the alignment for the East-West, East-Coast and North-South Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) to minimize disruption, cost and time overruns in project implementation.

10)To meet the rising demand for air connectivity, the Ministry of Civil Aviation AAI (MoCA) has used this portal to identify the land acquisition requirements, land use analysis and road connectivity for expansion of the Jolly Grant Airport, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. AAI benefitted in terms of timely planning, and cost saving as use of this portal replaced the need for physical survey.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

(d) None of these

Ans: c

22) Consider the following :

1)National Health Authority (NHA), the implementing agency for Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has extended an open invitation to all interested parties for sharing their Expression of Interest (EoI) for developing innovative solutions that shall help build a national digital health ecosystem for India. This collaborative approach will not just help speed up the development but also will help in making digital public goods available to public and/or private entities.

2)Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to create a seamless online platform that will enable interoperability within the digital healthcare ecosystem. The mission has been conceptualized as a set of 'digital building blocks'. Each building block is seen as a 'digital public good' that can be used by any entity in the digital health ecosystem and provides key capabilities that enable the ABDM vision.

3) "The ABDM endeavours to give impetus to open and interoperable standards in the digital health ecosystem. Such an undertaking will not only expedite Universal Health Coverage goals in India, but also have ripple effects on the global health ecosystem. However, such an ambition requires all hands-on-deck. In this regard, the National Health Authority is giving an open call inviting all interested parties to contribute to the Unified Health Interface (UHI), Health Claims Protocol (HCP), and various other open-source digital public goods being created to expand the digital health ecosystem."

4)ABDM has developed building blocks and interoperable APIs to offer a seamless digital healthcare experience for all stakeholders – health facilities, patients and healthcare professionals. The key building blocks of ABDM are - ABHA, Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), Health Facility Registry (HFR) and Health Information Exchange & Consent Manager (HIE-CM).

5)These building blocks are designed to enable identification of participating entities (health care providers, patients and health professionals) and enable exchange of interoperable health data with patient consent. The digital ecosystem developed is now accessible to health facilities and health tech players for integration.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

23) Consider the following :

1)The approved scheme of RGSA will help more than 2.78 lakh Rural Local Bodies including Traditional Bodies across the country to develop governance capabilities to deliver on SDGs through inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilisation of available resources. The key principles of SDGs, i.e. leaving no one behind, reaching the farthest first and universal coverage, along with gender equality will be embedded in the design of all capacity building interventions including trainings, training modules and materials.

2)Priority will be given to subjects of national importance principally under themes, namely: (i) Poverty free and enhanced livelihood in villages, (ii) Healthy Village, (iii) Child Friendly Village, (iv)

Water Sufficient Village, (v) Clean and Green Village, (vi) Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Village, (vii) Socially Secured Village, (viii) Village with Good Governance, and (ix) Engendered Development in Village.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2,
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

24) The Central Government released the Tenth and Eleventh Edition of the Status Paper on the Government Debt, which provides a detailed analysis of the overall debt position of the Government of India. The Central Government has been bringing-out an Annual Status Paper on Government Debt since 2010-11.

Consider the following :

1) This paper enhances transparency by providing a detailed account of debt operations during the year 2019-20 and 2020-21 and an assessment of the health of the public debt portfolio based on internationally accepted debt performance indicators.

2) The Government's debt portfolio is characterised by prudent risk profile.

3) Conventional indicators of debt sustainability, i.e., Debt/ GDP ratio, interest payment to revenue receipts, shares of short-term debt/ External debt/ FRBs in total debt indicate that the debt profile of the Government is comfortably placed in terms of debt sustainability parameters.

4) The Paper also includes a chapter on Medium Term Debt Management Strategy of the Central Government

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

25) Consider the following about Quantum Computers :

Quantum mechanics like any physical theory is based on experiments. This means that experiments are used to justify some axioms from which the full theory can be logically deduced. While a large section of the scientific community is invested in building devices towards quantum computing applications, a separate community is invested in precision tests of fundamental aspects of quantum theory itself.

A group of scientists from the Raman Research Institute (RRI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology in a collaborative research have used quantum computers to perform some precision tests of the fundamental aspects of the quantum theory called Sorkin and Peres tests. The first is a test of the probabilistic aspect of quantum mechanics which helps calculate the chances of events happening while the second is a test of an aspect of the superposition principle, which expresses the fact that quantum objects may behave as waves -- throwing two stones in a pond gives a wave pattern which is the sum of two waves.

Consider the following :

1)The use of a quantum computer to perform tests of crucial quantum principles in the research published as rapid communication letter in the journal *Physical Review Research* has led to the natural emergence of an entirely new research direction for the physics community that brings together diverse research disciplines under one unifying umbrella.

2)As quantum computers are scalable quantum systems, this could provide a universal programmable setup for quantum experiments. A quantum circuit, which is like a low-level program for quantum computers, could be a Rosetta stone that allows translation of experiments from one physical system to another.

3)As a corollary, the scientists have also shown that quantum mechanics is true and the tests can be used as a benchmark to evaluate how well a quantum computer performs. "Our method provides a nice way to create well defined benchmarks for quantum computers so that we know exactly how error prone they are, by using the very foundations of quantum theory as the benchmarking tool," s

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

26) Consider the following about White Spot Syndrome Virus :

Scientists have developed a handy diagnostic tool that detects an aquaculture pathogen known as the White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV). The peptide-based diagnostic tool by scientists of Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and

Technology (DST) has been granted patent on 31 March 2022 as an alternative biorecognition element.

Consider the following :

1) Infection caused by the WSSV to the shrimp *Penaeus vannamei* results in huge loss of crop.

2) This high value super-food is susceptible to a wide range of viral and bacterial pathogens and the probability of occurrence of infections is rather high.

3) Improved nutrition, probiotics, disease resistance, quality control of water, seed and feed, immuno-stimulants and affordable vaccines play an important role in enhancing the production.

4) Technologies for early and rapid detection of pathogens on the field will help fish and shell-fish farming which provides significant export revenue to the country which is a leading supplier of shrimp to the USA.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

27) Consider the following :

The State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round I ranks the states' performance on 6 parameters

(1) DISCOM's Performance

(2) Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy

(3) Clean Energy Initiatives

(4) Energy Efficiency

(5) Environmental Sustainability; and

(6) New Initiatives.

7) The parameters are further divided into 27 indicators. Based on the composite SECI Round I score, the states and UTs are categorized into three groups: Front Runners, Achievers, and Aspirants.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3,4,5,6

(d) None of these

Ans: c

28) Consider the following :

Outlining the water scenario in India and key government schemes in water and wastewater sector, the audience was appraised with the success of 'Catch the Rain: Where it Falls, When it Falls' campaign under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

Consider the following :

1) Namami Gange Programme and shed light on some of the positive outcomes and impact of the project was outlined. Discussions were there about Arth Ganga and informed the audience about its six verticals – Zero Budget Natural Farming, Livelihood Generation Opportunities, Cultural Heritage & Tourism, Monetisation and Reuse of Sludge & Wastewater, Public Participation and Institutional Building.

2) Focus of the Phase-II of Namami Gange Programme will be on sewerage infrastructure creation in the tributaries of Ganga such as Yamuna and scaling up of PPP development efforts. It is reiterated the commitment of NMCG to develop a circular economy model focused on reclaim, reuse and recycling. One of the key areas of work in the future, he added, will be fecal sludge and septage management in urban local bodies and rural areas.

3) Responding to a question on sludge management, it is said: "Tonnes of sludge is generated every day and we aim to develop a circular economy based on sludge management," adding, "Under Arth Ganga, which aims at connecting people with the river, we are trying to give some economic benefit to the stakeholders/people so that they have some interest in ensuring the river is clean."

4) It is added that as per the directions of the NGT, a campaign is being run to keep the river stretches across India clean and drive the States to assess the total generated sewerage and the existing capacity and use the various schemes of the government to reduce the gap ensuring not a single drop of wastewater goes into the river.

5) "This will generate a lot of sludge – one of the verticals of Arth Ganga is 'Zero Budget Natural Farming' which aims at facilitating the natural farming process by providing natural manure/soil conditioner made out of sludge and reduce the use of chemicals and fertilizers by the farmers thereby developing a circular economy model in sludge management with economic benefits to the stakeholders (farmers in this case)."

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

29) Consider the following :

1) Two famous world-renowned tourist attractions - Somnath Temple and Gir National Park are located near Keshod. Keshod Airport is owned by Airports Authority of India (AAI).

2) Initially, the airport was refurbished and revived in late 1980s to facilitate scheduled operations. Since last 21 years, commercial aircraft has not landed at this airport.

3) AAI has invested an amount of Rs. 25 crores to upgrade Keshod airport for resurfacing of Runway, procurement of Aircraft Crash Fire Tender (ACFT), new Civil Enclave including Terminal Building, Apron for two ATR-72 types of aircraft and Link Taxiway, etc

4) The new UDAN flight route will bring Keshod on the national air map and add convenience & comfort to travelers of this region as Keshod is a tourist destination in Junagarh district of Gujarat and it is surrounded by Arabian Sea and beautiful forests.

5) Somnath Temple and Gir National Park are located near Keshod. It is pertinent to mention that at present, it takes about 16 Hours to travel by road from Keshod to Mumbai which will be reduced to just 1 hour 25 minutes with commencement of new flight

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

(d) None of these

Ans: c

30) Consider the following :

1) Brass from Jamnagar,

2) engineering from Rajkot and

3) clock industry of Morbi,

4) it gives a feeling of 'mini Japan'

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3, 4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

31) Consider the following :

Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized the National Level Conference on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs), focusing on

1) Theme 5: Clean & Green Village and

2) Theme 4: Water Sufficient Village, aligned with broader Sustainable Development Goals.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) None of these

Ans: c

32) Consider the following about Sugar Production In India :

India's Sugar Exports witnessed an astounding growth of 291% from USD 1,177 million in FY 2013-14 to USD 4600 million in FY 2021-22. As per DGCI&S data, India exported sugar to 121 countries across the globe.

1) Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka account for nearly 80 percent of the total sugar production in the country.

2) The other major sugarcane-producing states are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Haryana, and Punjab.

3) Notably, India is the world's second-largest sugar producer after Brazil.

4) Since 2010-11, India has consistently produced surplus sugar, comfortably exceeding the domestic requirements.

5) The record exports would enable the sugar producers to reduce their stocks and would also benefit the sugarcane farmers, as the increased demand for Indian sugar is likely to improve their realizations.

6) The significant rise in agri-exports is also seen as a testimony of the government's commitment to increase farmers' income by boosting exports of agricultural and processed food products of the country.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5,6

(d) None of these

Ans: c

33) Consider the following :

1)The annual rate of inflation is 14.55% (Provisional) for the month of March, 2022 (over March, 2021) as compared to 7.89% in March, 2021.

2)The high rate of inflation in March, 2022 is primarily due to rise in prices of crude petroleum and natural gas, mineral oils, basic metals, etc owing to disruption in global supply chain caused by Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) None of these

Ans: c

34) In line with the vision of the Prime Minister for promoting drone technology and its use in India and to facilitate the use of Kisan drones, as announced in budget document 2022-23; the Department in consultation with all the stakeholders of this sector, has brought out Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for use of drones in pesticide and nutrient application that provide precise instructions for effective and safe operations of drones.

Consider the following:

1)As part of continuing efforts to make drone technologies to reach all farmers, the Ministry has issued orders granting an interim approval for spray of nearly all the registered pesticides formulations using drones.

2)These pesticide formulations are those whose safety and efficacy has already been evaluated on different crops and are already being used in the country using other methods.

3)The application of pesticides using drones will not only make it easier for farmers to efficiently protect plants from pests, but will also eventually help in increasing their incomes through reduced input costs.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

35) Consider the following :

1)Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DAFW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, through the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQS), Faridabad has been catering to Indian exporters and importers of agriculture commodities and Indian Pesticide Industry, through its two portals namely, Computerized Registration of pesticide (CROP) and Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS).

2)Realising the need for quicker disposal of applications related to **export/import of agricultural commodities and pesticides registration, a more coordinated** integration with external systems and stakeholders, and to bring in greater transparency in the existing online system, DAFW launched two redeveloped online portals.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

36)Consider the following:

1)Wheat procurement has recently commenced in Rabi Marketing Season 2022-23 in states of MP,Haryana, Punjab, UP, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh,HP, Gujarat and Rajasthan. A quantity of 69.24 LMT of wheat has been procured upto 17.4.2022 benefitting 5.86 Lakh farmers with MSP value of Rs.13951.41 Crores

2)The paddy procurement is progressing smoothly in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2021-22 at MSP from farmers.

3)A quantity of 754.08 LMT of Paddy (includes Kharif Crop 750.95 LMT and Rabi Crop 3.14 LMT) has been procured in KMS 2021-22 upto 17.04.2022 in procuring States/UTs.

4)Till now about 108.90 Lac farmers have been benefitted with MSP value of Rs. 1,47,800.28 crore.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

37) Consider the following :

1) Extreme and early heat in March forced authorities in Pali to release water from the Jawai dam built on the Jawai river, a tributary of the Luni which flows through Pali(District),Rajasthan

2) The crocodiles found in Jawai are muggers or marsh crocodiles (*Crocodylus palustris*) which are freshwater specialists. They found all over south Asia — India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh — as well as south-eastern Iran.

3) The mugger is found in 15 Indian states, with the largest populations in the middle Ganges (Bihar-Jharkhand) and Chambal (Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan) basins.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

38) Consider the following :

1) Unlike other air pollutants – ozone is good and bad for us.

2) First, the news about good ozone: the hole in the ozone layer is finally starting to heal, UNEP/WMO reported. This layer is about 20-30 km up in the air, protects life from sun's harmful ultraviolet light by absorbing the radiation which otherwise would potentially damage exposed life forms near the surface.

3) Now, the news about the bad ozone—this time it comes from India. According a new study published in Geophysical Research Letters, the ground level ozone pollution damaged 6 million tonnes of crops in India. This ground-level ozone is formed in the air by nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbon emitted from vehicles and other sources like cook stoves reacting in the presence of sunlight.

This ozone is close to ground, so as a strong oxidant it is notorious for damaging lungs and vegetation. This ground-level ozone is the main component of smog. Even at relatively low levels, ozone can cause health effects. People with lung disease, children, older adults, and people who are active outdoors may be particularly sensitive to ozone.

4) "India could feed 94 million people with the lost wheat and rice crops, about a third of the country's poor," said , an atmospheric scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune, India, and lead author of the new study. There are about 270 million Indians who live in poverty, according to the study.

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Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

39) Consider the following with reference to Crops and Ozone Pollution :

1) Wheat – one of the country's major food sources – saw the largest loss (by weight) of the four crops studied in the paper, with ozone pollution damaging 3.5 million tonnes (3.8 million US

tonnes) of the crop in 2005. The losses in case of another major food source, rice, was 2.1 million tonnes (2.3 million U S tonnes), according to the study.

2) Cotton – one of India’s major commercial crops — lost more than 5 per cent of its 3.3 million tonnes (3.6 million U.S. tons) annual output in 2005, costing the country \$70 million, according to the research

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

40) Consider the following about Degrai Oran and GIB in Rajasthan :

1) GIB is a large bird, about 1 m in height with a wing-span of 2 m, and an adult weighs up to 18 kg. As per the last count in 2018, there were only 150 GIBs in the country and 122 of them were in Jaisalmer.

2) The remaining 28 were sighted in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka. “Since then, the population has declined further, and now less than 100 GIBS remain in the wild,”

3) In June 2019, the forest department in Rajasthan, along with the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, started a GIB breeding centre in the Desert National Park situated north of the oran, where they collect eggs from the wild and hatch them in captivity. The initiative has started to restore the population.

4) “We have hatched 16 GIBs in captivity from eggs collected from the wild,” said scientist at the Wildlife Institute of India.

5) “GIBs are slow breeders and lay only one egg every year, that too in the wild. The eggs are sometimes destroyed by cattle, or eaten by larger animals. Radheshyam Bishnoi of Godawan Community Conservation Project, is a community-driven initiative in the region.

6) Degrai Oran is in the middle of a 13,000 square kilometre wide biodiversity-rich land that is among the last natural habitats of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB). But what towers over everything else in the landscape of this *oran* — sacred groves — are windmills

7) The open stretch of land, which receives long hours of sunlight and speedy wind, has become a hub of green energy with windmills and solar photovoltaic dotting it. More solar power plants and transmission towers are under construction.

8) “This is the largest and one of the last orans in the area,” said, a camel handler from Sanwata village, adjoining the oran near Jaisalmer. For centuries, the trees in the oran, spread over 60,000 bighas (approximately 100 sq km), have remained untouched by the people in the villages.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

(d) None of these

Ans: c

41) Consider the following :

1) Without nitrogen, an essential nutrient, plants grow slowly and produce smaller flowers and fruits. Their leaves turn yellowish and are less nutritious to insects, birds and animals. The issue of declining nitrogen availability is not new. “It has been on the scientific radar for a long time,”

2) Tropical and boreal forests may be particularly vulnerable.

3) Plants grow quickly when exposed to high carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations. Thus, their demand for nitrogen also goes up, the experts wrote in the review.

4) High CO₂ levels dilute plant nitrogen, triggering a cascade of effects that lower the availability of nitrogen. Other factors contributing to nitrogen decline include warming and disturbances, including wildfire.

5) Declining nitrogen availability can be linked to insect apocalypse. Plants with low nitrogen levels can encourage swarming in some species of locusts.

6)Further, low nitrogen availability could limit plants' ability to capture CO₂ from the atmosphere, the review warned.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5,6
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

42) Consider the following South West Monsoon :

1)The southwest monsoon contributes 74.9 per cent to the annual rainfall in India and irrigates over half of India's agricultural land. The quantity of rainfall or its failure directly impacts India's agriculture, especially the kharif crop season which is heavily dependent on the monsoon.

2)Moreover, the new all India annual rainfall has also decreased by 16.18 mm for the country to 1,160.1 mm, from the earlier normal of 1,176.9 mm.

3)The IMD termed this decrease as a part of a natural "multi-decadal epochal variability" of dry and wet epochs of all India rainfall. It noted that currently, the southwest monsoon is passing through a 'dry epoch' which started in the decade of 1971-80.

4)La Nina means the large-scale cooling of ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, together with changes in the tropical atmospheric circulation, namely winds, pressure and rainfall.

5)"As sea surface temperature conditions over the Pacific and the Indian Oceans are known to have strong influence on the Indian monsoon, IMD is carefully monitoring the evolution of sea surface conditions over these ocean basins"

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

43) Consider the following:

1)Celebrating World Heritage Day on 19th April 2022, National Monuments Authority organized a unique Heritage Walk early this morning around the historical Anang Tal, Mehrauli, an 11th Century mini lake built by the founder King of Delhi Anang Pal Tomar in 1052 AD.

2)The Hindu dynasty of Tomars ruled Delhi and the name itself has come from the Dhillikapuri of which several stone inscriptions were found by General Canningham during British ASI period.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

44) Consider the following Green Hydrogen :

1) The plant at Jorhat, Assam, produces Green Hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500kW Solar plant using a 100 kW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) Electrolyser array. The use of AEM technology is being used for the first time in India.

2) This plant is expected to increase its production of green hydrogen from 10 kg per day to 30 kg per day in future. The company has initiated a detailed study in collaboration with IIT Guwahati on blending of Green Hydrogen with Natural Gas and its effect on the existing infrastructure of OIL

3) Oil India Limited (OIL) has taken the first significant step towards Green Hydrogen Economy in India with the commissioning of India's First 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant, with an installed capacity of 10 kg per day at its Jorhat Pump Station in Assam. The plant was commissioned in a record time of 3 months.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

45) Consider the following :

1) Notably, India is the world's second-largest rice producer after China. The record exports would enable the rice producers to reduce their stocks and would also benefit the farmers as the increased demand for Indian Rice is likely to improve their realizations. The significant rise in agri-exports is also seen as a testimony of the government's commitment to increase farmers' income by boosting exports of agricultural and processed food products of the country.

2) The major rice producing states are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Assam, and Haryana.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(d) None of these

Ans: c

46) Consider the following :

1)India's non-basmati rice exports witnessed an astounding growth of 109 % from USD 2925 million in FY 2013-14 to USD 6115 million in FY 2021-22.

2)As per DGCIS data, India exported rice to over 150 countries across the globe in 2021-22. India exported more than USD one million to 76 countries out of the 150 countries reported in 2021-22, 3)It indicates the diversification of India's rice export over the years.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

47)

Special focus is given on oilseeds, pulses and nutria-cereals.

Post monsoon, rainfall has been in excess over normal and about 55.76 lakh hectares was under cultivation during summer. Following government policy, there has been reduction in area under rice with corresponding increase in pulses and oilseeds cultivation. Government has worked out requirement of seed and fertilizers and will ensure their timely supply.

Consider the following :

1)The priority of government is agro-ecological based crop planning for diversion of land from excess commodities like rice and wheat. to deficit commodities like oilseeds and pulses and high value export earning crops.

2) Government is giving high priority to Crop Diversification with focus on Self Sufficiency in Oilseeds&Pulses and Promotion of Oil Palm.

3)Consultations with all stake holders like major states, researchers, industries and policy makers have been held to finalize a National Policy Frame Work for Crop Diversification Programme in the country. All states should work towards crop diversification for making agriculture sustainable, profitable and self sufficient in deficit commodities.

4)The Minister stated that the centre and states would work together to ensure pesticides and seeds availability to reduce input costs for farmers. He urged that there should be a strategy to replace Urea with Nano-urea. He declared that the government would continue to lay emphasis on natural and organic farming.

5)On exports the Minister said that while agriculture exports have increased, attention should be paid on quality products so that they can compete in International Markets. Exporters and farmers both should benefit.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
(d) None of these
Ans: c

48) Consider the following regarding worst weather storms in **Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa** :

- 1) The Climate Justice Charter Movement (CJCM) wants the government to be found guilty of “culpable homicide” for its acts of omission to “prevent further emissions and to protect the vulnerable from increased inequality and poverty”. The organisation has filed documents in this regard with the South African Police Services.
- 2) The Climate Justice Charter emerged out of six years of campaigning, during the worst drought in South Africa’s history by the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign and the Cooperative and Policy Alternative Centre.
- 3) Since April 11, 2022, the **Province of KwaZulu-Natal experienced what is one of the worst weather storms in the history of our country.** The heavy rainfall that has descended on our land over the past few days has wreaked untold havoc and unleashed massive damage to the lives and infrastructure.
- 4) The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) said April 18, 2022 that it had been instructed to activate 10,000 troops for flood-related tasks, including mop-up work and transporting aid.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1,2,3,4
(d) None of these
Ans: c

49) Consider the following :

- 1) The fishing community in Odisha demanded an increase in livelihood support from the Centre during the annual 61-day fishing ban across the East Coast that commenced April 15, 2022, according to an official of the state fisheries department.
- 2) The ban was imposed to facilitate fish breeding in the sea and prohibits fishing through mechanised boats, big vessels and trawlers.
- 3) Each family gets a compensation of Rs 4,500 under the central government’s saving-cum-relief scheme during the period to make up for their losses.
- 4) They want this amount to be increased to Rs 15,000.
- 5) The ban extends to the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) beyond territorial waters on the East Coast (including Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and the West Coast (including Lakshadweep Islands).
- 6) It will come into effect in the West Coast from June 1, 2022, said the department official
- 7) During the ban period, all kinds of trawlers and mechanised boats longer than 8.5 metres are prohibited from entering the sea for fishing activities, said , deputy director of fisheries (marine), Odisha government.

- 8)The traditional non-motorised fishing boats, less than 8.5m in length, however, will be exempted from this uniform ban imposed in the Indian EEZ beyond territorial waters
- 9)The union also urged the government to include women under the scheme, as several of them are involved in different fishing activities like transporting and selling. Their earnings have also taken a hit because of the ban

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9
(d) None of these

Ans: c

50)Consider the following :

- 1)Indian agriculture is dominated by small and marginal farmers with average land holdings size of less than 1.1 ha.
- 2)These small and marginal farmers constituting more than 86 % of the total land holdings are facing tremendous challenges both in production and post-production scenarios like access to production technology, quality inputs at reasonable prices, seed production, custom hiring, value addition, processing, credit, investments and most importantly markets.
- 3)Hence, collectivization of such producers through formation of FPOs is very important to address such challenges and enhance their incomes.
- 4)Realizing the need to form and promote FPOs across the country, Government formulated a dedicated Central Sector Scheme "Formation & Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and the same was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 29.02.2020 at Chitrakoot (UP) for implementation.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1,2,3,4
(d) None of these

Ans: c

51) The Formation & Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) scheme is based on produce cluster approach to enhance production, productivity, market access, promote diversification, value addition, processing and export and also to create agri based employment opportunities with the aim to economically empower farmers.

Consider the following :

- 1)The FPOs to be eligible under the scheme for financial benefit and technical handholding are required to be registered either under Companies Act, 2013 or States' Co-operative Societies Act with minimum number of 300 farmers in plain areas and 100 farmers in hilly and NER.

2) Under the scheme, there is provision for financial support of maximum Rs.18.00 lakh per FPO for 3 years as management cost to make them sustainable and economically viable .

3) To strengthen the financial base of FPOs and entail them to avail collateral free loan, there is also provision for matching equity grant of maximum Rs. 2000/- per member with ceiling of Rs, 15 lakh /FPO and Credit Guarantee facility upto bankable project loan of Rs. 2.00 crore respectively.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

52) Under the scheme CBBOs have been provisioned as the professional agency with a critical role to play as they are to engage themselves all along the value chain starting right from mobilization of farmers, baseline survey, identification of produce clusters, formation of groups, registration and capacity building to preparation of business plan, execution thereof with assurance to provide the market to the FPOs. They are also to establish cardinal link with Implementing Agencies and FPOs.

Consider the following:

- 1) The role of Cluster Based Business Organisations (CBBOs) should be to strengthen Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) so that farmers seek them out. FPO is not merely a company, it is a collective for the benefit of farmers.
- 2) Emphasising this in the key note address at the inaugural session of the National Conference of Cluster Based Business Organisations (CBBOs) Union Agriculture Minister said that more and more farmers should be part of FPOs.
- 3) It is said that earlier around 7,000 FPOs were made but they could not last and a new scheme of FPOs was launched by the Prime Minister with an outlay of Rs. 6865 crore. At a time when the country is observing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav the government is making every effort for the prosperity of farmers.
- 4) Union Minister of State for Agriculture also said that farmers should be enthusiastic about joining FPOs. At the conference Union Agriculture Minister also launched the logo for 10,000 FPOs Scheme.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

53) Consider the following :

Major Groups of WPI are

(1) Primary Articles (Weight 22.62%)

(2)Fuel & Power (Weight 13.15%)

(3)Manufactured Products (Weight 64.23%)

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

TSPSC GROUP I Prelims 2022 (Scheduled on 16.10.2022)
TSLPRB SI & CONSTABLES

Model Questions (for GS Paper)
Set No. 4 {Prepared on 25 .5.2022 }

For Study purpose
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1)Consider the following :

- 1)The 'Indian National Calendar,' which was officially established by India's Parliament in 1957, is a scientific statement of India's identity.
 - 2)This was an act of reclaiming our identity after independence. In the recent past, there has been a renewed emphasis on propagating and increasing awareness about the Indian National Calendar.
- Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

2) Consider the following :

- 1)A two-day conference and exhibition on India's National Calendar has been arranged on Vaisakh 2 and 3, 1944 (April 22-23, 2022) at Ujjain and Dongla(a place on the tropic of Cancer).
- 2)Ujjain and Dongla are in Madhya Pradesh

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

3) Consider the following :

- 1)Ujjain enjoyed a position of considerable importance in the field of astronomy, Great works on astronomy such as the Surya Siddhanta and the Panch Siddhanta were written in Ujjain. According to Indian astronomers, the Tropic of Cancer is supposed to pass through Ujjain It is also the first meridian

of longitude of the Hindu geographers. From about the 4th century B.C. Ujjain enjoyed the reputation of being India's Greenwich.

2)The observatory was constructed by Maharaja Sawai Raja Jaisingh of Jaipur in 1719 when he was in Ujjain as the Governor of Malwa under the reign of king Muhammad Shah of Delhi. Besides being a brave fighter and a politician, Raja Jaisingh was exceptionally a scholar. He studied books on Astro-mathematics available in the Persian and Arabic languages at that time.

3)He wrote books on astronomy himself. Mirza Ulugh Beg, the grandson of Temurlung and an expert on astronomy, built an observatory in Samarkund.

4)Raja Jaisingh constructed observatories in Ujjain, Jaipur, Delhi, Mathura and Varanasi in India by permission of king Muhammad Shah. Raja Jaisingh set up new instruments in these observatories employing his skills. He made alterations in a number of main Astro-mathematical instruments by observing the activities of planets himself for eight years in Ujjain.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

4) Consider the following :

1)It is also reviewed with senior scientists of CSIR the Aroma Mission and the overall impact of Purple Revolution in augmenting income resources of common man.

2) "Purple Revolution" is Jammu & Kashmir's contribution to "Start-ups India". The Minister informed that the CSIR had, to begin with introduced high-value essential oil bearing lavender crop through its Jammu based laboratory, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines (IIIM) for cultivation in districts Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and later also in the other districts including Ramban, Pulwama, etc.

3)In a brief span of time, aroma/lavender cultivation has become a popular option in farming for agricultural Start-up, he said.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

5) Consider the following :

1)The Minister said the road projects will make it easier for the citizens to reach the tourist attractions like Brass Cave-Caves and Gautala Sanctuary,the world famous Ajanta Caves and Daulatabad Fort as well as Chalisingaon Railway Station will be easily accessible.

2)He said it will be easy to reach religious places in Dhule as well as Aurangabad district .

3)He said the Shewali-Nandurbar road project will be useful for the development of tribal areas in the region.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

6)Consider the following :

1)Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 16 National highways projects worth Rs 2,460 crore in Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

2)Speaking on the occasion he said road connectivity is important for the transportation and milling of agricultural commodities in Jalgaon district, which is an important hub for banana, cotton and sugarcane production and has the highest banana production in the country.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) None of these

Ans: c

7) Consider the following :

1)Union Steel Minister congratulated Indian steel industry for sterling performance at a global level and encouraged them to sustain this level of performance in the year 2022. Such momentum of production will help India reach the targeted level of 500 million tonne production capacity in the next 25 years of Amritkaal,

2)As per the data released by World Steel Association on April 22, India is the only country among top 10 steel producing nations of the world, which has registered growth in steel production in January to March 2022 period, as compared to corresponding period last year. India has produced 31.9 million tonnes of steel in the period with a growth of 5.9 percent. In March 2022, with a production of 10.9 million tonnes of steel in India, the growth rate is 4.4 percent. Brazil is the only other country among top 10 Nations which has registered growth in the month of March.

3)It is noteworthy that Steel Minister held separate meetings with public sector and private sector steel companies earlier this week and reviewed their capital expenditure, production targets and future plans. He exhorted them to keep in mind the carbon neutral commitment of India by 2070, hydrogen mission and clean & green steel while making strategic plans for the future. Representatives of steel industry thanked the leadership and officials of Steel Ministry for the continuous guidance and support that they have been getting.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

8)Consider the following:

1)Bio-NEST was launched by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) to foster the biotech innovation ecosystem in the country.

2)Unlike Start-ups in the IT sector, enterprising ideas in the biotech sector need incubation support of a different kind where they need a landing space to test their ideas, run their operations, have access to high end instrumentations and locate in a place where they connect with other start-ups and mentors.

3)Bio-NEST program provides support to establish bio-incubators either as a standalone entity or as a part of academia.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

9) Consider the following :

With a vision to provide quality medicines at an affordable rate for the common man especially the poor, Govt. has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10000 by March 2024. Till 31.03.2022, the number of stores has increased to 8610. Under the PMBJP, all 739 districts of the country have been covered

1)The product basket of PMBJP comprises 1616 medicines and 250 surgical devices which are available for sale through more than 8600 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) functional across the country.

2)In addition to this, some AYUSH products like Ayuraksha Kit, Balraksha Kit and Ayush-64 tablet as Immunity boosters have been added in the product basket of the Pariyojana which is being made available through selected Kendras.

3)The product basket covers all major therapeutic groups such as Cardiovascular, Anti-cancers, Anti-diabetics, Anti-infectives, Anti-allergic, Gastro-intestinal medicines, Nutraceuticals, etc.

4)Further, PMBI is working on the launch of Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) products and food products under FSSAI and highly demanded ayurvedic products under the PMBJP for expansion of their product basket.

5)PMBI has strengthened the supply chain system by setting up four warehouses at Gurugram, Chennai, Guwahati and Surat. In addition, there is a strong distributor network of 39 distributors across India to ensure timely supplies in every part of India.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

10)Consider the following :

With the vision to boost agricultural economy, to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuel, to save foreign exchange on account of crude oil import bill & to reduce the air pollution, Government of India has fixed target of 10% blending of fuel grade ethanol with petrol by 2022 & 20% blending by 2025.

As per the National Policy on Biofuels - 2018, the EBP programme aims to achieve a blending ratio of 10% ethanol with petrol by 2021-22 and 20% by 2030, which is under review for preponing to 2025.

Ethanol distillation capacity of molasses based distilleries was only 215 cr litre prior to 2014. **However, in past 7 years due to the policy changes made by the Centre, the capacity of molasses based**

distilleries have increased by one and a half times and are currently at 569 cr litre. Capacity of grain based distilleries which were 206 cr litre in 2013 increased to 280 cr litre. Thus, the total ethanol production capacity in the country has reached to 849 cr litre. However, ethanol production capacities are required to be enhanced to about 1700 cr litre to achieve 20% blending by 2025. Opening of window would help in augmentation of ethanol production capacities

In order to enhance ethanol production capacities in the country and to achieve 20% blending by 2025, **Government of India has decided to open a window for six months for inviting fresh applications from project proponents to set up new distilleries or expansion of existing distilleries to produce 1-G ethanol.**

First-generation (1G) Bio-Ethanol is produced from biomass such as sugar containing materials (like sugar cane juice, molasses, sugar beet etc.) and starch containing materials (such as corn, cassava, rotten vegetables such as potatoes, damaged food grain etc.). Ethanol is generally produced from the fermentation of C5 and C6 sugars (mostly xylose and glucose) using classical or GMO yeast strains such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

Extra Neutral Ethanol is used for Potable purpose. Ethanol is a feedstock for Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industry. Fuel Grade Ethanol (purity > 99.5%) is used for blending with Petrol as transportation fuel.

Byproduct during Grain Based Ethanol production is 'Distillers Wet Grain with Soluble' (DWGS) and 'Distillers Dried Grain with Soluble' (DDGS) which is used as a feed for Cattle / other livestock.

Raw Material (for producing Ethanol) :-

1)SCJ (Sugarcane Juice / Sugar Syrup / Sugar)

2) BHM (B-Heavy Molasses)

3) CHM (C-Heavy Molasses)

4) DFG (Damaged Food Grains)/Maize

5) SR (Surplus Rice)

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5

(d) None of these

Ans: c

11) Consider the following :

1)National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory body constituted under provision of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 (4 of 2006) for protection of child rights and other related matters.

2) Along with its other functions and roles, the Commission under Section 13 (1) (h) of the CPCRA Act, 2005 is mandated to; “spread child rights literacy among various sections of the society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for protection of these rights through publications, the media, seminars and other available means”.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

12) Consider the following :

1) AAHAR is a part of the series of export promotion initiatives taken by APEDA, which works under the Ministry of Commerce and Trade,

2) It is to showcase agricultural and processed food products to the global players in the food and beverages industry as the fair is visited by a large number of importers from different parts of the world.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

13) Consider the following :

1) The cumulative growth rate of Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) during April-March 2021-22 was 10.4% (provisional) as compared to the corresponding period of last Financial Year.

2) The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 157.3 in March 2022, which increased by 4.3 per cent (provisional) as compared to the Index of March 2021.

3) Final growth rate of Index of Eight Core Industries for December 2021 is revised to 4.1% from its provisional level 3.8%.

4) The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for the Month of March, 2022.

5)ICI measures combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

6)The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5,6

(d) None of these

Ans: c

14) Consider the following :

Atal Innovation Mission launched the phase 1 of the 2nd edition of the Atal New India Challenge (ANIC 2.0) on 28th April 2022.

1)Atal New India Challenge is a flagship program of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog. The program aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance.

2)One of the primary goals of the ANIC program is to support innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth – Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, Food Processing, Housing, Energy, Mobility, Space Application etc.

3)Launching the Challenge, Dr S. Chandrasekar, Secretary, DST in his address said that Government will hand-hold the path breaking innovations and asked the start-ups to take up hard challenges. He said, sectors like Agriculture and Health need huge start-up push apart from tough areas like Chemicals, Pesticides etc.

4)The Atal New India Challenge aims to address the *Commercialization Valley of Death* - supporting innovators scale over the risks associated with access to resources for testing, piloting and market creation. ANIC solicits innovations from start-ups and MSMEs in the prototype stage and after a competitive process of selection supports them through to the commercialization stage over a course of 12 – 18 months with a funding of up to INR 1 crore along with other associated support from the AIM's innovation ecosystem.

5)Working in collaboration with the different verticals of NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, ISRO and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the 1st phase of ANIC 2.0 will see 18 challenges being thrown open from 7 sectors.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

15) Consider the following :

1) Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the National Education Policy 2020 is the 'Philosophy', National Curriculum Framework is the 'Pathway' and the mandate document released and it is the 'Constitution' to champion the changing demands of the 21st century and positively impact the future.

2) He further said that the mandate document will bring about a paradigm shift with focus on holistic development of children, emphasis on skilling, vital role of teachers, learning in mother tongue, cultural rootedness.

3) It is also a step towards decolonization of the Indian education system,

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

16) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) serves as the national agency for performing various functions in the area of cyber security in the country as per provisions of section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000. CERT-In continuously analyses cyber threats and handles cyber incidents tracked and reported to it. CERT-In regularly issues advisories to organisations and users to enable them to protect their data/information and ICT infrastructure. In order to coordinate response activities as well as emergency measures with respect to cyber security incidents, CERT-In calls for information from service providers, intermediaries, data centres and body corporate.

Consider the following :

1) During the course of handling cyber incidents and interactions with the constituency, CERT-In has identified certain gaps causing hindrance in incident analysis.

2) To address the identified gaps and issues so as to facilitate incident response measures, CERT-In has issued directions relating to information security practices, procedure, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents under the provisions of sub-section (6) of section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000. These directions will become effective after 60 days.

3) The directions cover aspects relating to synchronization of ICT system clocks; mandatory reporting of cyber incidents to CERT-In; maintenance of logs of ICT systems; subscriber/customer registrations details by Data centers, Virtual Private Server (VPS) providers, VPN Service providers, Cloud service providers; KYC norms and practices by virtual asset service providers, virtual asset exchange providers and custodian

wallet providers. These directions shall enhance overall cyber security posture and ensure safe & trusted Internet in the country.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

17) In a move aimed at providing a global platform for millet products, the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched a variety of millet products for all age groups at affordable prices ranging from Rs 5 to Rs 15 at the AAHAR food fair, which is Asia's biggest B2B international food and hospitality fair.

Consider the following :

1) All the millet products launched by APEDA are gluten-free, 100% natural and patented. The launched products are cream biscuits, salt biscuits, milk biscuits, ragi peanut butter, jowar peanut butter, jowar upma, pongal, khichadi and millet malts (jowar, ragi, bajra).

2) APEDA also launched a variety of "Millet in Minutes" products under the category of Ready-to-Eat (RTE) such as Upma, Pongal, Khichadi, Noodles, Biryani, etc, which is a breakthrough in the food sector as it's the first RTE millet product in the market to cater fast-paced world at their convenience in a healthy way.

3) All the RTE products are vacuum processed without any additives, fillers and preservatives. Nutrition value is retained as original with a shelf-life of 12 months in ambient temperature.

4) The APEDA is also working in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to increase cultivation area, production and productivity of millets, including bajra, jowar and ragi.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

18) Consider the following :

India produces an estimated 230 MMTA of biomass that is either wasted or burnt. Biomass co-firing in power plants has proven to be a major solution to cater to this menace thereby reducing carbon footprint in the environment. NTPC has been the pioneer in co-firing Biomass in its coal-fired power plants. Since the adoption of co-firing, NTPC has been continuously engaged in strengthening the entire Biomass sector value chain in various dimensions. Many of the NTPC plants have already started the requisite co-firing of biomass pellets with coal. Long-term procurement action has also been initiated for many plants.

1)Till now, the focus has been centred mainly on non-torrefied biomass pellets. However, for bulk utilization of biomass, torrefied biomass pellet production needs to be given importance, as **torrefied biomass pellet has more energy density, and its characteristics are closer to coal**. Further, torrefied biomass pellets will reduce average transportation costs. Currently, the technology for torrefied pellets is still in the nascent stage of development.

2)The Union Ministry of Power has set up the National Mission for the use of Biomass in thermal power plants (Mission SAMARTH) and has mandated 5-10 percent co-firing of Biomass in all coal-fired thermal power plants in the country. Biomass co-firing in power plants has also been included in the Union Budget speech-2022 as an important tool for carbon reduction and income generation for the farmers.

3)The move by NTPC is expected to reinforce NTPC's commitment towards developing the biomass ecosystem in the country and will provide a unique platform for the Indian startups to fulfill the Prime Minister's vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and also contribute towards the ambitious Make in India movement.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

19) Consider the following :

1)The second phase of the mandatory hallmarking vide Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts (Amendment) Order, 2022 will come into force from June 01, 2022.

2)The second phase of the mandatory hallmarking will cover additional three caratages of gold jewellery/artefacts viz.20, 23 and 24 carats as mentioned in the Indian Standard IS 1417 and 32 new districts under the mandatory hallmarking regime wherein an AHC has been setup post implementation of the first phase of the mandatory hallmarking order.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) None of these

Ans: c

20) Consider the following :

Under the 'Districts as Export Hubs Initiative', products and services with export potential have been identified for all districts of the country. The list of such identified products and services is regularly updated on the basis of inputs received from the States/UTs. Under this initiative, district export action plans have been prepared for such identified products and services for overseas markets, which include specific actions required to support local exporters / manufacturers in producing/manufacturing identified products in adequate quantity and with the requisite quality, for reaching potential buyers outside India. These plans also include identifying and addressing challenges for exports of such identified products/services, improving supply chains, market accessibility and handholding for increasing exports.

1)Jamnagar(Gujarat)

2)Surat (Gujarat)

3)Mumbai (Maharashtra)

4)Mumbai (Suburban)

5)Pune (Maharashtra)

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5

(d) None of these

Ans: c

21) Consider the following :

1)Post Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 17th February 2020, Women Officers are being granted Permanent Commission in 10 Arms/Services of Indian Army subject to their meeting the Qualitative Requirement (QR) along with the Short Service Commissioned Men Officers. Women Officers are also being inducted in Army Aviation Corps as Pilots from June 2021 onwards.

2)The Government has sanctioned for enrolment of 1700 women in Corps of Military Police in a phased manner. The induction of women has commenced from the year 2020. First batch of women Military Police personnel have completed their training and reported to units.

3)The Defence Forces have opened entry for women candidates in NDA, allowing girls to appear in NDA entrance exams from July 2022 courses onwards. For the first batch, written exam has been conducted on 14th November, 2021.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

22) Consider the following :

1)National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) at Goa has the mandate of exploration of gas hydrate occurrences within the Exclusive Economic Zones as well as Multi-metal hydrothermal mineralization in the Indian ridge area.He said, apart from this the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) with its headquarters at Goa operates two research vessels RV Sindhu Sankalp (56 m) and RV Sindhu Sadhana (80 m) that are equipped for multidisciplinary oceanographic observations.

2)India's blue economy is understood as a subset of the national economy comprising an entire ocean resources system and human-made economic infrastructure in marine, maritime, and onshore coastal zones within the country's legal jurisdiction. It aids the production of goods and services that have clear linkages with economic growth, environmental sustainability, and national security.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

23) Consider the following :

1)Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries implemented from 2015-16 to 2019-20 for development of fisheries in the country. The CSS *inter-alia*, extended financial assistance for creation of fisheries infrastructure including inland fisheries and aquaculture such as installation of cages in reservoirs, construction of ponds for brackish water and freshwater aquaculture, establishment of fish brood banks, hatcheries, fish feed mills, development of post-harvest infrastructure like Ice plants, Cold Storages, Ice plants- cum-cold storages and development of fish landing centre in Reservoirs.

2) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with highest ever estimated investment of ₹ 20050 crore in fisheries sector for a period of 5 years with effect from the financial year 2020-21 including inland fisheries and aquaculture. The scheme intends to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernization and strengthening of value chain and traceability in inland fisheries and aquaculture sector.

3) PMMSY *inter-alia* includes range of activities such as reservoir cage culture, river ranching, fish seed stocking in natural water bodies and providing livelihood and nutritional support for fishers' families including inland fishermen during fishing ban/lean period for conservation of fisheries resources

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

24) Consider the following :

1) Under PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), it is envisaged to develop two self-contained Container Based Mobile Hospitals as a part of Strengthening Disaster and Epidemic Preparedness. These can be deployed at a short notice, during emergencies such as natural calamities or disasters and epidemic outbreaks, as per the needs of the country.

2) Government of India is developing critical care hospital blocks in 602 districts under PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM). Government of India has launched PM-ABHIM with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 crores till 2025-26 envisages increased investments in public health and other health reforms to safeguard against future public health emergencies by focusing in health infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

25) Consider the following :

1) Traditional handloom products are also promoted by registering the products under Geographical Indication (GI) Act, 1999.

2) So far, 72 handloom products and 06 product logos are registered under GI Act.

3) Banaras Brocade and Saree and Champa Silk Saree and fabrics (made of kosa) have been registered under the GI Act to protect them from imitation or their unauthorized use by others.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

26) Consider the following :

1) Biofuel is also another option to increase the income of the farmers.

2) From the Gulf oil, we are now shifting to bio-fuel from crops. Many bio-fuel factories are being set up in UP.

3) Large bio-fuel complexes are being built in Badaun and Gorakhpur.

4) A big ethanol plant is also coming up in nearby Gonda.

5) This will benefit many farmers of this region.

6) UP is also leading in the campaign to make ethanol from sugarcane. In the last four-and-a-half years, ethanol worth about Rs 12,000 crore has been purchased from UP.

The 36th edition of AAHAR was jointly organized by APEDA and the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) at Pragati Maidan this week.

In view of the nutritional value of the millets, the government has notified millets as nutri-cereals in April, 2018. The millets are a rich source of protein, fibre, minerals, iron, calcium and have a low glycemic index. In March, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets.

Because of initiatives of the government, production of millets increased from 14.52 million tonnes in 2015-16 to 17.96 million tonnes in 2020-21 and the production of bajra has also increased from 8.07 million tonnes to 10.86 million tonnes during the same period.

In line with the theme of APEDA's pavilion, - 'To promote GI products for export', the apex body to promote agricultural products put on display 33 GI agricultural products at AAHAR. The APEDA also released two booklets which include a catalogue on Agri and Food GI products (APEDA scheduled) and a brochure on Indian GI mangoes.

The 33 GI products which were on display to attract the attention of over 100 buyers from 40 countries are Punjab's Basmati Rice, Karnataka's Gulbarga Tur Dal, Maharashtra's Sangli Raisin, Kolhapur Jaggery, Ajara Ghansal Rice, Sindhudurg & Ratnagiri Kokum, Vengurla Cashew and Waigaon Turmeric; Assam's Boka Chaul, Joha Rice, Karbi Anglong Ginger; Manipur's Chak-Hao and Kachai Lemon, Mizoram's Ginger and Chilli, Sikkim's Large Cardamom, Nagaland's Naga Mircha, Kerala's Navara Rice, Pokkali Rice, Kaipad

Rice, Palakkadan Matta Rice, Himachal Pradesh's Kala Jeera, Chulli Oil, West Bengal's Gobindabhog Rice, Tulaipanji Rice, Bardhaman Sitabhog, Bardhaman Mihidana, Banglar Rasogolla, Rajasthan's Bikaneri Bhujia and Odisha's Kandhamal Haladi.

AAHAR is a part of the series of export promotion initiatives taken by APEDA, which works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to showcase agricultural and processed food products to the global players in the food and beverages industry as the fair is visited by a large number of importers from different parts of the world.

Apart from AAHAR, APEDA also organizes national events like Organic World Congress, BioFach India, etc to promote agri-exports.

Notably, more than 150 food and agri Products have been registered as GI by the GI Registry till March 2022, out of which 123 GI products fall under APEDA's category.

Also, APEDA created dedicated stalls for exporters from North East Region (NER) and Himalayan states/UTs like Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, women entrepreneurs, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Start-Ups and exporters of millets and millets products. More than 40 participants participated under these categories and each category will have dedicated stalls in the APEDA pavilion.

"The visionary approach, aggressive and consistent efforts of APEDA have enabled India to position itself as a consistent and quality supplier of agri products," said Dr. M. Angamuthu, Chairman, APEDA.

APEDA has also taken several initiatives to promote geographical indications (GI) registered agricultural and processed food products in India by organizing virtual Buyer-Seller Meets on agricultural and food products with the major importing countries across the world.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5,6
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

27) Consider the following :

1) It is also very important for the development of the country that the scarcity of water should never become a hindrance. Therefore, it is one of the top priorities of the government that the water of the rivers is utilized properly and sufficient water reaches the farmers' fields.

2) The completion of the Saryu Canal National Project is a proof that when intention is honest, the work is also potent. You were waiting for its completion for decades.

3) The water potential of Ghaghra, Saryu, Rapti, Banganga and Rohini will bring a new era of prosperity in this region.

4) Along with Balrampur, we congratulate millions of my farmer brothers and sisters of Bahraich, Gonda, Shravasti, Siddharthnagar, Basti, Gorakhpur, Maharaigani and Kushinagar. This will resolve the problems in the region during the rainy season. History is a witness that if someone offers a cup of water to a thirsty person, he never forgets that debt and that person throughout his life. I am sure when the parched fields of millions of farmers will get water your blessings will give us new energy to work for you.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

28) Consider the following :

1) Deposit insurance covers all deposits such as savings, fixed, current, recurring deposits, etc. in all commercial banks, functioning in India. Deposits in State, Central and Primary cooperative banks, functioning in States/Union Territories are also covered. In a path breaking reform, Bank deposit insurance cover was enhanced from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh.

2) With deposit insurance coverage of Rs. 5 lakh per depositor per bank, the number of fully protected accounts at end of previous financial year constituted 98.1% of the total number of accounts, as against the international benchmark of 80%.

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In view of the nutritional value of the millets, the government has notified millets as nutri-cereals in April, 2018. The millets are a rich source of protein, fibre, minerals, iron, calcium and have a low glycemic index. In March, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets.

Because of initiatives of the government, production of millets increased from 14.52 million tonnes in 2015-16 to 17.96 million tonnes in 2020-21 and the production of bajra has also increased from 8.07 million tonnes to 10.86 million tonnes during the same period.

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The 33 GI products which were on display to attract the attention of over 100 buyers from 40 countries are Punjab's Basmati Rice, Karnataka's Gulbarga Tur Dal, Maharashtra's Sangli Raisin, Kolhapur Jaggery, Ajara Ghansal Rice, Sindhudurg & Ratnagiri Kokum, Vengurla Cashew and Waigaon Turmeric; Assam's Boka Chaul, Joha Rice, Karbi Anglong Ginger; Manipur's Chak-Hao and Kachai Lemon, Mizoram's Ginger and Chilli, Sikkim's Large Cardamom, Nagaland's Naga Mircha, Kerala's Navara Rice, Pokkali Rice, Kaipad

Rice, Palakkadan Matta Rice, Himachal Pradesh's Kala Jeera, Chulli Oil, West Bengal's Gobindabhog Rice, Tulaipanji Rice, Bardhaman Sitabhog, Bardhaman Mihidana, Banglar Rasogolla, Rajasthan's Bikaneri Bhujia and Odisha's Kandhamal Haladi.

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Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

29) Maharashtra boasts of a large number of popular and revered religious and spiritual places that attracts large number of tourists.

1) Trimbakeshwar (Tryambakeshwara), Bhimashankar, Parali Vajinath, Grishneswar and Aundh Nagnath are the prominent Jyotirlingas in the state of Maharashtra. These shrines enshrining Shiva in the form of a Jyotirlingam and have been revered since time immemorial in the Indian system of beliefs.

2) Out of 12 Jyotirlingas, the southernmost of these is located at Rameswaram in Tamilnadu while the northernmost is located in the Himalayas at Kedarnath in Uttarkhand.

3) These temples are closely linked with legends from the puranas and are rich in history and tradition.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

30) Consider the following :

1) Government has also launched the first Census of water bodies in convergence with the Sixth round of Minor Irrigation Census (reference year 2017-18), under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme – “Irrigation Census”.

2) The objective of the Census of Water bodies is to develop a national database for all water bodies in the country.

3) Though water is a State subject, Government of India has taken a number of important measures for conservation, management of ground water and effective implementation of rain water harvesting the country, including districts dealing with very low ground water level.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

31) Consider the following :

1) Zero Budget Natural Farming is a promising tool to minimize the dependence of farmers on purchased inputs, and reduces the cost of agriculture by relying on traditional field based technologies which lead to improved soil health.

2) Desi cow, its dung and urine play an important role from which various inputs are made on the farm and provide necessary nutrients to soil.

3) Other traditional practices such as mulching the soil with biomass or keeping the soil covered with green cover round the year, even in the very low water availability situations, ensure sustained productivity even from the first year of adoption.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

32) Consider the following :

1) Government of India is implementing rapeseed & mustard Seed Minikit distribution programme under National Food security Mission –Oilseeds (NFSM-OS) with aims and objective to introduce and popularize latest released High Yielding Varieties (HYVs)/ hybrids and their promotion and spread among farmers.

2) Government has allocated 8.20 lakh of minikits of rapeseed & mustard seed in 15 major Mustard growing states with financial outlay of Rs. 1066.78 lakhs during Rabi 2021-22

3) Major Mustard growing States are Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat during Rabi 2021-22.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

33) Consider the following :

1) The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) as one of the Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The Activities of the NMSA includes components to minimize the carbon footprint of agricultural activities.

2) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), includes programmatic interventions like Soil Health Card (SHC), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Rainfed Area Development (RAD), National Bamboo Mission (NBM) and Sub-mission on Agro Forestry (SMAF). These and other programmes including Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

3) The mission aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian Agriculture more resilient to the changing climate. The progress of the ten identified deliverables namely Area under organic farming; Production of Biofertilizers; Precision Irrigation; SRI / Direct Seeded Rice from Transplantation; Crop diversification; Additional Area under plantation in Arable land; Climate Resilient Varieties (CRV) Identified/ Released; Identification of genotypes of crops with enhanced CO₂ fixation potential and less water consumption & Nutrients; Climate Resilient genotypes with greater adaptation to drought, flood, salinity and high temperature; Coverage of milch animals under ration balancing programme; Establishment of bypass protein feed making unit are being monitored regularly.

4) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched a flagship network project 'National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture' (NICRA) in 2011. Under this project, the several climate resilient technologies that can minimize carbon footprints in the agriculture sector are identified. These technologies include Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), System of Rice Intensification (SRI), efficient irrigation systems such as drip and sprinkler irrigation, zero till planting of wheat, soil test based fertilizer application and Leaf Colour Chart (LCC), soil health card based nutrient application, crop residue recycling and avoiding crop residue burning, green manuring, resilient intercropping systems, improved fodder systems and community fodder bank, agroforestry systems and integrated farming systems. For wider adoption among the farming community, large scale demonstrations of these low carbon technologies are being taken up in 151 climatically vulnerable districts across the country.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

34) Consider the following :

1) With Fintech adoption rate at 87% against the global average of 64%, India has emerged as one of the largest digital markets in the world. Fintech Sector has huge potential in India, supported by an enabling policy and digital infrastructure framework.

2) As per industry estimate, India has over 676 million smartphone users, over 1.2 billion telecom subscribers (wireless + wireline) and 825 million internet subscribers of which approximately 39% belong to the rural areas (as on March 2021).

3) Further, total number of transactions related to digital payments, a key enabler for expansion of digital markets, has increased from 2,071 crore in FY 2017-18 to 5,554 crore in FY 2020-21. As on date, more than 5179 crore transactions have been reported in the current financial year.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

35) Consider the following :

1) Government has been facilitating, monitoring, assisting and channelizing efforts to increase the exports and thereby its share in GDP through a target-driven approach by engaging all stakeholders, across states and districts.

2) Despite the pandemic, the share of India's total exports (Good & Services) to GDP was 18.7% in 2020-21, which is already above 15 percent.

3) Exports have performed remarkably well in the current financial year with the share of exports to GDP at 21.7 percent in the first half (April to September) of 2021-22.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

36) Consider the following :

1) Scientists of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, while studying the glaciers in the upper Kali Ganga valley, Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, Himalaya, found that the 5 km long unnamed glacier (30.28089N- 80.69344E), covering an area of $\sim 4 \text{ km}^2$ in Kuthi Yankti valley (Tributary of Kali River), abruptly changed its main course and merged with an adjacent glacier named Sumzurkchanki.

2) Due to changes in climate and tectonic forcing sometime between the Last Glacial Maxima (19-24,000 years ago) and Holocene (10,000 years ago).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) None of these

Ans: c

37) Consider the following :

1) The Sun is known to be very active with sunspots, solar flares, and CMEs-- episodic expulsion of huge magnetized plasma from the Sun out into space.

2) Understanding such activity of the Sun, particularly the propagation of CMEs, is important since they cause major perturbations in the Earth's magnetosphere. They effect the near-Earth space environment disturbing the orbit of satellites in low-earth orbits, Global Positioning Signals (GPS), long-distance radio communications, and power grids.

3) Intensity of such solar activity is known to vary in 11-year long periodic cycles.

4) It had earlier been traced that Cycle 24 (2008-2019) was weaker than Cycle 23 (1996-2007), and the Sun was weakest in 2019 during the last 100 years.

5)The Sun, an explosive celestial object, has been much quieter between 2008 and 2019 than it was between 1996 and 2007, and scientists have quantified that radial size of its Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) are two-thirds the radial size of CMEs in the last decade. There has been a significant decrease in the mass, size as well as internal pressure of explosive phenomena. Surprisingly, this was also accompanied with decrease in the average radial size of Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) – contrary to the expectation that decrease of pressure in the interplanetary medium will be accompanied with increase in radial size of CMEs.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

38) Consider the following :

- 1)Nuclear power is clean and environment friendly, apart from having a huge potential to ensure the country's long term energy security on a sustainable basis.
- 2)The nuclear power plants have so far generated about 755 Billion Units of electricity saving about 650 Million Tons of CO₂ emission.

3)The net zero targets are expected to be met through a combination of various clean energy sources including nuclear power.

4)In this context, the present nuclear power capacity of 6780 MW is planned to be increased to 22480 MW by 2031 on progressive completion of projects under construction and accorded sanction. More nuclear power reactors are planned in future.

5)The Government has accorded 'In-Principle' approval of the site at Jaitapur in Maharashtra for setting up six nuclear power reactors of 1650 MW each in technical cooperation with France which would make it the largest nuclear power generating site with a total capacity of 9900 MW.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

39) Consider the following:

- 1)ASI has received proposals for excavations at the sites of Chalcolithic affiliations at Eran, district Sagar and at Tewar, district Jabalpur of Madhya Pradesh.
- 2)Eran (ancient Airikina) is situated on the left bank of the Bina (ancient Venva) river and surrounded by it on three sides. Eran is located 75 km north-west from Sagar district headquarter.

3)Tewar (Tripuri) village is located 12 km west of Jabalpur district on Jabalpur – Bhopal highway.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

40) Consider the following:

1)National Mission for a Green India also encourages the plantation of mixed indigenous species along with grasses, herbs, shrubs and tree species. Exotic and invasive plants are avoided in afforestation in forest areas.

2)NMPB has also launched, '20 medicinal plants for 2020', campaign to promote, cultivate and to create awareness among local people about rich diverse traditional knowledge on medicinal plants.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

41) Consider the following :

1)Climate change is a global collective action problem. As per the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) The Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report titled, "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis", global warming of approximately 1.07°C has already occurred in the decade 2010-2019 since 1850-1900.

2)According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the surface air temperature over India has risen by about 0.7°C during 1901–2018.

3)Reports from various sources including IPCC highlight that the challenges faced due to global warming are mainly due to cumulative historical and current greenhouse gas emissions of the developed countries.

4)India with more than 17 % of global population has contributed only about 4 % of the global cumulative greenhouse gas emissions between 1850 and 2017.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

42) Consider the following :

1) National Water Mission has launched another campaign "Catch the Rain" with the tag line "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls" to nudge the States and all stakeholders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions and sub-soil strata, with people's active participation, before the onset of monsoon to ensure storage of rainwater.

2) National Water Mission had launched a campaign 'SahiFasal' campaign on 14.11.2019 to nudge farmers in the water stressed areas to grow crops which are not water intensive, but use water efficiently, and are economically remunerative.

3) Under SahiFasal, series of workshops have been organized in the water stressed areas of the country, including four workshops in Amritsar (Punjab) on 14.11.2019, New Delhi on 26-27.11.2019, Aurangabad (Maharashtra) on 13.01.2020 and Kurukshetra (Haryana) on 14.02.2020.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

43) Consider the following :

1) Government has launched Setu Bharatam Programme to replace Railway Crossing on National Highways by Road over Bridges (ROBs) / Road Under Bridges (RUBs).

2) Government has taken up construction of such ROBs/RUBs on National Highways under Setu Bharatam programme through its own implementing agencies such as State PWDs, NHAI, and NHIDCL and funds are provided for construction of ROBs/RUBs like other National Highways Projects.

3) Administrative approval and financial sanction for construction of 123 nos of RoBs/RuBs have been accorded till date under Setu Bharatam Programme.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

44) Consider the following :

- 1) Since the launch of first Kisan Rail service on 7th August 2020 and upto 28th November 2021, Indian Railway have operated 1,642 Kisan Rail services, transporting approximately 5.4 lakh tonnes of perishables including onion, banana, potato, garlic, pomegranate, oranges, capsicum, cabbage, cauliflower, and other fruits and vegetables.
- 2) These services have operated from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal
- 3) In compliance to the announcement made in Union Budget 2020-21, Kisan Rail trains have been introduced by Indian Railways to enable speedy movement of perishables including fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, fishery and dairy products from production or surplus regions to consumption or deficient regions.
- 4) Kisan Rail services are time tabled as well as demand based. Kisan Rail enables farmers to utilize the vast railway network to gain access to distant, bigger and more lucrative markets.
- 5) It is based on the concept of multi commodity, multi consignor, multi consignee and multi stoppages. There is no minimum limit on quantity that can be booked, enabling small farmers to reach bigger and distant markets.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

45) Consider the following:

- 1) The government has launched a campaign namely Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (KAPILA) on 15th October, 2020
 - 2) KAPILA is to increase awareness regarding protection and exploitation of Intellectual Property (IP) and also to provide funding support in order to promote filing of the Intellectual Property (IP) in Higher Education Institutions.
 - 3) A KAPILA portal has also been launched for this purpose.
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In view of the nutritional value of the millets, the government has notified millets as nutri-cereals in April, 2018. The millets are a rich source of protein, fibre, minerals, iron, calcium and have a low glycemic index. In March, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets.

Because of initiatives of the government, production of millets increased from 14.52 million tonnes in 2015-16 to 17.96 million tonnes in 2020-21 and the production of bajra has also increased from 8.07 million tonnes to 10.86 million tonnes during the same period.

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- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

46) Consider the following :

- 1) As far as, plastic carry bags are concerned, the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than seventy five microns with effect from 30th September, 2021, and having thickness less than thickness of one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022.
- 2) Further, over and above the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended, 34 states/UTs have issued notifications/orders to introduce regulations pertaining to complete or partial ban on plastic carry bags and/or identified single-use plastic items.

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Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

47) Consider the following :

- 1) The satellite-based observation of toxic trace gases, -- ozone, NO₂, and carbon monoxide near the surface and in the free troposphere mostly showed reduction of the pollutants over India.
- 2) However, over some regions like western - central India, some parts of Northern India, and Remote Himalaya, an increase of ozone and other toxic gases was observed.

3) This could have aggravated respiratory health risks around those regions during the pandemic. Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

48) Consider the following:

- 1) According to the results, carbon monoxide showed a consistent increase (as high as 31%) of concentration at higher heights during the lockdown.
- 2) The long-range transport and downward transport from the stratosphere significantly increased ozone concentrations over north India during the lockdown, and remote regions like the Himalayas and coastal cities showed the bare minimum influence of lockdown in air quality, with a tendency to increase in criteria air pollutants.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

48) Consider the following :

- 1) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will hold its second part of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in Kunming, China in 2022 in which delegates will come together to adopt a "Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework".
- 2) The vision for proposed framework is that "By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits

essential for all people. 2021 is viewed as a decisive year on biodiversity action. India joined High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People which calls for protecting at least 30 percent of world's land and ocean by 2030 where India has already reported about 27% of area as conserved under Aichi Target 11 to CBD.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

49) Consider the following :

1) The number of Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) in India have increased to 47 covering an area of 10,90,230 hectares which include 21 new sites designated during 2019-2021.

2) India has the largest number of Ramsar sites in South Asia. A dedicated web portal for wetlands has been developed and was launched on 2nd October, 2021 (Gandhi Jayanti).

3) Health cards prepared for 500 wetlands under the four pronged approach for conservation of wetlands.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

50) Consider the following:

1) The Government of India ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down Hydrofluorocarbons on 27 September 2021 after approval by the Union Cabinet. Hydrofluorocarbons are used in air conditioners, refrigerators, aerosols, foams and other products, which even though do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, they have high global warming potential ranging from 12 to 14,000.

2) As per the Kigali Amendment, to the Montreal Protocol, India will complete its phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons in 4 steps from 2032 onwards with cumulative reduction of 85% of production and consumption of HFCs by 2047.

3) In line with the Cabinet decision, National Strategy in consultation with all the stakeholders will be developed by 2023 and funding for preparing the strategy has been secured from the Multilateral Fund

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

51) Consider the following :

1)To enhance the efficacy implementation of PWMR, the Ministry has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 on 12th August 2021 which also prohibits identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, by 2022.

2)As per the notification, the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of 12 identified single-use plastic items including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st of July, 2022.

3)The thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased from fifty microns to seventy-five microns with effect from 30th September, 2021, and to one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

52) Consider the following :

1)Blue Economy is one of the thrust area of the Government for sustainable development of coastal resources.

2)The development will in due consideration of Conservation & protection of coastal and marine resources, Pollution abatement measures, Management of coastal and Marine ecosystem, Livelihood enhancement with security of coastal community, Capacity building and will also comprehend Sustainable development goals.

3)10 beaches in 7 States and One Union Territory, have been developed at par with international Standards and has been conferred with prestigious **Blue Flag certification** for its environmentally sound management and ecological sustainable infrastructures with adequate safety measures. This has resulted in better waste management, maintaining bathing water quality, self-sustaining solar energy-based infrastructure, containing marine littering, enhancing local level livelihood options and increased tourist based economy.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

53) Consider the following about Geo-tagging :

1)As a part of effective monitoring, it is imperative to have field-level monitoring of physical progress of the works. Further, supplementing to strengthening the system; geo-tagging of assets (on completion of work) is of utmost importance.

2)Ministry has developed mActionSoft – a mobile based solution to help in capturing photos with Geo-Tags (i.e. GPS Coordinates) for the works which have asset as an output.

3)Geo-tagging of the assets is done in all three stages viz. (i) before start of the work, (ii) during the work and (iii) on completion of work.

4)This would provide a repository of information on all works and assets related to natural resource management, water harvesting, drought proofing, sanitation, agriculture, check dams and irrigation channels etc.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

54) Consider the following :

1)Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) has made allocations of grants to the Rural Local Bodies. Its allocation for the period FY 2020-21 is **Rs.60,750 Crore** and for the period 2021-2026 is **Rs.2,36,805 crore**, which have been allocated to Panchayats in all tiers and traditional bodies in Non-Part IX States and Sixth Schedule areas.

2)The Grants are provided in two parts, namely, (i) a Basic (Untied) Grant (50%) and (ii) a Tied Grant (50 %).

3)While the basic grants are untied and can be used by RLBs for location-specific felt needs, except for salary or other establishment expenditure, the Tied Grants are earmarked for the national priority focus areas of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

55) Consider the following :

1) To tackle the issue of Substance Abuse and a vision to make India Drug Free, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) was launched on 15th August 2020, in 272 Districts identified as most vulnerable in terms of usage of drugs in the country.

2) These vulnerable districts were identified on the basis of findings from the Comprehensive National Survey and the inputs provided by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

3) The Abhiyaan is a three-pronged attack combining the supply curb by Narcotics Control Bureau, Outreach and Awareness and Demand Reduction effort by Social Justice and Empowerment and treatment through Health Department

4) Youth, Educational Institutions, Women, Children, Civil Society Organizations/NGOs are envisioned as major target populations and stakeholders of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan

5) The Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan was launched in the identified 272 districts on 15th August 2020 and since its launch, a wide range of activities have been conducted throughout the country that have fostered participation from all quarters of society and stakeholders. District Level Nasha Mukh Committees which are headed by the District Collector/Magistrate charted out, planned and taken the lead in the implementation of the Abhiyaan in their respective districts.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5

(d) None of these

Ans: c

56) Consider the following about National Curriculum Framework (NCF):

The NCF will contribute to building an education system which can stand the dynamics of the changing times and fulfills the need of the 21st century.

Central to the implementation of the transformative National Education Policy 2020 is the new National Curriculum Framework (NCF) which will empower and enable outstanding teaching and learning in the country, by converting the vision of the NEP 2020 into reality in our schools and classrooms. The development of the NCF is being guided by the National Steering Committee (NSC), chaired by Dr K Kasturirangan, supported by the Mandate Group, along with the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT). The NCF includes the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE), the National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care & Education (NCFECCE), the National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE), and the National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education (NCFAE).

The 'Mandate Document' guides the development of the NCF. The Mandate Document is the bridge between the NEP 2020 and the NCF. Some of the important characteristics of the National Curriculum Framework, as envisioned in the Mandate Document to achieve these goals are:

1) It delineates the process of the development and the characteristics of the NCF

2) It provides clear and specific anchors for the NCF to the vision, principles, and approach of NEP 2020

3)It sets the mechanisms for the development of a coherent and comprehensive NCF, fully leveraging the widespread consultations already under way

4)The process designed ensures the seamless integration imagined - vertically (across Stages) and horizontally (across subjects in the same Stage) in the NEP 2020 – to ensure holistic, integrated, and multi-disciplinary education

5)It enables the critical linkage between the curriculum of schools with the curriculum of Teacher Education as an integral part of the transformative reforms envisioned by the NEP 2020 in the overall Teacher Education sector, thus enabling rigorous preparation, continuous professional development, and a positive working environment for all our teachers

6)It informs the creation of opportunities for life-long learning for all citizens in the country

7)Directly ‘useable by’ and ‘relatable to’ the most important stakeholders in education - teachers, students, parents, and communities across the country – to enable and empower, change and improve the reality of education practice

8)Anchored and informed by sound theory and cutting-edge research, yet using simple language with real-life illustrations from classrooms and schools in a variety of contexts

9)Outlining a systematic path for step-by-step movement from current reality to the ideal to ensure real progress in education that touches the lives of all

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9

(d) None of these

Ans: c

57) Consider the following :

The 36th edition of AAHAR was jointly organized by APEDA and the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) at Pragati Maidan

1)In view of the nutritional value of the millets, the government has notified millets as nutri-cereals in April, 2018. The millets are a rich source of protein, fibre, minerals, iron, calcium and have a low glycemic index. In March, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets.

2)Because of initiatives of the government, production of millets increased from 14.52 million tonnes in 2015-16 to 17.96 million tonnes in 2020-21 and the production of bajra has also increased from 8.07 million tonnes to 10.86 million tonnes during the same period.

3)In line with the theme of APEDA’s pavilion, - ‘To promote GI products for export’, the apex body to promote agricultural products put on display 33 GI agricultural products at AAHAR. The APEDA also

released two booklets which include a catalogue on Agri and Food GI products (APEDA scheduled) and a brochure on Indian GI mangoes.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

58) Consider the following :

The 33 GI products which were on display to attract the attention of over 100 buyers from 40 countries are :

- 1) Punjab's Basmati Rice, Karnataka's Gulbarga Tur Dal, Maharashtra's Sangli Raisin, Kolhapur Jaggery, Ajara Ghansal Rice, Sindhudurg & Ratnagiri Kokum, Vengurla Cashew and Waigaon Turmeric;
- 2) Assam's Boka Chaul, Joha Rice, Karbi Anglong Ginger; Manipur's Chak-Hao and Kachai Lemon, Mizoram's Ginger and Chilli, Sikkim's Large Cardamom, Nagaland's Naga Mircha,
- 3) Kerala's Navara Rice, Pokkali Rice, Kaipad Rice, Palakkadan Matta Rice,
- 4) Himachal Pradesh's Kala Jeera, Chulli Oil,
- 5) West Bengal's Gobindabhog Rice, Tulaipanji Rice, Bardhaman Sitabhog, Bardhaman Mihidana, Banglar Rasogolla,
- 6) Rajasthan's Bikaneri Bhujia and
- 7) Odisha's Kandhamal Haladi.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5,6,7
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

59) Consider the following:

- 1) AAHAR is a part of the series of export promotion initiatives taken by APEDA, which works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to showcase agricultural and processed food products to the global players in the food and beverages industry as the fair is visited by a large number of importers from different parts of the world.
- 2) Apart from AAHAR, APEDA also organizes national events like Organic World Congress, BioFach India, etc to promote agri-exports.
- 3) Notably, more than 150 food and agri Products have been registered as GI by the GI Registry till March 2022, out of which 123 GI products fall under APEDA's category.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

60) Consider the following :

APEDA created dedicated stalls for exporters from North East Region (NER) and Himalayan states/UTs like Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, women entrepreneurs, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Start-Ups and exporters of millets and millets products. More than 40 participants participated under these categories and each category will have dedicated stalls in the APEDA pavilion.

1)“The visionary approach, aggressive and consistent efforts of APEDA have enabled India to position itself as a consistent and quality supplier of agri products,” said Dr. M. Angamuthu, Chairman, APEDA.

2)APEDA has also taken several initiatives to promote geographical indications (GI) registered agricultural and processed food products in India by organizing virtual Buyer-Seller Meets on agricultural and food products with the major importing countries across the world.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

TSPSC GROUP I Prelims 2022 (Scheduled on 16.10.2022)
TSLPRB SI & CONSTABLES

Model Questions (for GS Paper)
Set No. 5 {Prepared on 26 .5.2022 }

For Study purpose
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1) Consider the following:

Under the NPOP, organic products are grown under a system of agriculture without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides with an environmentally and socially responsible approach. This method of farming works at grassroot level preserving the reproductive and regenerative capacity of the soil, good plant nutrition, and sound soil management, produces nutritious food rich in vitality which has resistance to diseases. APEDA is currently implementing the NPOP, which involves the accreditation of certification bodies, standards for organic production, promotion of organic farming and marketing etc.

1) In 2020-21, India produced around 3.49 million tonne of certified organic products which includes all varieties of food products namely oil seeds, sugarcane, cereals, millets, cotton, pulses, aromatic & medicinal plants, tea, coffee, fruits, spices, dry fruits, vegetables, processed foods etc.

2) Madhya Pradesh has covered largest area under organic certification followed by Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh. In 2020-21, the total volume of organic products export was 8.88 lakh metric tonne and the export realization was around Rs 7,078 crores (1040 million USD).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

2) Consider the following :

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has been established as a unified regulator to develop and regulate financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Service Centres (IFSCs) in India.

1) The Fund Industry has been playing an increasingly important role in intermediating between seekers of capital and investors. IFSC has been actively engaging with stakeholders to enhance the Global reach of GIFT-IFSC. The regulatory approach has been to benchmark with Global Standards and adopt a facilitative framework to provide ease of operations for seeker as well as provider of capital.

2)IFSCA, in its endeavour to develop a comprehensive and consistent regulatory framework based on global best practices with a special focus on ease of doing business, has constituted an Expert Committee on Investment Funds to recommend to IFSCA on the road map for the funds industry in the IFSCs.

3)The Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Mr. Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co. Ltd. The Committee comprises of leaders from the entire Fund Management ecosystem including from areas such as technology, distribution, legal, compliance, and operations.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

3) Consider the following:

1)The President of India appointed S/Shri Justices Conrad Stansilaus Dias, Pulleri Vadhyarillath Kunhikrishnan, ThirumuppathRaghavan Ravi, Bechu Kurian Thomas and GopinathPuzhankara, Additional Judges of the Kerala High Court, to be Judges of the Kerala High Court with effect from the date they assume charge of their respective offices.

2) The President of India exercised the power conferred by clause (l) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India for this purpose

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

4) Consider the following :

In order to address the issue of air pollution due to farm stubble burning and to reduce carbon footprints of thermal power generation, Ministry of Power has decided to set up a **National Mission on use of Biomass in coal based thermal power plants**. This would further support the energy transition in the country and our targets to move towards cleaner energy sources.

The "**National Mission on use of biomass in thermal power plants**" will have the following objectives;

(1) To increase the level of co-firing from present 5% to higher levels to have a larger share of carbon neutral power generation from the thermal power plants.

(2) To take up R&D activity in boiler design to handle the higher amount of silica, alkalis in the biomass pellets.

(3) To facilitate overcoming the constraints in supply chain of bio mass pellets and agro- residue and its transport upto to the power plants.

(4) To consider regulatory issues in biomass co-firing.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

5) Consider the following :

1) Prime Minister of India met the President of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of COP26 in Glasgow on 2 November 2021.

2) The leaders took stock of the state of bilateral relations and exchanged views on developments in the region.

3) They expressed satisfaction on the cooperation during the pandemic times including mutual recognition of COVID vaccination certificates by both countries. Prime Minister Modi thanked President Zelenskyy for his humanitarian gesture of supply of oxygen concentrators to India during the second phase of COVID pandemic earlier this year.

4) The two leaders positively assessed the strong people to people connect between the two countries, especially the large number of Indian students studying in various Universities of Ukraine.

5) The two leaders reaffirmed their readiness to work together for further strengthening of bilateral relations.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5

(d) None of these

Ans: c

- 6) Launch of 'Infrastructure for Resilient Island States' initiative at COP 26 Summit in Glasgow :

1) The launch of 'Infrastructure for Resilient Island States' - IRIS, gives a new hope, a new confidence. It gives the satisfaction of doing something for the most vulnerable countries.

2) Congratulations for this the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

3)At this important forum, I extend my warm thanks to all the leaders of all the allied countries, including Australia and UK, and especially from small island groups, including Mauritius and Jamaica.

4)I also thank the UN Secretary General for sparing his valuable time for this launch.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

7) Consider the following :

1)It may be noted that Onion prices had started rising from the first week of October, 2021, due to rains that disrupted the supply chain. In order to cool down prices, the Department of Consumer Affairs has taken up calibrated and targeted release of onions from the buffer on First-in-First-Out (FIFO) principle, guided by the twin objectives of moderating prices and ensuring minimal storage loss.

2)Onion buffer has been maintained by the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) with the objective of effective market intervention to moderate prices. In 2021-22, against the target of building 2 LMT Onion buffer a total of 2.08 LMT was procured from Rabi-2021 crop during April to July, 2021.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

8)Consider the following :

During the current paddy harvesting season, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has been actively monitoring paddy residue burning events for the last one and a half month i.e. from 15th September 2021 onwards in the states of Punjab, Haryana and NCR Districts of Uttar Pradesh & Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi.

1)During the last one week i.e. from 27th October up till 02nd November, as against 23,628 cases in 2020, the corresponding period in 2021 has witnessed only 12,853 active cases, thus exhibiting a reduction of 10,775 cases (about 45.6%)

2)The major hotspots of paddy residue burning in the state of Punjab are Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Ferozpur, Patiala, Ludhiana and Kapurthala. Similarly, the major hotspots in Haryana are Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Fatehabad, Ambala and Jind.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

9) Consider the following :

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the aegis of Union Ministry of Science & Technology for promoting "Leh Berry" which is an exclusive food product of the cold desert and also a means of wide-ranging entrepreneurship as well as self-livelihood.

1)Local entrepreneurs will be provided gainful employment through farming, processing and marketing of about 100 odd products from sea buckthorn plant like jams, juices, herbal tea, vitamin C supplements, healthy drinks, cream, oils, and soaps in a completely organic manner. He said, this immunity boosting natural berry is getting increasingly popularized not only in India, but also in great demand in foreign countries for its medicinal value. It is informed that the ancient local Ladakhi amchi medicine system also places a very high premium on the sea buckthorn berry and its curative properties.

2)A high level team of senior scientists from CSIR will soon visit Ladakh to evaluate the Zinc Fortification project for Pashmina Goats, Sheep and Yak as Ladakh is mainly an Animal-based economy. CSIR is contemplating to start a Geo-Thermal Energy Project for warming and cooling systems in a Zero-net energy programme by linking it with Solar Power.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

10) Consider the following :

1)Government of India has been taking various policy initiatives for promotion and strengthening of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms through amendment in existing laws and by enactments, for facilitating quick disposal of disputes, outside of traditional court systems. As a continuation of the exercise, bringing a standalone law on Mediation is under consideration.

2)Since the laws on Mediation are contained in several enactments including Rules and Regulation, it was felt necessary to ascertain the present statutory framework on mediation and bring an umbrella legislation including amendments in the existing laws. The Bill takes into contemplation the international practice of using the terms 'conciliation' and 'mediation' interchangeably. Further, it has also become expedient to enact a law in mediation on issues of domestic and international mediation as India is a signatory to the Singapore Convention on Mediation.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

11) Consider the following :

1) It may be noted that Technical Textiles are textiles, which are engineered to give desired output suitable for specific applications. The basic raw material are natural fibres like jute, silk and cotton. But, majority of the applications use man-made fibres: polymers(Aramid, Nylon) , carbon, glass, and metals. Technical Textiles are the technology of future. This is going to be the next technological revolution entirely changing the way we live and think.

2)Based on their area of Applications, Technical Textiles segment is divided into 12 sub-segments. In India. India has a major presence in Packaging Textiles (Packtech): 38%, Geotechnical Textiles (Geo-tech): 10%, Agricultural Textiles (Agrotech): 12%.

3)The Applications of Technical Textiles are widening day by day with advent of new materials. Along with new inventions made in smart textiles; 3-D Weaving, smart wear for health monitoring and ultra-high performing sportswear are bringing in new avenues which were unthinkable a few years back.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

12) Consider the following :

1)It is highlighted fact that India represents 17% of the global population

2)Its historical cumulative emissions are only 4%, while current annual GHG emissions are only about 5%.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

13) Consider the following :

1)At present there is a potential of aquaculture in saline waters available in the northern States of Haryana, Panjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

2) It is mentioned that PMMSY has envisaged an investment target of Rs. 526 Crore during 2020-21 to 2024-25 for development of saline water aquaculture while generating 3 lakh employment opportunities. It is also elaborated the importance of cluster development models in these states for providing one stop solution with development of facilities like testing laboratory network, feed plants, cold chain and marketing infrastructure to reduce production cost accompanied by promoting adoption of technologies like RAS, biofloc etc.

3) It is also highlighted the importance of species diversification, disposal of waste saline water, trained manpower for shrimp culture for sustainable inland saline water aquaculture.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

14) Consider the following :

1) Beautiful Srinagar joined the @UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) with a special mention for its craft and folk art.

2) It is a fitting recognition for the vibrant cultural ethos of Srinagar. Congratulations to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

15) Consider the following :

1) The "Ganga Mashaal" has formally started its journey from Rishikesh and Haridwar in Uttarakhand.

2) The Mashaal will travel to a total of 23 stations along river Ganga which will help in sensitization of the local people and Namami Gange volunteers.

3) Along with the District Administration, field volunteers like Ganga Vichar Manch, Ganga Doot (NYKS), Ganga Praharis, Ganga Mitras shall also be supporting in the journey of the Mashaal, carried by the brave men of the Ganga Task Force (GTF) up to Ganga Sagar in West Bengal.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

16) Consider the following :

1) India had a massive power deficit of -16.6% in 2007-08.

2) Even in 2011-12, it was -10.6 %.

3) Through the multi pronged, comprehensive and aggressive interventions of the government, this deficit is near about wiped out, consistently over the last 3 years: -.4% In 2020-21, -.7% in 2019-20 and -.8% in 2018-19.

4) The current year, up till October, it has been -1.2%; the marginal spike being attributable to the annual post monsoon pressure on power output. This is also likely to normalize by the end of the year.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

16) Consider the following:

1) India has been importing coal to bridge the gap between the requirement of coal and the domestic production in the country.

2) The dependence on imports for Coking Coal mainly used in the steel sector has been predominantly due to very limited domestic availability. Thus, import under this category has been largely non substitutable.

3) Even though the import of Coking Coal is non-substitutable, consequent to the sustained effort of the government, in line with mission 'AtmaNirbhar', the imports of various grades of Non Coking Coal have reduced substantially during the current financial year. The latter includes high GCV thermal coal used for industrial purpose and low GCV that goes for power generation.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

17) Consider the following :

1) National Financial Reporting Authority ("NFRA" or "Authority"), was constituted as an independent regulator for accounting and auditing in India in October 2018.

2) NFRA's Charter positions it as an organisation that should be known for Objectivity, Integrity, Impartiality, Independence, Fairness, and Transparency. In making any recommendations, NFRA attempts to keep in mind the implications of such recommendations on the Ease of Doing Business. Section 132(2)(a) of Companies Act, 2013 requires NFRA to make recommendations to the Central Government on the formulation and laying down of accounting and auditing policies and standards for adoption by companies or class of companies or their auditors, as the case may be.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1, 2

(d) None of these

Ans: c

18) Consider the following :

he Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the restoration and continuation of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) during the remaining part of Financial Year 2021-22 and up to Financial Year 2025-26 co-terminus with the period of 15th Finance Commission

1)The MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by Government of India. The objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. primarily in their Constituencies.

2)The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per Member of Parliament (MP) constituency is Rs.5 crore, released in two instalments of Rs.2.5 crore each, subject to the fulfilment of conditions as per the MPLADS Guidelines.

3)The Ministry will release MPLADS fund at the rate of Rs. 2 crore per Member of Parliament for the remaining period of FY 2021-22 in one instalment and at the rate of Rs. 5.00 crore per annum per Member of Parliament during FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 in two instalments of Rs.2.5 crore each. Since the inception of the Scheme, a total of 19,86,206 works/projects have been completed with the financial implication of Rs. 54171.09 crore.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

19) Consider the following :

1)The Jute industry occupies an important place in the national economy of India in general and Eastern Region in particular i.e. West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

2)It is one of the major industries in the eastern region, particularly in West Bengal.

3)The reservations norms under JPM Act provide for direct employment to 0.37 million workers and 4 million farmers in the Jute Sector.

4)JPM Act, 1987 protects interest of Jute farmers, workers and persons engaged in jute goods' production. 75% of the total production of the Jute Industry is Jute Sacking Bags of which 90% is supplied to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Procurement Agencies (SPAs) and remaining is exported/sold directly

5)Government of India purchases Jute sacking bags worth approximately Rs. 8,000 crore every year for packing of foodgrains, Hence ensures guaranteed market for the produce of Jute Farmers and Workers.

6) Average Production of Jute Sacking Bags is about 30 lakhs bales (9 lakh MT) and Government is committed to ensure complete off-take of the sacking production of the jute bags in order to protect the interest of Jute farmers, workers and persons engaged in the Jute Industry.

7) By bringing into effect the provision of JPM Act, the Government will provide relief to 0.37 million workers employed in jute mills and ancillary units as well as support the livelihood of around 4.0 Million farm families.

8) Besides, it will help protect environment because jute is natural, bio- degradable, renewable and reusable fibre and hence fulfills all sustainability parameters.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

(d) None of these

Ans: c

20) Consider the following :

1) National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is a not-for-profit Company under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with the mission to make the internet accessible to everyone.

2) To facilitate its customers and partners, NIXI has gone digital by enabling digital payments across its three business units by integrating payment gateways on all its customer-facing websites for ease of use.

3) This integration will lead to increased ease of use for NIXI's customers by offering real-time payments, providing uninterrupted services and ensuring seamless experience to all stakeholders.

4) PayU: PayU is India's leading payment gateways which provides payment gateway solutions to online businesses and serves more than 4,50,000+ merchants with over 100+ payment methods.

4) NSDL: NSDL is one of the largest Depositories in the World and has established a state-of-the-art infrastructure that handles most of the securities held and settled in dematerialized form in the Indian capital market. They also provide secure and seamless payment gateway services to businesses.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

21) Consider the following :

1) In a big boost to accelerate global adoption of solar energy, John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate announced at the UNFCCC COP26 that the United States of America (USA) has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a member country.

2) U.S becomes the 101st country to sign the framework agreement of the ISA to catalyze global energy transition through a solar-led approach.

3) The approach and methods detailed in the framework have already delivered results, with ISA building a solar project pipeline of nearly 5 GW installed capacity.

4) The approach detailed in this framework will culminate in a vision for interconnected global grids, which was formalized and jointly launched as the 'Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid' (GGI-OSOWOG), during the World Leaders Summit of the COP26 in Glasgow on 2nd November 2021 by the UK Presidency of COP26 and India Presidency of International Solar Alliance (ISA).

5) The ISA is an inter-governmental treaty-based international organization with a global mandate to catalyze global solar growth by helping to reduce the cost of financing and technology for solar. In fulfilling this mandate, the ISA is committed to establishing solar as a shared solution that simultaneously addresses climate, energy, and economic priorities across geographies, facilitating Energy Transition at a global level, Energy Security at national levels, while also ensuring Energy Access at the local level.

6) The ISA is helping large nations scale global commitments, thereby serving the planet's needs for reduced carbon emissions, while also helping economically more vulnerable nations establish a self-sustaining energy alternative that reduces trade dependency and drives job creation. Universal, affordable, and reliable last-mile electricity connectivity across socio-economic strata is a crucial pillar and targeted, tangible outcome of these combined efforts towards facilitating economic development and environmental impact.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5,6

(d) None of these

Ans: c

22) Consider the following :

1) The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister has approved declaration of 15th November as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas dedicated to the memory of brave tribal freedom fighters so that coming generations could know about their sacrifices about the country.

2) India's freedom struggle was strengthened by several movements by tribal communities such as Santhals, Tamars, Kols, Bhils, Khasis and Mizos to name a few.

3) The revolutionary movements and struggles organized by the tribal communities were marked by their immense courage and supreme sacrifice.

4) Tribal movements in different regions of the country against the British colonial rule got linked with the national freedom struggle and inspired Indians all over the country.

5) However, the public at large is not much aware about these tribal heroes. Pursuant to the speech of Hon'ble Prime Minister on Independence Day of 2016, Government of India has sanctioned 10 tribal freedom fighter museums across the country.

6)The date is the birth anniversary of Sri Birsa Munda who is revered as Bhagwan by tribal communities across the country. Birsa Munda fought bravely against the country against the exploitative system of the British colonial system and spearheaded movement against British oppression giving a call for ‘Ulgulan’ (Revolution).

7)The declaration acknowledges the glorious history and cultural heritage of tribal communities. The day will be celebrated every year and would recognize the efforts of the tribals for preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of Indian values of valour, hospitality and national pride. Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum at Ranchi where Birsa Munda breathed his last will be inaugurated by Hon’ble Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5,6,7
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

23) Consider the following :

1)Kashi Utsav, a three-day festival is being organised in Varanasi to celebrate the classic heritage and culture of Kashi especially the centuries-old luminaries

2)They are Goswami Tulsidas, Sant Kabir, Sant Raidas, Bhartendu Harishchandra, Munshi Premchand and Shri Jaishankar Prasad. The programme will be organised at Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre, Varanasi from 16th - 18th November, 2021.

3)IGNCA is hosting the programme on behalf of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, with the support of the Uttar Pradesh State Government and Varanasi Administration under the aegis of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India.

4)Varanasi or Kashi has been chosen for this festival because of its rich cultural heritage and splendid history and resplendent beauty.

5)The longest river of the India, Ganges flows through Kashi and is a source of inspiration for artists, scholars, writers of the city including the six legendary personalities who have been chosen for the event. The festival will help in exploring the magnificent aura of Kashi that gives birth to the legendaries of all times.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

24) Consider the following:

1) India has successfully launched the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica with the arrival of the first batch of its contingent at the southern white continent.

2) The first batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached the Indian Antarctic station Maitri on last week. Four more batches shall be landing in Antarctica by air using DROMLAN facility and onboard chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasily Golovnin by mid-January 2022.

3) The 41st expedition has two major programs. The first program encompasses geological exploration of the Amery ice shelf at Bharati station. This will help explore the link between India and Antarctica in the past. The second program involves reconnaissance surveys and preparatory work for drilling of 500 meters of ice core near Maitri. It will help in improving the understanding of Antarctic climate, westerly winds, sea-ice and greenhouse gases from a single climate archive for past 10,000 years. The ice core drilling will be done in collaboration with the British Antarctic Survey and the Norwegian Polar Institute. In addition to accomplishing scientific programs, it will replenish the annual supplies of food, fuel, provisions, and spares for operations and maintenance of life support systems at Maitri and Bharati.

3) The crew is expected to return to Cape Town in late March/early April of 2022, leaving a team of 48 members for over winter.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

25) Consider the following :

1) The Indian Antarctic program, which began in 1981, has completed 40 scientific expeditions, and built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica, named Dakshin Gangotri (1983), Maitri (1988) and Bharati (2012).

2) As of today, Maitri and Bharati are fully operational.

3) The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa—an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences—manages the entire Indian Antarctic program.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

26) Consider the following:

1) Under the guidance of Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, the Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy have issued revised guidelines providing for thermal generation companies to set up renewable energy generation capacity either by themselves through developers by open bids and supplying it to the consumers under the existing PPAs.

2) This will enable the replacement of fossil fuel based energy by renewable energy under the existing PPAs. As the cost of renewable energy is less than the cost of Thermal energy, the gains from the

bundling of renewable energy with thermal will be shared between the generator and Distribution companies/other procurers on a 50:50 basis. As the renewable energy will be balanced with thermal energy, therefore, the DISCOMs will now not need to acquire any separate capacity for balancing of renewable energy.

3) This is a very significant step towards achieving the goal of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030. Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

27) Consider the following:

1) The Pochampally Village in Telangana State has been selected as one of the best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

2) The prestigious award will be given on the occasion of the 24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly on 2nd December 2021 in Madrid, Spain.

3) Pochampally is also known as Bhoodan Pochampally to commemorate the Bhoodan Movement that was launched by Acharya Vinobha Bhave from this village on April 18th, 1951. Currently a two room Vinobha Bhave Mandir exists within the village which was earlier the place where Vinobha Bhave resided during his visit to the village.

4) Ikat is a Malaysian, Indonesian word which means "Tie and Dye". Ikat involves the process of wrapping (or tying) and dyeing sections of bundled yarn to a predetermined colour pattern before they are woven. The dye penetrates into exposed sections while the wrapped section remains undyed. This pattern formed by the yarn in this process is woven into fabric.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

28) Consider the following :

1) Birsa Munda was an iconic freedom fighter, social reformer and revered tribal leader of the country, who fought bravely against the exploitative system of the British colonial government, and became a legendary figure in his lifetime, often referred to as 'Bhagwan'.

2) He organized and led the tribal movement, giving a call for "Ulgulan" (Revolt) to the tribals.

3) He encouraged tribals to understand their cultural roots and observe unity.

4) The Government of India has declared 15th November as the 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' which also coincides with the 146th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

5) The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum has been built in association with the State Government of Jharkhand at the Old Central Jail location in Ranchi, where the legendary Birsa Munda had sacrificed his life.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

29) Consider the following :

- 1)The Prime Minister of India delivered the keynote at the inaugural Sydney Dialogue via video conferencing
- 2)The Prime Minister listed five important transitions taking place in India.
- 3) The world's most extensive public information infrastructure being built in India. Over 1.3 billion Indians have a unique digital identity, six hundred thousand villages will soon be connected with broadband and the world's most efficient payment infrastructure, the UPI.
- 4)Use of digital technology for governance, inclusion, empowerment, connectivity, delivery of benefits and welfare.
- 5) India has the world's third largest and fastest growing Startup Eco-system.
- 6) India's industry and services sectors, even agriculture, are undergoing massive digital transformation.
- 7) There is a large effort to prepare India for the future. "We are investing in developing indigenous capabilities in telecom technology such as 5G and 6G. India is one of the leading nations in artificial intelligence and machine learning, especially in human-centred and ethical use of artificial intelligence. We are developing strong capabilities in Cloud platforms and cloud computing",

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5,6,7
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

30)Consider the following:

- 1)Mahatma Gandhi NREGS has always emphasized Natural Resource Management (NRM) based planning to enhance the livelihood and NRM resource base in rural areas.
- 2)The systematic development of land, harnessing of rainwater following watershed principles (Ridge to Valley Approach) and creation of income-generating assets has become important aspect of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS works.
- 3)The planning of works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS are now carried out using advanced technologies viz. Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS).
- 4)Leveraged for this purpose is the much acclaimed 'Bhuvan' space technology solution from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- 5)The GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing the geographic terrain and offers scientific choices of development works suitable to the area. This technology integrates common database operations such as query and statistical analysis with the unique visualization and geographic analysis benefits offered by the maps.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

31) Consider the following:

1) Government of India has enacted PESA in 1996 and Forest Rights Act in 2006, which are meant for empowering tribal communities.

2) PESA also been promulgated to recognize the role of the Gram Sabha and the community in these areas, mainly comprising tribal populations.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1, 2

(d) None of these

Ans: c

32) Consider the following :

1) With the launch of Swachh Bharat 2.0, the Government of India is geared to make cities garbage free.

2) Managing plastic waste better is critical to realise the goals of clean India.

3) Through the workshop our aim is to provide practical solutions to the ULB's to manage plastic waste more efficiently.

4) The decentralized model for plastic waste management detailed in the handbook has been adapted globally and has shown potential of plastic recycling.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

33) Consider the following :

1) The automobiles field contributes to about 14-15 per cent of GDP, which can go up to 25-30 per cent and can support the PM's vision for making India a USD 5 trillion economy.

2) The sale of electric vehicles has increased drastically in the last few months due to the various schemes and subsidies provided by the government

3) Advanced Chemical Cell (ACC), which is the main component of the EV battery, is currently imported and about 30 per cent of the cost of the EV is the cost of battery itself. He said that this can be reduced if it is locally produced.

4) It is further added that this is possible because about 70 per cent of the material used in the manufacturing of lithium-ion batteries is already available in India. "With these newly introduced PLI schemes, the government is providing support up to Rs 362 crore per gigawatt in this sector of EVs, government's FAME I and II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) scheme, which has now been extended by another two years to March 31, 2024.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

34) Consider the following :

1) India, UK and Australia have formed an organization called IRIS (Infrastructure for Resilient Island States) in collaboration with small island countries like Fiji, Jamaica, Mauritius etc., and have decided to donate 10 million dollars together”.

2) About technology transfer, India will share timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring, coast-line monitoring, etc. with these island countries with the help of ISRO’s satellites.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

35) Consider the following :

1) India with France, has initiated the International Solar Alliance (ISA) since 2015, which has an alliance of 102 countries.

2) US is the newest member of the alliance

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

36) Consider the following:

1) The National Clean Air Programme has been launched by the Centre as a as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner.

2) It aims to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year.

3) Under NCAP, 132 non-attainment cities (NA Cities) have been identified across the country based on the Air Quality data from 2014-2018.

4) The NA cities list is a heterogeneous mix of cities of all sizes and types. Most major cities of Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Aurangabad, Kolhapur etc figure in the NA cities list for poor air quality.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

37) Consider the following:

1)The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has recently launched the visionary Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernisation Program (Vehicle Scrapping Policy).

2)This Policy is aimed at creating an ecosystem for phasing out old unsafe, polluting vehicles and replacing them with newer safe and fuel-efficient vehicles.

3)The Ministry has also notified the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) Rules to enable setting up of modern vehicle scrapping facilities in India which can recycle the vehicles in an environment friendly manner.

4)The existing vehicle dismantling and recycling industry in India is unorganized and recycling of older vehicles is not done in an environment-friendly manner. This not only leads to inefficient resource management, but also non-realisation of the full value of high-strength steel alloys and recovery of valuable rare-earth metals.

5)The existing ELV scrapping cycle has a low recovery percentage and many materials get wasted or are not properly recycled.

6)As per unofficial industry estimates, the recovery percentage in India is about 70-75%, while global benchmarks for recovery from scrapped vehicle are in the range of 85-95%.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5,6

(d) None of these

Ans: c

38) Consider the following :

1)The abnormal behaviour of this unnamed glacier clearly suggests that not only is climate a controlling factor, but tectonics also plays an important role in glacial catchments.

2)The recent disaster in Rishiganga is a latest example which suggests that the rock mass on which the glacier was sitting gradually became fragile (due to weathering, percolation of meltwater in joints, crevasses, freezing and thawing, snowfall, overloading, and gradually operating tectonic forces forcing rocks to mechanical disintegration) with due course of time and detached from the source rock.

3)It clearly suggests that the Himalaya is an active mountain range and highly fragile where tectonics and climate play a critical role.

4)It is observed that the 5 km long unnamed glacier, which covered around 4 km² area in Kuthi Yankti valley (Tributary of Kali River), has abruptly changed its main course. It moved, truncated, and ultimately merged with the adjacent glacier named Sumzurkchanki as a result of tectonic forcing during the time between Last Glacial Maxima (19-24 ka) and Holocene. It is one of the unique behaviours of the glacier, and no such observation has so far been reported on this type of glacier kinematics.

5)Indian researchers studying an unnamed glacier in one of the less explored region in the upper Kali Ganga valley, Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand, India, have reported that the glacier had abruptly changed its main course. It is for the first time that such change in course has been reported from a Himalayan glacier, and the researchers have attributed this to the accumulated influence of both climate and tectonics.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

39) Consider the following :

1) India's vision for the Indian Ocean encapsulated by the concept of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) as articulated by Prime Minister .

2) The Raksha Mantri underlined that SAGAR has both distinct and inter-related elements such as deepening economic and security cooperation among the littoral states; enhancing capacities to safeguard land and maritime territories; working towards sustainable regional development; Blue Economy and promoting collective action to deal with non-traditional threats like natural disasters, piracy and terrorism.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

40) Consider the following:

1) India has made rapid strides towards enabling financial inclusion catalyzed by PMJDY and India stack.

2) However, credit penetration remains a public policy challenge, especially for the nation's 63 million odd MSMEs that contribute approx. 30 % to the Gross Domestic Product, about 45% to manufacturing output, more than 40% of exports, while creating employment for a significant section of the population, which in terms of volume stands next to agricultural sector.

3) This is hindering the development of a conducive business environment for expansion of the MSME sector.

4) Digital Bank Regulatory Index" comprising of 4 factors: **Entry barriers; Competition; Business Restrictions and Technological Neutrality** and maps the elements of these indices against the 5 benchmark jurisdictions of Singapore, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Australia and South Korea.

5) The study paper also recommends a two-stage approach with a Digital Business Bank license to begin with a suggestion for Digital (Universal) Bank license after policymakers and regulators have gained experience from the former. Focus on avoiding any regulatory or policy arbitrage and giving a level playing field is an important recommendation.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

41) Consider the following :

1)The River Cities Alliance can play a crucial role in connecting cities with their rivers, and that it can be a model for all cities in the Basin and beyond to emulate

2)The River Cities Alliance is a culmination of 3 years of efforts for river sensitive development of our cities.

3)The 30 member cities include Haridwar, Rishikesh, Kanpur, Ayodhya, Patna, Howrah, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Prayagraj, etc. from Ganga basin states and Aurangabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Pune, Udaipur, Vijayawada, etc. from non-Ganga basin states.

4)The primary objective of RCA is to provide the member cities with a platform to discuss and exchange information on aspects that are vital for sustainable management of urban rivers such as minimizing their water footprint, reducing impacts on river and water bodies, capitalizing on natural, intangible, architectural heritage and associated services and develop self-sufficient, self-sustainable water resources through recycle, reuse strategy.

5)The Alliance cities will work towards adopting and localizing national policies and instruments with key river-related directions, prepare their Urban River Management Plans and develop city-specific sectoral strategies that are required for sustainable urban river management.

6)The Alliance gives opportunities to these cities to strengthen governance aspects for river cities and improves their liveability to attract external economic investments, access state of the art knowledge and frameworks as well as an opportunity to serve as the site for unique demonstration projects which will be implemented by NIUA and NMCG

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4,5,6

(d) None of these

Ans: c

42) Consider the following : Article in Constitution of India and its protection

1)Article 46 of the Constitution : provides that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the society and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

2)Reservation in educational institution has been provided in Article 15(4) while reservation in posts and services has been provided in Article 16(4), 16(4A) and 16(4B) of the Constitution.

3)Article 23 which prohibits traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar forms of forced labour has a special significance for Scheduled Tribes. In pursuance of this Article, Parliament has enacted the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Similarly, Article 24 which prohibits employment of Children below the age of 14 years in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous activity is also significant for Scheduled Tribes .

4)Article 243D provides reservation of Seats for Scheduled Tribes in Panchayats.

5)Article 330 provides reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People.

6)Article 332 provides reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in Legislative Assemblies of the States.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5,6
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

43) Consider the following :

1)Article 334 provides that reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and the State Vidhan Sabhas (and the representation of the Anglo-Indian Community in the Lok Sabha and the State Vidhan Sabhas by nomination) would continue up to January, 2020.

2)Other specific safeguards have been provided in Article 244 read with the provisions contained in Fifth and Sixth Schedule to the Constitution.

3)For protecting the rights of Forest dwellers, in 20016, The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest dwellers (recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) was enacted. FRA Act, administered by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) recognizes rights of tribals residing in forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. It provides for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land. The Act came into operation with the notification of Rules on 01.01.2008 for carrying out the provisions of the Act. From May, 2014 till Aug, 2021; 5,03,709 claims (Individual – 4,36,644 claims and Community – 67,065 claims) were received and 5,65,515 titles (Individual – 5,11,681 titles and Community – 53,834 titles) have been distributed.

4)The Panchayat (Extension of the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) was enacted by the Centre to ensure self-governance through Gram Sabhas (village assemblies) for people living in scheduled areas. PESA Act is administered by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Govt. of India. It legally recognizes the right of tribal communities, residents of the scheduled areas, to govern themselves through their own systems of self-government, and also acknowledges their traditional rights over natural resources. In pursuance of this objective, PESA empowers Gram Sabhas to play a key role in approving development plans and controlling all social sectors.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

44)Consider the following:

- 1)Kushinagar is an international Buddhist pilgrimage centre.
- 2)Here Lord Gautam Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana.

3) This region is also the **centre point of the Buddhist circuit, which consists of pilgrimage sites at Lumbini, Sarnath and Gaya.**

4) The operationalization of the Kushinagar airport will connect this region directly with national and global visitors and pilgrims.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

45) Consider the following :

1) NITI Aayog is the nodal Ministry for the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

2) According to Global MPI 2021, India's rank is 66 out of 109 countries.

3) The National MPI Project is aimed at deconstructing the Global MPI and creating a globally aligned and yet customised India MPI for drawing up comprehensive Reform Action Plans with the larger goal of improving India's position in the Global MPI rankings.

4) A country's performance is being monitored across 29 global indices including Human Development Index (HDI), Global Hunger Index (GHI), Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), Human Capital Index (HCI), Global Innovation Index (GII), among others

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

46) Consider the following :

1) During the global Covid-19 pandemic, the Government of India has undertaken the Vande Bharat Mission to repatriate Indian nationals and also to facilitate travel of passengers between India and various parts of the world.

2) As on 31.10.2021, more than 2,17,000 flights have been operated under Vande Bharat Mission and over 1.83 crore passengers have been facilitated.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

47) Consider the following :

In order to promote sustainable mining and minimize the adverse footprints of mining on native environment, coal/lignite CPSUs under Ministry of Coal (MoC) have been taking various green initiatives:

- 1) Biological reclamation of mined out land and overburden dumps,
- 2) Avenue plantation along coal transportation and other roads
- 3) Creation of green belt around infrastructures, sidings and other industrial installations to reduce air pollution.
- 4) Plantation around mine boundary and residential colony for noise attenuation.
- 5) Plantation on free land parcels within and outside mine leasehold
- 6) Distribution of saplings to people for participatory plantation programme.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4,5,6
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

48) Consider the following :

1) The Department of School Education and Literacy launched the National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy called National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) on 5th July 2021 under the aegis of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

2) The mission aims to achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy in primary classes. The Mission Guidelines lays down priorities and actionable agendas for States and UTs to achieve the goal of proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by grade 3. Detailed guidelines for the mission have been developed which includes the codification of development goals and learning outcomes for age 3 to 9 years and Lakshya or Targets for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy starting from Balvatikato Grade III.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1, 2
- (d) None of these

Ans: c

49) Consider the following :

1) The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar Gujarat, has been established under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.

2) It works as a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.

3) At present, the GIFT IFSC is the maiden international financial services centre in India.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3

(d) None of these

Ans: c

50) Consider the following:

1) Annual edible oilseeds viz; soybean, rapeseed and mustard, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, safflower and niger are also grown in the country. Potential districts for these crops have been identified on the basis of land suitability and average yield.

2) During the year 2020-21, India imported 133.5 lakh tonnes of edible oil, out of which the share of palm oil was around 56 %.

3) The **National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)** has been launched with the aim to augment the availability of edible oil in the country by harnessing area expansion, increasing crude palm oil production with the aim to reduce the import burden.

4) The salient features of NMEO-Oil palm include assistance for planting material, inputs for intercropping upto gestation period of 4 years and for maintenance, establishment of seed gardens, nurseries, micro irrigation, bore well/pumpset/water harvesting structure, vermi compost units, solar pumps, harvesting tools, custom hiring centre cum harvester Groups, farmers and officers training, and for replanting of old oil palm gardens etc.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1,2,3,4

(d) None of these

Ans: c

TSPSC GROUP I Prelims 2022 (Scheduled on 16.10.2022)
TSLPRB SI & CONSTABLES

Model Questions (for GS Paper)
Set No. 6 {Prepared on 28 .5.2022 }

For Study purpose
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1)Consider the following with reference to Covid-19 :

During a pandemic, as the virus passes through many hosts, thousands of mutations occur and accumulate in a virus due to random errors during its replication cycles. Many just disappear. Only those that render some evolutionary advantage to the virus for its continued replication remain. Some of these could turn out to be more infective and virulent, which calls for constant vigil.

1)Until December 2020, for example, India saw over 7,000 mutations in the 6,400 genomes submitted in the open Indian database. On December 30, the government launched the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG) comprising 10 laboratories. The consortium is to monitor the genomic variations in SARS-CoV-2 on a regular basis through the multi-laboratory network.

2)Back in the real world, many of us have anxiously followed the progress of the covid-19 pandemic, looking for signs of it slowing down. We have learnt new jargon, got accustomed to scary images of a ball-like virus particle studded with “spikes”. Now, we are confronted with new and worrying variants, each of which is described either with a geographical moniker, or with a WHO classification (Greek alphabets alpha, beta, etc.) or more accurately, with a code such as E484K, D614G. The numbers take us back to our linear chain of amino acids in a protein, which in this case is the spike protein on the surface of the virus.

3)The spike protein initiates infection – it is attracted to and binds to a receptor molecule that lies on the surface of cells in your lung and other tissues. This protein molecule is a chain of 1,273 amino acids, and three individual molecules lock together to form the familiar ‘spike’ shape.

4)The 484 is the position in the chain. It lies within the crucial motif that binds to the host receptor E is shorthand for Glutamate, an amino acid with a negative charge, which is now mutated to K (Lysine) – an amino acid with a positive charge. This mutation is found in the Beta and Gamma variants.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

2)Consider the following with reference to Covid-19 :

1)We had seen in May 2020 the emergence of a variant, characterised by the defining mutation D614G, replacing the original Wuhan strain almost globally.

2)The mutation, D614 G, codes for the amino acid G (glycine) in place of the original D (aspartic acid) at a specific genomic site 614 on the spike (S) protein, the critical viral protein that enables the virus’ entry into human cells.

Glycine, being less bulky than aspartic acid, affords more flexibility to the virus, enabling it to bind more efficiently, and endows it with increased infectivity and transmissibility to make it the dominant strain in the world.

3) Fortunately, D614G lies outside the region responsible for producing neutralising antibodies and, therefore, has not been a cause for concern for severity of the disease and effectiveness of vaccines and therapeutics. But it underscores the importance of not underestimating or underplaying the role of mutations. Continued investigation and monitoring of these is necessary to understand sudden localised infection spreads and to control them.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

3) Consider the following with reference to Covid-19/SARS-CoV-2 variants :

1) The three recently detected SARS-CoV-2 variants—the British B.1.1.7, the South African B.1.351 and the Brazilian P.1 “are unusually divergent and each possesses a unique constellation of mutations of potential biological importance”, the study said.

2) Of these, two (B.1.1.7 and P.1) are known to be circulating in Brazil and P.1 was isolated in Manaus on January 12. Genomic analysis has shown that the P.1 variant has accumulated 10 unique spike protein mutations. These include N501Y (common to all the three variants), which is believed to be much more transmissible, as well as E484K, which is supposed to be immunity evading.

3) There is also *in vitro* evidence suggesting that the presence of the E484K mutation reduces neutralisation by polyclonal antibodies.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

4) Consider the following with reference to SARS-CoV-2 :

1) One case of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection in Manaus has been associated with the P.1 variant. Further, according to *Lancet*, a new variant called P.2 has been identified in Manaus, which too carries the escape mutation E484K.

2) Two other cases of reinfection have been reported in Manaus with the P.2 variant. These empirical associations suggest a possible linkage between the new variants and resurgence.

3) Of course, this can be unambiguously proved only through genomic sequencing of isolates from new infections at a much higher rate than during the earlier wave and see if the new variants are indeed causing community transmission.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

5) Consider the following with reference to :

Every year, the Indian Coast Guard's "Operation Olivia", initiated in the early 1980s, helps protect Olive Ridley turtles as they congregate along the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December. The Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) is listed as vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red list. All five species of sea turtles found in India are included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and in the Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which prohibits trade in turtle products by signatory countries. Odisha has also formulated laws for protecting Olive Ridley turtles, and the Orissa Marine Fisheries Act empowers the Coast Guard as one of its enforcement agencies.

"Studies have found three main factors that damage Olive Ridley turtles and their eggs — heavy predation of eggs by dogs and wild animals, indiscriminate fishing with trawlers and gill nets, and beach soil erosion," the officer said.

Dense fishing activity along the coasts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal, especially ocean-going trawlers, mechanised fishing boats and gill-netters pose a severe threat to turtles.

1)The Olive Ridley has one of the most extraordinary nesting habits in the natural world, including mass nesting called arribadas. The 480-km-long Odisha coast has three arribada beaches at Gahirmatha, the mouth of the Devi river, and in Rushikulya, where about 1 lakh nests are found annually.

2)More recently, a new mass nesting site has been discovered on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with more than 5,000 nests reported in a season, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

6)Consider the following with reference to cryptocurrencies :

1)Bitcoin is the first and biggest of decentralised cryptocurrencies, which are online payment systems that are increasingly becoming mainstream.

2)Ethereum, Tether, and Binance Coin are some of the many others that have emerged after Bitcoin.

3)Cryptocurrencies are built on the back of blockchain technology, a system of distributed, cryptographically-secured account keeping. In this system, the users keep a tab on every digital 'coin' and transaction rather than a banking system with a governing body at its centre.

4)Cryptocurrencies as commodities are highly volatile, a recent example being the massive swings in the values of Bitcoin and Dogecoin, based merely on the tweets of cryptocurrency 'evangelist' Elon Musk.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

7)Consider the following with reference to free vaccines :

1)The Centre's announcement came after the Supreme Court on May 31 held that the Union government's policy of not providing free vaccines to those in the 18-44 years age bracket was prima facie "arbitrary and irrational".

"The policy of the Central Government for conducting free vaccination themselves for groups under the first 2 phases, and replacing it with paid vaccination by the State/UT Governments and private hospitals for the persons between 18-44 years is, prima facie, arbitrary and irrational," the court said in its order.

2) Under its policy, the Centre said it will procure up to 75% of the doses of vaccines from manufacturers and will provide them free of cost to the State governments.

3) Private institutions can procure the remaining 25% of doses.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

8) Consider the following with reference to Oxygen supply :

1) Under Project O₂ for India, a **National Consortium of Oxygen** is enabling the national level supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, manufacturing compressors, final products, i.e., oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators. The consortium is not only looking forward to providing immediate to short-term relief but also working to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem for long-term preparedness.

2) A committee of experts has been evaluating critical equipment such as oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators, from a pool of India-based manufacturers, start-ups, and MSMEs (in partnership with FICCI, MESA, etc.). The manufacturing and supply consortium also includes Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL); Tata Consulting Engineers (TCE); C-CAMP, Bengaluru; IIT Kanpur (IIT-K); IIT Delhi (IIT-D); IIT Bombay (IIT-B), IIT Hyderabad (IIT-H); IISER, Bhopal; Venture Center, Pune; and more than 40 MSMEs

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

9) Consider the following with reference to G7 :

1) Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the first Outreach Session of the G7 Summit .

2) The session, titled 'Building Back Stronger - Health', focused on global recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and on strengthening resilience against future pandemics.

3) During the session, Prime Minister expressed appreciation for the support extended by the G7 and other guest countries during the recent wave of COVID infections in India.

4) He highlighted India's 'whole of society' approach to fight the pandemic, synergising the efforts of all levels of the government, industry and civil society.

5) He also explained India's successful use of open source digital tools for contact tracing and vaccine management, and conveyed India's willingness to share its experience and expertise with other developing countries.

6) Prime Minister committed India's support for collective endeavours to improve global health governance. He sought the G7's support for the proposal moved at the WTO by India and South Africa, for a TRIPS waiver on COVID related technologies.

7) Prime Minister Modi said that today's meeting should send out a message of "One Earth One Health" for the whole world. Calling for global unity, leadership, and solidarity to prevent future pandemics, Prime Minister emphasized the special responsibility of democratic and transparent so

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- (d) None

Ans: c

10) Consider the following with reference to G7 :

1) India is a “natural ally” to work with the world’s richest G7 countries to fight against threats of authoritarianism, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at a special outreach session for guest countries on “Open Societies and Open Economies” at the G7 summit that ended in Corbis Bay, U.K., .

2) Marking out the need for a “free, open and inclusive” Indo-Pacific, officials also said the government will study U.S. President Joseph Biden’s proposal for a “Build Back Better World” (B3W) initiative, seen as a counter to China’s trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, that was endorsed by the G7, keeping in mind the principles of “transparency and inclusion”.

3) However, in a departure from the main 25-page G7 communique, which was issued by U.S., U.K., Germany, France, Canada, Italy and Japan, and contained negative references to China on the issue of its aggression in the East and South China Sea, and human rights issues in Xinjiang, MEA officials said Chinese aggression “was not raised” at the outreach meetings with guest countries Australia, South Korea and South Africa, and that there are “other forums” where it is being discussed.

4) The communique also made a strong call for a “timely, transparent, expert-led, and science-based WHO-convened Phase 2 COVID-19 Origins study including, as recommended by the experts’ report, in China,” that India had also called for in a statement during the World Health Assembly last month. “As the world’s largest democracy, India is a natural ally for the G7 and Guest Countries to defend shared values from authoritarianism, terrorism and violent extremism, disinformation and infodemics and economic coercion,” said MEA Secretary (Economic Relations) P. Harish, describing Mr. Modi’s virtual intervention at the summit, where Mr. Modi was the only leader not to be physically present, owing to the COVID-19 second wave in India.

5) Mr. Modi also called on “tech companies and social media platforms” to ensure a “safe cyber environment” for all, a statement significant given the government’s recent regulatory issues with Facebook, Twitter and other tech companies.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- (d) None

Ans: c

11) Consider the following with reference to WMD :

1) The ‘weapon of mass destruction’ (WMD) capability of bio-weapons has been long recognised but very little has been done by the international community about it.

2) Of the three types of WMD, nuclear weapons have received the maximum safety and security attention given the treaty and institutional arrangements associated with it. 3) Chemical weapons come next. There is an international convention and an implementing body.

3) However, when it comes to bio-weapons, all we have is the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) of 1972 with no implementing body. The BTWC does not have a verification clause, nor does it have clearly laid down rules and procedures to guide research in this field.

4)The dilemma is evident in Article 1 of the BTWC itself which bans “microbial or other biological agents, or toxins, whatever their origin or method of production” that “have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes”. In other words, while bio-weapons are banned, research for medical and bio-defence purposes are allowed. While this is understandable, the problem is that there is a thin line between bio-defence research and bio-weapons research. Since bio-defence research routinely uses pathogens and toxins for experimental purposes, processes, know-how and outcomes of bio-defence research could potentially be used to create bio-weapons, especially with the new advancements in synthetic biology. More so as the pharmaceutical industry has vehemently opposed any intrusive inspection regime.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

12)Consider the following with reference to Biological Weapons :

1)An Ad Hoc Group set up in 1994 to negotiate a Protocol to enhance the transparency of treaty-relevant biological facilities and activities to help deter violations of the BTWC submitted a report at the Fifth BTWC Review Conference in 2001 but was not accepted by the member states. The initiative has since been shelved.

2)Pandemics have also highlighted that the traditional distinction at the international institutional level between biological weapons (a field governed by the BTWC) and diseases (a domain under the World Health Organization) may not be useful anymore. There needs to be more conversation between health specialists and bio-weapons/defence specialists.

3)The November 2021 BTWC review conference must take stock of the advances in the field, address the thinning line between biotechnology research and bio-weapons research, and consider international measures for monitoring and verification.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

13)Consider the following with reference to Green Energy and Rare Earth Minerals :

1)Amid the transition to green energy, in which rare earth minerals are sure to play a role, China’s market dominance is enough to sound an alarm in western capitals.

2)Rare earth minerals, with names like neodymium, praseodymium and dysprosium, are crucial to the manufacture of magnets used in industries of the future, such as wind turbines and electric cars. And they are already being used in consumer goods such as smartphones, computer screens and telescopic lenses.

3) U.S. Senate passed a law aimed at improving American competitiveness that includes provisions to improve critical minerals supply chains.

4)U.S. aims to boost production and processing of rare earths and lithium, another key mineral component, while “working with allies to increase sustainable global supply and reduce reliance on competitors,” Deputy Director of the National Economic Council Sameera Fazili said

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

14) Consider the following with reference to LAC :

1) Confirmed facts about incursions during May are that Chinese forces came in sizeable numbers and crossed the undemarcated LAC at quite a few points in the Ladakh and Sikkim sectors.

2) These were in the vicinity of Pangong Tso (Lake), the Galwan Valley, the Hot Springs-Gogra area (all in Ladakh), and at Naku La in the Sikkim sector.

3) Talks at the level of military commanders, from lieutenant generals to brigadiers and lower formations, have produced, to repeat the official jargon, a "partial disengagement". Both sides have also agreed, according to the same set of officials, to handle the situation "in line with the agreement" that had been reached.

4) Twenty Indian personnel, including a Colonel, were killed in violent clashes with Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, in what is possibly the worst incident between the two countries in decades. The clashes came amid a "de-escalation" process in the Galwan area that was started last week (June, 2020), after a month long stand-off between troops at several points along the LAC in Ladakh and Sikkim.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

15) Consider the following with reference to :

1) India is a member of the Quad (the U.S., Japan, Australia and India) which has a definite anti-China connotation

2) India is almost the last holdout in Asia against China's Belt Road Initiative (BRI). India also loses no opportunity to declaim against the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). China further views India's assertions regarding Gilgit-Baltistan, as an implicit attack on the CPEC, China's flagship programme.

3) More recently, India was one of the earliest countries to put curbs and restrictions on Chinese foreign direct investment. Adding to this, is the rising crescendo of anti-China propaganda within India.

4) The Global Times has implied in one of its editorial pieces recently, that China's friendly policy towards India should be reciprocated, and that India "should not be fooled by Washington". On the eve of the recent high-level border talks between top military leaders, China again made an elliptical reference to the need for India to maintain equidistance between the U.S. and China

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

16) Consider the following :

1) India's Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar has said that India would repatriate more than 100,000 of its citizens between May 17, 2020 and June 13, 2020 from 60 countries, a majority of whom are expected to be from the West Asia region.

2)Between June 10 and June 16,there were around 20 flights scheduled to bring Indian citizens back between India and Saudi Arabia alone.

3)In neighbouring United Arab Emirates (UAE), more than 3.4 million Indians work. 4)Overall, an estimated figure of close to nine million Indians work in West Asia, responsible for sending back more than 56% of India's annual infusion of \$80 billion in remittances. The UAE alone is responsible for \$19 billion in remittances, being the third largest trade partner of India after the United States and China.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

17)Consider the following :

1)India gets around 60% of its hydrocarbon requirements from West Asia. On an annualised basis, India saves up to \$1.35 billion for each \$1 drop in oil prices. With Brent still hovering under \$40, the softening oil prices have helped cushion the impact of the national lockdown on the balance of payments.

2)India has also taken advantage of the low prices to build up its strategic reserves and is looking at offshore storage options.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

18)Consider the following :

1)Serological or antibody tests are not as accurate as the PCR tests, but they are useful indicators of the spread of the novel coronavirus among people. The ICMR study found that 0.73% of the population, examined for antibodies produced specifically for SARS-CoV-2 via an ELISA test, had evidence of past exposure to the virus.

2)"The Rapid Antigen test may be used in containment zones and hospital settings under strict medical supervision. The Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection kit takes 15 minutes to show results and therefore, will help in early detection of the disease. The antigen test can be conducted at the site of sample collection in the healthcare setting within one hour of sample collection. Domestic manufacturing capacity of antigen test kits in the country currently is around 10 million in a month,"

3)It said that the ELISA and CLIA antibody tests can be used for asymptomatic frontline workers, doctors, paramedics etc., and for those working in COVID-19 care to boost their confidence

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

19)Consider the following with reference to hill broom project . forest non-timber products :

1)The hill broom project is one of the biggest success stories of the Van Dhan Yojna, launched nationwide on Independence Day 2019

2)It is to ensure that van dhan, or forest wealth, stays in the hands of forest dwellers, by providing local platforms for processing, value addition, marketing and sale of minor forest produce.

3) Ten months later, 1,205 tribal enterprises employing 3.6 lakh people through 18,000 self-help groups have been set up under the scheme. About ₹3.5 crore worth of sales have taken place through these platforms, TRIFED managing director Pravir Krishna told journalists at a webinar on Monday. It is hoped to treble participation to 10 lakh people and 50,000 SHGs under the COVID-19 relief plan. A digital procurement platform is expected to be in place by month-end.

4) The products range from hill brooms, wild honey, candles and ointments made of rock beeswax, bamboo bottles, aloe vera soaps and gooseberry wine in the north east, to hawan [incense] sticks, moha laddu and, amla murabba [preserved gooseberries] in Maharashtra and Rajasthan, and tamarind blocks, dried tendu leaves, processed mahua, lac bangles and eco-friendly leaf plates from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

20) Consider the following :

1) A Bench led by Justice U.U. Lalit issued formal notice to the government on a petition filed by Sabu Mathew George challenging an April 4 notification issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which put on hold the implementation of certain rules of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex-Selection Rules) of 1996 till June 30, 2020.

2) One of the suspended provisions, Rule 8, is intrinsically connected with the statute's provisions dealing with the mandatory registration of genetic counselling centres, laboratories and clinics. Non-compliance leads to penalty.

3) "The Central government has arbitrarily and selectively weakened a legislation aimed at curbing the pernicious activity of sex-selection and sex-determination. The number of girls missing at birth due to the practice of gender biased sex selection in India has been estimated at 0.46 million girls per year for the period 2001-12 (which is 5.52 million girl children, missing at birth for the 12-year period), and the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act and the Rules thereunder, are aimed at remedying this social evil," the petition said.

By suspending the Rules, the government has diluted the PCPNDT Act, the petition said.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

21) Consider the following with reference to force majeure :

1) Many parties have invoked COVID-19 as force majeure (FM) — an event that is beyond the control of the parties and renders contractual performance impossible. Most contracts contain a FM clause to catalogue events like wars, riots or strikes in which the parties would prefer to terminate the contract or put it on hold. Acts of the government (such as lockdowns) and acts of god (such as floods, cyclones) are typically listed under a FM clause.

2) This provision reduces the scope of dispute between parties in case a FM event occurs. Plus, it helps them allocate contract risks efficiently. The problem is, many a times the clause contains ambiguous and catch-all phrases like, 'events including but not limited to the ones listed herein'. Such ambiguities are being exploited by many contracting parties. They are seeking termination or suspension of business deals by claiming that COVID-19 is a FM event. Moreover, ambivalent statements by government agencies regarding the pandemic have added to the confusion.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

22) Consider the following with reference to UNGA :

1) India expects to sail through as the 193-member United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) votes for contenders to five non-permanent seats at the UN Security Council for 2021-22.

2) India is standing unopposed as the nominee for the Asia-Pacific seat and needs two-thirds of UNGA members, or 129 votes, to be confirmed.

3) Mexico is also unopposed in its bid for the Latin American and Caribbean seat, while there is a straight contest between Kenya and late entrant Djibouti for the African seat.

4) All eyes are, however on the contest between Canada, Ireland and Norway, who are vying for the two seats allotted to the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), with each making a pitch for India's vote.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

23) Consider the following with reference to Urban jungle :

1) Guwahati redefines the term "urban jungle" with 334 and counting free-ranging faunal species living in the green spaces within concrete structures.

2) The 328-sq km city and its outskirts have 18 hills, eight reserve forests, two wildlife sanctuaries and a Ramsar site (Deepor Beel) besides the Brahmaputra flowing past its northern edge. This stretch of the river has a few Ganges river dolphin, which has the status of 'city animal'.

3) Mr. Purkayastha and members of Help Earth, a green group, have over the years recorded 26 species of amphibians, 56 reptiles, 36 mammals and 216 birds.

4) "We have more than 1,100 captive wild animals belonging to 107 species, of which 52 are highly protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972. Our captive animals include exotic species such as giraffe, hippopotamus, macaw, Gaboon viper and some birds," said Tejas Mariswamy, the zoo's director

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

24) Consider the following with reference to G7 :

1) On the day of the Outreach Sessions of the G7 Summit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took part in two sessions titled 'Building Back Together—Open Societies and Economies' and 'Building Back Greener: Climate and Nature'.

2)Invited to speak as a Lead Speaker in the session on Open Societies, PM recalled that democracy and freedom were a part of India's civilisations ethos. He shared the concern expressed by several Leaders that open societies are particularly vulnerable to disinformation and cyber-attacks, and stressed the need to ensure that cyberspace remains an avenue for advancing democratic values and not of subverting it. Highlighting the non-democratic and unequal nature of global governance institutions, PM called for the reform of the multilateral system as the best signal of commitment to the cause of Open Societies. The leaders adopted the 'Open Societies Statement' at the end of the meeting.

3)In the session on climate change, PM highlighted that the planet's atmosphere, biodiversity and oceans can not be protected by countries acting in silos, and called for collective action on climate change. Speaking about India's unwavering commitment to climate action, he mentioned the commitment by Indian Railways to achieve Net Zero Emissions by 2030. He stressed that India is the only G-20 country on track to meet its Paris commitments. He also took note of the increasing effectiveness of the two major global initiatives nurtured by India i.e. the CDRI and the International Solar Alliance. Prime Minister stressed that developing countries need better access to climate finance, and called for a holistic approach towards climate change that covers all dimensions of the problem- mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer, climate financing, equity, climate justice and lifestyle change.

4)Prime Minister's message of global solidarity and unity, especially between open and democratic societies and economies, in tackling the global challenges of health, climate change and economic recovery was well received by the Leaders at the Summit.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

25)Consider the following with reference to "Pradhan Mantri AnnadataAaySanraksHan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA) :

1) Umbrella Scheme "Pradhan Mantri AnnadataAaySanraksHan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA) announced by the government in 2018 will aid in providing remunerative return to farmers for their produce.

2)The Umbrella Scheme consists of three sub-schemes i.e. Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) and Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS) on a pilot basis.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

26)Consider the following with reference to edible oils and oilseeds :

1)The Department of Food and Public Distribution in a landmark decision has imposed stock limits on Edible Oils and Oilseeds for a period upto 31st March, 2022.

2)The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2021 has been issued with immediate effect i.e. from 8th September, 2021.Future trading on Mustard Oil and Oilseeds was suspended in NCDEX w.e.f October 08, 2021.

3)The Centre's decision will soften the prices of edible oils in the domestic market, thereby, bringing great relief to consumers across the country.

4)The high prices of edible oil in international market has a substantial impact on the domestic edible oil prices.Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri NarendraModi, Govt. of India has formulated a multi- pronged strategy to ensure that the prices of essential commodities like edible oils remain controlled. Measures like rationalization of import duty structure, launching of a web-portal for self-disclosure of stocks held by various stakeholders etc. had already been taken.

5)In a consistent effort to further cool down the domestic prices of Edible Oils, the Centre has issued the order which was shared with all States.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

27)Consider the following with reference to ISpA :

1)ISpA is the Premier Industry Association of Space and Satellite companies, which aspires to be the collective voice of the Indian Space industry. It will undertake policy advocacy and engage with all stakeholders in the Indian Space domain, including the Government and its agencies. Echoing the Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, ISpA will help in making India self-reliant, technologically advanced and a leading player in the space arena.

2)ISpA is represented by leading home grown and global corporations with advanced capabilities in space and satellite technologies. Its founding members include Larson & Toubro, Nelco (Tata Group), OneWeb, Bharti Airtel, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries and Ananth Technology Limited. Other core members include Godrej, Hughes India, Azista-BST Aerospace Private Limited, BEL, Centum Electronics, Maxar India.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

28)Consider the following with reference to Chipi Airport in Sindhudurg District of Maharashtra :

1)Sindhudurg Airport also known as Chipi Airport is in Sindhudurg District of Maharashtra. The airport is spread over 275 hectares area. The runway length is 2500 mtr. (8202 ft.) and is capable for the operation of narrow body aircraft like Airbus A-320 and Boeing B-737. The airport Terminal Building has the capacity to handle 200 departing and 200 arriving passengers during peak hours.

2)The inauguration marked the commencement of the 61st airport under the UDAN scheme and successful operationalization of the 381 routes under UDAN.

3)Now people can fly at ease by opting for a flight of 85 mins from Sindhudurg to Mumbai while earlier they were forced to opt for a road or train travel of more than 10 hours between these two cities.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

29)Consider the following with reference to edible oils :

1) Though the international prices of edible oils have gone up in the range of 1.95% to 7.17% after the import duty reduction, the decreasing trend in domestic prices and net effect (ranges for 3.26% to 8.58% declined) after duty reduction is quite substantial. Necessary policy intervention by Central Government with reference to duty reduction is proving to be beneficial for the general consumers.

2) International Prices of Soyabean oil, Sunflower Oil, Crude Palm Oil and RBD Palmolein increased by 1.85%, 3.15%, 8.44 and 10.92% respectively over the month. After the import duty reduction (w.e.f. 11.09.2021) on imported edible oils, domestic retail and wholesale prices reduced in the range of 0.22% to 1.93%.

3) However, Mustard Oil is purely domestic oil and its prices are expected to soften with number of other measures the Government is contemplating.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

30) Consider the following with reference to reduction in paddy straw generation :

1) Steps taken towards reduction in paddy straw generation is yielding positive results. The total paddy area in the states of Haryana, Punjab and eight NCR Districts of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) have come down by 7.72 per cent during the current year as compared to last year.

2) Similarly, total paddy straw generation from the non-basmati variety is likely to be reduced by 12.42 per cent during the current year as compared to the previous year.

3) Both Central and State Governments of Haryana, Punjab and U.P. have been taking measures to diversify crops as well as to reduce the use of PUSA-44 variety of paddy. Burning of paddy straw from the non-basmati variety of crops is the prime concern. Crop diversification and moving away from PUSA-44 variety with short duration High Yielding Varieties are part of the framework and action plan for control of stubble burning.

4) As per data received from the State Governments of Haryana, Punjab and U.P., the total amount of paddy straw generated will come down this year. The total paddy straw generation is likely to come down by 1.31 million tonnes (from 20.05 million tonnes in 2020 to 18.74 million tonnes in 2021) in Punjab; by 0.8 million tonnes (from 7.6 million tonnes in 2020 to 6.8 million tonnes in 2021) in Haryana and; by 0.09 million tonnes (from 0.75 million tonnes in 2020 to 0.67 million tonnes in 2021) in the eight NCR districts of U.P. this year.

5) The total quantity of straw generated by the respective states was 28.4 million tonnes in 2020 which is now expected to come down to 26.21 million tonnes in 2021.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- (d) None

Ans: c

31) Consider the following with reference to logistic costs :

1) Emphasized on reduction of logistic costs below 10% for making retail market more competitive and boosting economic growth. Addressing the inaugural session of M&M & IIM Ahmedabad MPOWER Series he said the government is focusing on integrated infrastructure development through the announcement of the National Infra Pipeline and Gati-Shakti programs. 2) It has been planned to construct 25,000 kilometers of National highways within the next 2 years.

3)The Minister said under the National Infrastructure pipeline program, a roadmap of 2,800 projects has been planned with a length of over 1 lakh kilometers. He said flagship Bharatmala pariyojana has planned development of 34,800 km of highways connecting major urban and economic centers throughout the nation.

4)Shri Gadkari said with so many upcoming new alternative fuels such as Ethanol, LNG, Bio-CNG, Electric, Hydrogen, the transport sector in India is standing at a very important junction. He said whatever policies we design and adopt right now will pave the way for the next 30-40 years. He said we must be open to new technologies as over-regulation can sometimes kill emerging technologies at a very young age.The Minister said what we need is a motivated push for technologies which have a positive impact on the ecology and environment.He said we can use our knowledge in management fields to constantly work and improve the economic viability of such technologies. He said we are moving ahead with blending ethanol with petrol and even Flex Engines, which can run on both 100% ethanol or 100% petrol. Shri Gadkari said earlier people were reluctant of using or shifting to electric vehicles and had some reservations but today India is breaking records for sale of electric 2 wheelers and the similar patterns will be followed for four wheelers too.

5)India's Bio-Economy is on way to achieve 150-billion-dollar target from the current 70 billion-dollar to contribute effectively to Prime Minister's vision of a 5 trillion-dollar economy by 2024-25. He was speaking here after releasing the Genetic Version of Indian rice and chickpea (DNA panArray) developed by National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2,3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

32)Consider the following with reference to Rice and Chickpea (Translational Facility) :

1)The two DNA chips for rice and chickpea, IndRA and IndiCA are the first Pan-Genome genotyping arrays in these two crops and will tap the huge potential of Indian plant biodiversity and genomic diversity towards food and nutritional security of the Nation.

2) It is that , along with the other research platforms established by DBT in this institute, such as, the National Genomics and Genotyping Facility (NGGF), State of the Art Advanced Proteomics and Metabolomics Platforms and Plant Transformation Platforms, this Translational Facility and the Chips will tap the huge potential of Indian agricultural biodiversity towards achieving the goals of the National mission programs and SDG zero hunger goal.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

33)Consider the following various Missions to achieve Bio-Hub Goal by 2025 :

1) Mission mode programme in "Germplasm characterisation in major crop species, Developing high yielding, Climate-resilient, Disease resistant and Nutrient-rich crops towards the second green revolution,

2)Applying gene editing technology for improving crop varieties, One Health Mission on AMR for livestock and zoonotic Diseases, National Nutrition Mission on Fortified and Functional Foods, Phytopharma Mission for development of affordable phyto-pharmaceutical drugs and Mission on Waste to Value Technologies.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

34) Consider the following with reference to NIPGR :

1) The Minister inaugurated "NIPGR First Translational Facility Network for Speed Breeding and High Throughput (HTP) Field Phenotyping". Referring to NIPGR's First Translational Facility Network for Speed Breeding and High Throughput (HTP) Field Phenotyping at the campus of Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited (BIBCOL), Bulandshahr, UP, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Genomics-assisted breeding is a rapidly emerging strategy for ensuring global food and nutrition security as well as for achieving future sustainable agriculture.

2) It is said, speed breeding technique shortens the breeding cycle by promoting quick growth and development and rapid generation advancement (even up to 4-6 generations per year) of crop plants. Speed breeding has been demonstrated in wheat, barley, chickpea, pea, canola and peanut in fully enclosed, controlled-environment growth chambers with supplementary environment

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

35) Consider the following :

1) India officially joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, a group of more than 70 countries encouraging the adoption of the global goal to protect 30x30.

2) HAC members currently include a mix of countries in the global north and south; European, Latin American, Africa and Asia countries are among the members. India is the first of the BRICS bloc of major emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) to join the HAC.

3) India's announcement comes in the lead up to a high-level biodiversity meeting, hosted by China. The virtual meeting to take place October 11-15 will tackle key aspects of the biodiversity treaty to be finalized in 2022. The global 30x30 goal is currently a centrepiece of the treaty.

4) Welcoming India's decision to join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, which was initiated at the "One Planet Summit" in Paris in January 2021, Mr. Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India said that on the eve of the opening of COP15, India joining the High Ambition Coalition is a real game changer and will boost our multilateral efforts. Stating that India is a major player for biodiversity protection, the French ambassador informed that this coalition aims to promote an international agreement to protect at least 30 % of world's land and ocean by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

36) Consider the following with reference to vehicle scrapping policy :

1) In the vehicle scrapping policy, it is proposed to have a system of incentives to nudge vehicle owners to discard old and polluting vehicles, which have higher maintenance and fuel consumption costs.

2)The concession shall be available upto eight years, in case of transport vehicles, and upto fifteen years, in case of non-transport vehicles.(It shall come into force from the 1st day of April, 2022.)

3)In the Vehicle Scrapping Policy, it is proposed to have a system of incentives and disincentives to nudge vehicle owners to discard old and polluting vehicles, which have higher maintenance and fuel consumption costs.

4)In this regard, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a GSR Notification, 714(E) dated 04.10.2021 in the Gazette of India, which shall come into force from the 1st day of April, 2022. Details are as below:

i)As an incentive, there will be waiver of the fee for issue of certificate of registration for a new vehicle, purchased against the authority of the Certificate of Deposit (CoD) issued by a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility for a vehicle being scrapped.

ii)As regards disincentives, there will be:

iii)Increase in the fee for conducting fitness test and renewal of fitness certificate for motor vehicles more than 15 years old,

iv)Increase in the fitness certification fee for transport vehicles more than 15 years old, and

v)Increase in the renewal of registration fee for personal vehicles (non transport vehicles) more than 15 years old.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

37)Consider the following with reference to PSA Oxygen Plants :

1) A total of 1224 PSA Oxygen Plants have been funded under PM CARES all across the country, out of which more than 1100 Plants have been commissioned, providing an output of over 1750 MT oxygen per day.

2)It is a testimony of the proactive measures taken by the Government to augment India's medical oxygen generation capacity since the advent of Covid-19 pandemic.

3)The project to commission a PSA oxygen plant in each district of the country was executed while dealing with complex challenges of hilly areas, islands and territories with difficult terrain.

4)Operations and maintenance of these plants have been ensured by training more than 7,000 personnel. They come with an embedded Internet of Things (IoT) device for real time monitoring of their functioning and performance through a consolidated web portal.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

38)Consider the following with reference to Central Asian Flyway(CAF) :

1)Central Asian Flyway (CAF) covers a large area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans. This flyway comprises several important migration routes of birds. Including India, there are 30 countries under the Central Asian Flyway.

2) Approximately one in five of the world's 11,000 bird species migrate, some covering enormous distances. Conserving migratory birds requires cooperation and coordination along the entire flyway between countries and across national boundaries.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

39) Consider the following with reference to Blazars :

1) Blazars are one of the brightest sources in the Universe. A special class of these objects are called BL Lacs, which show rapid and large variability in emission.

2) A blazar called OJ 287, whose central supermassive black hole is among the largest known, belongs to this class. However, the origin of its optical flare is unique and different from other BL Lacs. It had been proposed as a binary black hole system, where one supermassive black hole has been orbiting around the central black hole with an orbital period of almost 12 years (result from century-long optical monitoring).

3) The underlying physical mechanism of optical flaring has remained a puzzle for a long time, mainly because of its unpredictability and huge luminosity.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

40) Consider the following with reference to NRSB :

1) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has notified constitution of the National Road Safety Board, along with Rules thereof, on 3rd September, 2021. The Rules specify provisions regarding its composition, eligibility for Chairman and Members of the Board, selection process, term of office, procedure for resignation and removal, powers and functions of the Board, meetings of the Board etc.

2) The Head Office of the Board shall be in the National Capital Region and the Board may establish offices at other places in India. It shall consist of the Chairman and not less than three, but not exceeding seven Members, to be appointed by the Central Government.

3) The Board shall be responsible for promoting road safety, innovation and adoption of new technology and for regulating traffic and motor vehicles.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

41) Consider the following :

1) A team of Indian scientists have developed an environmentally friendly, non-toxic, biodegradable polymer using guar gum and chitosan, both of which are polysaccharides extracted from guar beans and shells of crab and shrimps.

2) The fabricated guar gum-chitosan film having high water stability, high mechanical strength, and excellent resistance to harsh environmental conditions can potentially be used in packaging applications.

3) Polysaccharide is one of the biopolymers with high potential for use in synthesis of packaging material. However, due to some drawbacks of polysaccharides, such as low mechanical properties, high water-solubility, and low barrier properties, they are not preferred.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

42) Consider the following with reference to TIWB :

1) Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched its programme in Seychelles on 4th October, 2021.

2) India was chosen as the Partner Administration and has provided Tax Expert for this programme.

3) This programme is expected to be of 12 months duration during which India, in collaboration with the TIWB Secretariat and support of the UNDP Country Office in Mauritius and Seychelles, aims to aid Seychelles in strengthening its tax administration by transferring technical know-how and skills to its tax auditors through sharing of best audit practices. The focus of the programme will be on Transfer Pricing cases of tourism and financial services sectors.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

43) Consider the following with reference to Ecotourism :

1) Ecotourism is practiced world over as well as in India.

2) Considering the need for a participatory approach for conservation of wildlife and its habitats, the guidelines emphasize the engagement of local communities in a manner that enriches local economies and encourage sustainable use of indigenous material through financial viable value chains to help local communities become '*Atma Nirbhar*' and promotes partnership among stakeholders in development of ecotourism as well as equitable sharing of benefits with local communities.

3) Creation of foundation in each Protected Area and sharing of revenue with local communities has also been underscored in the guidelines. Besides, the guidelines provide for identification of ecotourism sites, zonation and making an ecotourism plan which shall be part of approved management plan/working plan for forest/protected area and tourism master plan in case of eco-sensitive zone. It also provides for monitoring mechanism at district level, state level and national level.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

44) Consider the following with reference to Dolphins in Ganga :

- 1) Dolphin is an aquatic apex predator and controls the aquatic system. Dolphin act as an umbrella species, whose conservation will result in well being of associated habitat and biodiversity, including humans.
- 2) Dolphin enumeration is very important to delineate important conservation areas, where development can be planned with appropriate mitigation measures, and to also secure livelihoods of local communities.
- 3) Dolphin enumeration exercise to be undertaken in states of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab. Dolphin estimation is an important process and constituent of "Project Dolphin".
- 4) The monitoring protocol methodology includes visual monitoring of Gangetic Dolphin populations. Depending upon the width and depth of river, boat based method for Dolphin visual monitoring would use double observer survey, boat in tandem survey and single boat survey.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

45) Consider the following with reference to Nano Urea :

- 1) "India has become the first country in the world to start commercial production of Nano Urea. Not only has Nano Urea been produced on a large scale today, but we are happy that farmers are adopting it on a large scale since the very beginning. It started production in June and till now we have produced more than 5 million bottles of Nano Urea. More than one lakh bottles of nano urea are being produced every day
- 2) In a short span of time, Liquid Nano Urea has emerged as a powerful alternative to conventional Urea. He also said that increasing use of liquid nano urea will result in economic savings to the farmers, increase productivity and reduce India's dependence on urea imports. This will also reduce the subsidy burden on the government and the government will be able to use this savings on other public welfare schemes.
- 3) IFFCO in its study has found that spraying nano urea through drones is more effective on crops and will also have a positive effect on productivity.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

46) Consider the following with reference to SNPs :

- 1) The 'State Nutrition Profiles' (SNPs) give insights on nutrition outcomes, immediate and underlying determinants and interventions based on NFHS-rounds 3, 4 and 5.
- 2) The SNPs include a comprehensive compilation of crucial data that can positively affect policy decisions and facilitate research in the area. The trend analysis of key indicators such as wasting, stunting, anemia, underweight and overweight and NCDs (Diabetes and High blood pressure) showcase the variability of performance across districts.
- 3) The reports highlight the best and worst performing districts, highest burden districts and top coverage districts of the country. The SNPs are based on the headcount-based analyses and use of data from NFHS-5 to provide evidence that helps identify priority districts and number of districts in the state with public health concern as per WHO guidelines. Each SNP has incorporated key takeaways for children, women and men and identifies areas where the state has the potential to improve further.

NITI Aayog, in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNICEF and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) launched 'The State Nutrition Profiles' for 19 States and Union Territories on 30th September, 2021. The State nutrition profiles were released by , Additional

Secretary, NITI Aayog in a webinar titled "Towards progress on nutrition in India: Insights from National Family Health Survey (Phase -1)" organized by IFPRI.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

47) Consider the following with reference to PDR Deficit Grant :

1) The Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant is provided to the States under Article 275 of the Constitution. The grants are released as per the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission in monthly installments to meet the gap in Revenue Accounts of the States post devolution. The Commission has recommended PDRD grants to 17 States during 2021-22.

2) The eligibility of States to receive this grant and the quantum of grant was decided by the Commission based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the State after taking into account the assessed devolution for the financial year 2021-22.

3) The Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs. 1,18,452 crore to 17 States in the financial year 2021-22. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 69,097.00 crore (58.33%) has been released so far.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

48) Consider the following with reference to availability of fertilizers :

1) Government is making available fertilizers, namely Urea and 24 grades of P&K fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers/ importers.

2) The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is being governed by NBS Scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2010.

3) In accordance with its farmer friendly approach, the Govt. is committed to ensure the availability of P&K fertilizers to the farmers at affordable prices. The subsidy would be released to fertilizer companies as per above rates so that they can make available fertilizers to farmers at an affordable price than it would have been otherwise.

4) The subsidy on P&K fertilizers will be provided based on the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates approved by the CCEA to ensure smooth availability of these fertilizers to the farmers at affordable prices.

5) It will give Rs. 438 per bag benefit on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Rs. 100 per bag benefit each on NPK 10-26-26, NPK 20-20-0-13 & NPK 12-32-16 so as to maintain prices of these fertilizers affordable to the farmers.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- (d) None

Ans: c

49) Consider the following :

1) We in India have respected and revered nature for thousands of years.

2) With just 2.4% of the world's land area, we harbour 8% of all recorded species and are recognized as one of the 8 centres of origin of cultivated plants. Several hundred species of wild crop relatives are also distributed all over the country

3) "India has committed to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, more than its earlier target of 21 million hectares and I am also happy to inform that one of the India's intended National Determined Contributions as part of Paris Agreement is to create additional carbon sink of 2.5 -3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover, which will also enhance biodiversity in India."

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

50) Consider the following with reference to Aichi targets :

1) Speaking on Aichi targets, it is informed the gathering that India has already set aside over 17.41% of its geographical area for meeting the conservation objectives and more areas are being identified to enhance this coverage.

2) Understand that the recent digital reporting by India has significantly contributed to achieving the global conservation target under Aichi Biodiversity Target-11 and the Sustainable Development Goal-15. I am very pleased to convey India's strong commitment to the global 30 by 30 initiative

3) Mainstream biodiversity across all sectors in order to conserve nature, reverse its loss and to secure a healthy planet for our current and future generations.

4) Ensure that benefits of biodiversity conservation flow to the poor and resource-dependent communities, who are the true custodians of biodiversity

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1,2,3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

51) Consider the following :

1) Talks are aimed at resolving the issues related to the Gorkhas

2) All-round development and prosperity of the Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars region is the top most priority of the Modi Government.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

52) Consider the following with reference to SRI Fund :

NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited (NVCFL), a 100% subsidiary of National Small Industries Corporation Limited - NSIC, a Mini-Ratna Corporation of Government of India under Ministry of MSMEs was incorporated. Self-Reliant

India Fund (SRI Fund) was anchored by NVCFL with the target corpus of Rs 10,006 crore and object of supporting Daughter Funds for onward provision to MSMEs as growth capital, through equity, quasi-equity and debt, as permitted under the AIF Regulations. The Fund would, inter alia, be invested into by the Ministry of MSME as the Anchor Investor and NSIC as the Sponsor.

- 1) The Private Placement Memorandum filed by NVCFL with the Securities and Exchange Board of India to register SRI Fund as a Category II Alternative Investment Fund was registered by SEBI on the 1st September 2021.
- 2) SRI Fund shall address the equity funding challenges of the MSME sector and give them a thrust to break their barriers, encourage corporatisation and allow them to grow to their full inherent potential to become global champions.
- 3) With Government intervention, the Fund would be able to channelize diverse variety of funds into underserved MSMEs and address the growth needs of viable and high growth MSMEs.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

53) Consider the following with reference to Maharatna Status to PFC :

- 1) The grant of 'Maharatna' status to PFC will impart enhanced powers to the PFC Board while taking financial decisions.
- 2) The Board of a 'Maharatna' CPSE can make equity investments to undertake financial joint ventures and wholly-owned subsidiaries and undertake mergers and acquisitions in India and abroad, subject to a ceiling of 15% of the Net Worth of the concerned CPSE, limited to Rs.5,000 crore in one project.
- 3) The Board can also structure and implement schemes relating to personnel and Human Resource Management and Training. They can also enter into technology Joint Ventures or other strategic alliances among others.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

54) Consider the following with reference to E-20 fuel programme :

- 1) Looking at the ethanol production capacity and its adoptability as a fuel, the government has redesigned and launched the E-20 fuel program which will ensure the use of bio-ethanol in 20% blend with Petrol by 2025 in India.
- 2) It is said that government has also calculated that to achieve 20% ethanol blending, the country will require around 10 billion litres of ethanol by 2025. He said currently, the sugar industry contributes to 90% of ethanol demand as a blended fuel in the country.

3) Bio-ethanol can also be a sustainable fuel for aviation purpose. as it can provide 80% savings on greenhouse gas emissions and can be blended up to 50% with conventional jet fuels without any modification. It is already been tested and approved by the Indian air force. He said with the rollout of flex-fuel vehicles on 100% bio-ethanol, the demand for ethanol will immediately jump by 4 to 5 times.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

55) Consider the following with reference to plastic waste :

“Only about 9% of the total plastic produced globally gets recycled, about 12% is incinerated and energy is recovered, and rest about 79% gets into land, water, and ocean and pollutes the environment

1) The Plastic Waste Management programme at UNDP promotes the collection, segregation and recycling of all types of plastic waste to protect our environment and create a circular economy for plastics. The programme also ensures the wellbeing and financial inclusion of waste pickers, one of the most critical stakeholders in the waste value chain,

2) Urban local bodies (ULBs) are mandated under the Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, to manage municipal solid waste and plastic waste at the city level. The handbook is a repository of 18 case studies/best practices from India, including 4 from south Asian countries divided into four major components, including a) Technical models for recycling, b) Material Recovery Facilities (MRF), c) Governance for effective plastic waste management, and d) IEC and Digitization.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 only

(d) None

Ans: b

56) Consider the following with reference to PM Gati Shakti :

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity

1) PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan will address this as working on the basis of the master plan will lead to optimum utilisation of resources.

2) PM Gati Shakti Master Plan not only brings together the government process and its various stakeholders but also helps to integrate different modes of transportation

3) Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Gati Shakti – National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity in New Delhi, heralding a new chapter in governance. Gati Shakti — a digital platform — will bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

4) It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc. Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive. It will also leverage technology extensively including spatial planning tools with ISRO imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).

5) The multi-modal connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services from one mode of transport to another. It will facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure and also reduce travel time for people.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

(d) None

Ans: c

57) Consider the following with reference to OSOWOG :

The idea for the One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative was put forth by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, at the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in October 2018. He had called for connecting solar energy supply across borders. In May 2021, the United Kingdom and India agreed to combine forces of the Green Grids Initiative and the One Sun One World One Grid initiative and jointly launch GGI-OSOWOG at the COP26 summit being hosted by the UK at Glasgow in November 2021.

- 1) Green Grids Initiative-One Sun One World One Grid
- 2) the GGI-OSOWOG initiative as a possible solution for driving down the need for storage and in effect reduce the costs of the energy transition.
- 3) mentioned that sustainable development and climate change mitigation are at the heart of the GGI-OSOWOG initiative, and that the scale of the project could very well make it the next biggest modern engineering marvel.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

58) Consider the following with reference to CRISP-M tool :
Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool

- 1) CRISP-M tool will help embed climate information in the GIS based planning and implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS
- 2) Ministry of Rural Development have already prepared GIS based plans for 1.82 lacs Gram Panchayats out of total of 2.69 Lacs Gram Panchayats of India, which is around 68%, with the help of Remote Sensing Technology, based on Ridge to Valley approach.
- 3) Now, with the launch of this CRISP-M tool, the integration of climate information in GIS based watershed planning will be possible and that would further strengthen planning of climate resilient works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

59) Consider the following :

As per the report, India's position on the first indicator, child mortality, has improved in 2021 compared with 2020. Position on two indicators, i.e., child wasting and child stunting, has remained unchanged in 2021 compared with 2020

- 1) It is shocking to find that the Global Hunger Report 2021 has lowered the rank of India on the basis of FAO estimate on proportion of undernourished population, which is found to be devoid of ground reality and facts and suffers from serious methodological issues.
- 2) The publishing agencies of the Global Hunger Report, Concern Worldwide and Welt Hunger Hilfe, have not done their due diligence before releasing the report.
- 3) The methodology used by FAO is unscientific. They have based their assessment on the results of a 'four question' opinion poll, which was conducted telephonically by Gallup

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

60) Consider the following with reference to e-SHRAM Portal :

- 1) After registration at e-SHRAM Portal, the unorganised workers shall receive a digital e-SHRAM card and they can update their profiles/ particulars through portal or mobile app. They will have a Universal Account Number (on eSHRAM Card) that will be acceptable across the country and now they will not be required to register at different places for obtaining social security benefits. If a worker is registered at the e-Shram portal and meets with an accident, he/she will be eligible for Rs 2.0 Lakh on death or permanent disability and Rs 1.0 lakh on partial disability.
- 2) For online registrations, individual workers can use E-Shram's mobile application or the website. They can also visit the Common Service Centres (CSC), State Seva Kendra, Labour Facilitation Centres, selected post offices of the Department of Posts' Digital Seva Kendras, to register themselves in this portal.
- 3) This registration would facilitate delivery and accessibility to crucial welfare programmes and various entitlements meant for the workers in the unorganized sector and employment.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

61) Consider the following with reference to Kushinagar airport :

- 1) The development of the airport at Kushinagar will help in developing Kushinagar as one of the four principal places of Buddhist Pilgrimage. It will help to impart Kushinagar the pre-eminence it deserves as part of Buddhist Circuit. Further, it will lead to **development of India as the original Buddhist center and spread of principles of Buddhism across the world.**
- 2) The airport **will serve a population of more than two crore**, since the **airport has a hinterland of around 10-15 Districts** and will be a great support for large migrant population of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Western / Northern Part of Bihar. This will also **boost the opportunities for export of horticultural products like Banana, Strawberries and Mushroom.**
- 3) Kushinagar is an International Buddhist Pilgrimage Centre, where Lord Gautam Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana. It is also the **centre point of the Buddhist circuit, which consists of pilgrimage sites at Lumbini, Sarnath and Gaya.**
- 4) The airport will help in attracting more followers of Buddhism from home and abroad to Kushinagar and will enhance the development of Buddhist theme based circuit. **Journey of Lumbini, Bodhgaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Shravasti, Rajgir, Sankisa and Vaishali of Buddhist circuit will be covered in lesser time.**

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

62) Consider the following with reference to Paddy procurement :

- 1) Over 56.62 LMT of Paddy has been procured in KMS 2021-22 up to 17th October, 2021. The procurement took place in states and UTs of Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
- 2) The Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2021-22 at MSP commenced recently and has benefitted 371919 farmers with MSP value of Rs.11,099.25 crore.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

63) Consider the following with reference to Blue economy :

1) India's blue economy is understood as a subset of the national economy comprising an entire ocean resources system and human-made economic infrastructure in marine, maritime, and onshore coastal zones within the country's legal jurisdiction.

2) He said, it aids the production of goods and services that have clear linkages with economic growth, environmental sustainability, and national security.

3) The blue economy is a vast socio-economic opportunity for coastal nations like India to utilize ocean resources for societal benefit responsibly,

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

64) Consider the following with reference to LMDC :

Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDC)

1) India has achieved a reduction of 24% in emission intensity of its GDP between 2005 and 2016, thereby achieving its pre-2020 voluntary target.

2) requested the LMDC countries to join the initiatives of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) launched by India.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

65) Consider the following :

1) NITI Aayog in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) Energy Map of India with the support of Energy Ministries of Government of India. The GIS map provides a holistic picture of all energy resources of the country which enables visualisation of energy installations such as conventional power plants, oil and gas wells, petroleum refineries, coal fields and coal blocks, district-wise data on renewable energy power plants and renewable energy resource potential, etc through 27 thematic layers.

2) The map attempts to identify and locate all primary and secondary sources of energy and their transportation/transmission networks to provide a comprehensive view of energy production and distribution in a country. It is a unique effort aimed at integrating energy data scattered across multiple organizations and to present it in a consolidated, visually appealing graphical manner. It leverages latest advancements in web-GIS technology and open-source software to make it interactive and user friendly.

3)The Geospatial Energy Map of India will be useful in planning and making investment decisions. It will also aid in disaster management using available energy assets.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

66)Consider the following with reference to Bihar Assembly 100 years :

1) Governor Sinha, in his address to the Legislative Assembly of 1921, had said that there should be a definite policy to prohibit the production and sale of intoxicating substances or liquor. In our Constitution, the duty of the State to improve public health is clearly mentioned under the 'Directive Principles of State Policy'. This duty also includes the prohibition of the consumption of liquor and substances injurious to health. By giving the status of law to this Constitutional Article based on the principles of Gandhiji, the Bihar Legislative Assembly has taken a very good step in the interest of public health and society, especially in the favour of women from weaker sections.

2) The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind graced the centenary celebrations of Bihar Legislative Assembly and addressed the members of Bihar Legislature in Patna today (October 21, 2021). He also laid the foundation stone for Shatabdi Smriti Stambh and planted a sapling of Mahabodhi Tree in the premises of Bihar Legislative Assembly on the occasion.

3) the new chapter of our modern democracy was being created by the Constituent Assembly, the personalities of Bihar played an important role. Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha, the senior most member of the Constituent Assembly, was nominated as the Interim President and on the December 11, 1946, Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected as the permanent President of the Constituent Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

67)Consider the following with reference to PM Ayushman Health Infrastructure Mission :

1) The objective of PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is to fill critical gaps in public health infrastructure, especially in critical care facilities and primary care in both the urban and rural areas.

2) It will provide support for 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 High Focus States. Further, 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres will be established in all the States

3) PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission also aims at Operationalisation of 17 new Public Health Units and strengthening of 33 existing Public Health Units at Points of Entry, for effectively detecting, investigating, preventing, and combating Public Health Emergencies and Disease Outbreaks. It will also work towards building up trained frontline health workforce to respond to any public health emergency.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

68) Consider the following with reference to East Asia Summit :

- 1) The 16th East Asia Summit was hosted by Brunei as EAS and ASEAN Chair. It saw the participation of leaders from ASEAN countries and other EAS Participating Countries including Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, USA and India. India has been an active participant of EAS.
- 2) The 16th EAS also discussed important regional and international issues including Indo-Pacific, South China Sea, UNCLOS, terrorism, and situation in Korean Peninsula and Myanmar.
- 3) PM reaffirmed "ASEAN centrality" in the Indo-Pacific and highlighted the synergies between ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

69) Consider the following with reference to Krishi UDAN 2.0 :

- 1) The enhanced version of the Krishi UDAN scheme was formulated with support from AAICLAS - a 100% subsidiary of the Airports Authority of India and Invest India, India's national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It offers full waiver of Landing, Parking, TNLC and RNFC charges for Indian freighters and P2C at selected Airports of Airport Authority of India primarily, focusing on NER, Hilly and Tribal region.
- 2) The Krishi UDAN 2.0 will be implemented at 53 airports across the country mainly focusing on Northeast and tribal regions and is likely to benefit farmer, freight forwarders and Airlines. The Ministry of Civil Aviation plans to be pilot the scheme for 6 months, and, will introduce amendments based on results of the evaluation & consultations with other stakeholders.
- 3) **Facilitating and incentivizing movement of Agri-produce by air transportation:** Full waiver of Landing, Parking, TNLC and RNFC charges for Indian freighters and P2C at selected Airports of Airport Authority of India. Primarily, focusing on NER, Hilly and tribal regions.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

70) Consider the following with reference to ITEP :

- 1) Ministry of Education notifies the Four Year ITEP, a dual-major holistic bachelor's degree offering B.A. B.Ed./ B. Sc. B. Ed. and B.Com. B.Ed. which is one of the major mandates of the National Education Policy 2020 related to Teacher Education. As per the NEP, 2020, teacher engagement from the year 2030 onwards will be only through ITEP
- 2) The Four Year ITEP is a milestone achievement in fulfilling one of the major mandates of National Education Policy 2020. The course will contribute substantially to the revitalization of the whole teacher education sector. The prospective teachers passing out of this course through a multi-disciplinary environment, grounded in Indian

values and traditions will be instilled with the needs of 21st century on global standards, and hence will be largely helpful in shaping the future of New India.

3) It will be offered in pilot mode initially in about 50 selected multidisciplinary institutions across the country.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

71) Consider the following with reference to Nag River in Nagpur :

1) The Nag River revitalization project conceptualized by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari and which is an ambitious project for the people of Nagpur has been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) .

2) In a series of tweets the Minister informed that following the Cabinet's approval, work worth Rs 2,117-crore will now actually begin. Shri Gadkari informed that a period of eight years has been fixed for this work , under this project , three STP projects with a capacity of 92 MLD, 500 km sewerage network, pumping station and community toilets will be constructed.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

72) Consider the following with reference to PM's foreign visits :

1) I will be visiting Rome, Italy and the Vatican City, from 29-31 October, 2021 at the invitation of H.E. Prime Minister Mario Draghi, following which I will travel to Glasgow, United Kingdom from 1-2 November 2021 at the invitation of H.E. Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

2) In Rome, I will attend the 16th G20 Leaders' Summit, where I will join other G20 Leaders in discussions on global economic and health recovery from the pandemic, sustainable development, and climate change.

3) I will depart for Glasgow to attend the 26th Conference of Parties (COP-26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). I will be participating in the high-level segment of COP-26 titled 'World Leaders' Summit' (WLS) on 1-2 November, 2021 along with 120 Heads of States/Governments from around the world.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

73) Consider the following with reference to Tele-medicine :

1) Tele-medicine technology could save India around 5 billion US dollars annually and that Tele-medicine is no longer an option but a necessity

2) called for innovative healthcare solutions like Telemedicine in a country like India, where there is a shortage of medical professionals, and millions of people live in rural areas without direct access to proper healthcare or treatment

3) India will spend Rs 2.23 lakh crore on healthcare this year including Rs 35,000 crore on Covid-19 vaccines.

4) Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given very high priority to the Health Sector this year's budget increased the spending on healthcare by 137% and is in line with industry expectations of 2.5%-3% of the GDP, and also the GDP National Health Policy 2017 target of 2.5% by 2025.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, 3, 4

(d) None

Ans: c

74) Consider the following with reference to Samudrayan :

1) launched India's First Manned Ocean Mission Samudrayan at Chennai.

2) with the launch of this Unique Ocean Mission, India joins the elite club of nations such as USA, Russia, Japan, France and China to have such underwater vehicles for carrying out subsea activities

3) MoES-NIOT is indigenously developing a manned submersible with a depth capability of 6000 meters under the aegis of Deep Ocean Mission. The manned submersible is designed to carry three persons in 2.1 meter diameter Titanium Alloy Personnel Sphere with an operational endurance of 12h and systems to support emergency endurance up to 96h.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

75) Consider the following with reference to EEZ and Sagar Nidhi :

1) India, a traditionally maritime country with rich maritime heritage, has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of about 2.37 million square kilometres wherein India enjoys the exclusive legal right to utilize all living and non-living resources. Apart from this, India has been allotted 75000 square kilometers in the Central Indian Ocean 10000 square kilometres in the Southern Indian Ocean by the International Seabed Authority. These areas are rich in minerals like Manganese, Cobalt and Nickel. For the sustainable harvesting of these non-living and living organisms we need to explore and understand the ocean.

2) Research Vessel (Ships) is an important tool for ocean research and development of ocean technology. MoES has, at present 6 ships, SagarNidhi, SagarManjusha, SagarKanya, SagarSampada, Sagar Tara & SagarAnveshika, which are used for many ocean studies and applications including ocean observations.

3) The Sagar Nidhi vessel is capable of carrying out geo-scientific, meteorological and oceanographic research, and is designed with blue-water capability with ranges of up to 10,000 nautical miles (19,000 km) for voyages lasting up to 45 days.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

76) Consider the following with reference to Education Sector :

- 1) The education sector — especially companies operating in the ed-tech space — have welcomed the initiatives, as they have long been advocating the benefits of using technology to learn online, and make quality education more accessible and affordable for all.
- 2) Going online requires effort and understanding of what makes a truly transformative learning experience.
- 3) A key component is technology and use of data and machine learning to ensure effective delivery and meaningful learning outcomes for all. It is not enough to just put out hours of video lectures and expect learners to magically learn.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

77) Consider the following with reference to Covid-19 cases :

1) The Economic Survey 2020-21 (ES) of January 2021 narrates a congratulatory story of how India fared better than other countries in terms of COVID-19 cases and deaths.

2) It claims that this was due to effective management of the pandemic and argues against the possibility that the low cases and case fatality rate (CFR) were due to some form of 'natural immunity'.

3) It has used mathematical modelling to estimate the likely number of COVID cases and deaths as well as the impact of 'non-pharmaceutical interventions' (NPIs) such as lockdowns. It corroborates the earlier modelling in March 2020 by Imperial College (United Kingdom) and Johns Hopkins (United States), of the NPIs 'flattening the epidemic curve' and thereby allowing time for health services to be geared up. This gives it scientific credibility, but only until one examines the data closely.

3) A closer reading of the ES reveals a reductionist approach that negates the complexities of both epidemiology and health service system dynamics. The March 2020 international analyses have been found to have overestimated the impact of the pandemic and of the NPIs' effectiveness, primarily by assuming that no one will have any immunity against COVID-19 because it is a 'novel' virus and so the entire global population will be 'susceptible'.

4) The ES similarly applies universal models for calculating estimates of cases and deaths across countries without considering the possibility of diverse epidemic dynamics in different contexts, other than age or density of populations, testing rate and beds by population. These analyses treat the pandemic as some kind of new phenomenon appearing in isolation of other health conditions and their influences through ecological and epidemiological interactions.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

78) Consider the following with reference to Covid-19 related abbreviations :

- 1) infection rate (IR)
- 2) test positivity rate (TPR)
- 3) 'non-pharmaceutical interventions' (NPIs) such as lockdowns.
- 4) case fatality rate (CFR)

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

79) Consider the following :

1) After the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission and improvement in access to tap water connection within their premises, considerable improvement in this regard has been noticed. As on 27.05.2022, 108 districts, 1,222 blocks, 71,667 Gram Panchayats and 1,51,171 villages have become "Har Ghar Jal", wherein all rural households have been provided with drinking water through taps.

2) 2022 year as the nation celebrates 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', special Gram Sabhas are being convened across the length and breadth of the country to discuss and deliberate on issues related to drinking water in a move to attain 'WASH Prabudh Gaon'.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

80) Consider the following :

1) It is said after the successful use of Buldhana pattern in Maharashtra, more than 500 water bodies, 270 farm ponds have been rejuvenated by 2022 under Amrit Sarovar Abhiyan. As a result of which additional water storage capacity of 34,000 TCM has been created at no cost in the state.

2) It is said that this model of Amrit Sarovar should be used in all drought affected areas and agricultural universities of the country.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: b

TSPSC GROUP I Prelims 2022 (Scheduled on 16.10.2022)
TSLPRB SI & CONSTABLES

Model Questions (for GS Paper)
Set No. 7 {Prepared on 28 .5.2022 }

For Study purpose
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1)Consider following with reference to **Stubble burning** :

The Green Revolution increased greatly rice and wheat production, which simultaneously increased stubble post harvest. However, the popular combined harvesting technique was not efficacious, as machines left behind one-foot-tall stalks. This prompted stubble burning as a low-cost and speedy solution available to farmers due to the limited time period of 20-25 days between harvesting one crop and sowing another.

1) Stubble burning is practised predominantly by farmers in north India. It releases harmful gases including nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide into the atmosphere. In recent years, this practice has created vast smoke blankets across the Indo-Gangetic Plain and numerous neighbouring States, including Delhi. This directly exposes millions of people to air pollution

2) In 2020 year, the Union government is testing an innovative method, the PUSA Decomposer, developed at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa.

3)

The PUSA Decomposer is a set of four tablets made by extracting fungi strains that help the paddy straw to decompose at a much faster rate than usual, giving farmers the option to shred the straw, spray a solution containing the fungal strains, and mix it with the soil for decomposition. If methods such as this become successful, it will be a new revolution in farming.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

2) Consider following with reference to **Chief Information Commissioner** :
(October, 2020 news)

The commission consists of a chief and up to 10 commissioners. It has been headless twice this year, due to a two-month delay in appointing the last chief, Bimal Julka, and another two-month period since he retired in August-end. It has not functioned at full strength for almost four years, and currently has only five commissioners, leading to a backlog of 37,000 pending cases. When the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued advertisements for vacancies in July, it received 139 applications for the CIC position and 355 applications for the Information Commissioner posts.

1) The three-member selection committee, including the Prime Minister, Mr. Chowdhury and Home Minister Amit Shah, met Congress Leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who is a member of the panel

2) In a February 2019 order, the top court ruled that long delays in clearing appeals frustrated citizens' rights, and directed that appointments be made in a "transparent and timely" manner.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

3) Consider following with reference to **Sixth Schedule** :

1) The Sixth Schedule protects tribal populations and provides autonomy to the communities through the creation of autonomous development councils that can frame laws on land, public health, agriculture etc

2) . As of now, 10 autonomous councils exist in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

3) There was a demand from Ladak (UT) for inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

4) Consider following with reference to **Turkey and France** :

1) As Turkey, under Mr. Erdogan, is trying to expand its influence to the erstwhile Ottoman territories, France has stood in its way. In Libya, where Turkey is backing the Tripoli-based government, France has supported the Tobruk-based parallel government and the military campaign of the renegade General Khalifa Haftar against Tripoli.

2) In Eastern Mediterranean, Turkey has launched a gas exploration mission, clashing with Greece and Cyprus, while France threw its weight behind the fellow EU members and even sent French warships to the region.

3) In the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict Turkey offered unconditional support to the Azeri military offensive, while Mr. Macron slammed Ankara's "reckless and dangerous" intervention.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

5) Consider following with reference to **Credit Default Swaps (CDS)** :

1) The development of CDS is considered critical for deepening India's bond markets and the government believes that the enactment of the Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts law October, 2020 should pave the way for an active CDS market.

2) Credit default swaps (CDS), a financial derivative instrument to hedge risks in bond investments

3) Stressing that fair valuation of bonds is a challenge when trading is limited, it is said that to facilitate the development of the CDS market, the central bank would issue revised guidelines.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

6) Consider following with reference to Karbi Anglong Region :

A tripartite agreement among five insurgent groups of Assam, the Centre and the State government was signed on 4.9.2021 to end years of violence in the Karbi Anglong region.

1) The insurgent groups which signed the peace accord include the Karbi Longri North Cachar Hills Liberation Front, the People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri, the United People's Liberation Army and the Karbi People's Liberation Tigers factions. Under the peace accord, more than 1,000 armed cadres have abjured violence and joined the mainstream. The agreement provides for their rehabilitation

2) Under the agreement, the Assam government will set up a **Karbi Welfare Council** for focused development of Karbi people living outside the KAAC area. The Consolidated Fund of the State will be augmented to supplement the resources of KAAC. "Overall, the present settlement proposes to give more legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers to KAAC,"

3) The State government would consider favourably the proposal to notify **Karbi** as the official language of KAAC, said Assam Chief Minister. English, Hindi and Assamese would continue to be used for official purposes. Under the agreement, the hill tribes would be entitled to reservation.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

7) Consider following with reference to Jawadu Hills :

- 1) Jawadhu Hills in Vellore and Tiruvannamalai districts.
- 2) We expect northern districts and Western Ghats to get better rains during the first fortnight of September.”

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

8) Consider following with reference to Madumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) :

- 1) MoEF on December 13, 2019 declared an area of 438.904 sq.km, around the boundary of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR), as Mudumalai Tiger Reserve Eco-sensitive Zone.
- 2) Gazette notification stated that 321 sq.km., comprising the entire area of Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park, in Nilgiris district had been declared as MTR (core or critical tiger habitat) apart from another 367.586 sq.km. as a buffer area.
- 3) Considering the rich diversity of flora and fauna in MTR and the existence of rare, endangered, threatened and endemic species, the MoEF had decided to declare 438.904 sq.km. (consisting of 25.657 sq.km in Gudalur forest division, 409.825 sq.km., in Nilgiris North forest division and 3.422 sq.km., in core area) around the reserve as eco-sensitive zone.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

9) Consider following with reference to **Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana** :

To destroy this stubble many farmers find burning the residue the most effective and cheap method as they want to prepare their fields for the next winter crop. The short time-window between paddy harvesting and sowing the wheat crop — just about three weeks — is one of the primary reasons why farmers resort to stubble burning.

Despite the ban on stubble burning and action against those burning crop residue under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, farmers continue to resort to the practice, claiming lack of alternatives.

1) In Punjab and Haryana, paddy harvesting is usually done between the second half of September till the end of October. The sowing of wheat crop normally starts from the first week of November and continues for over a month and a half.

2) Punjab Pollution Control Board said the whole idea behind promoting **ex-situ management** is to present 'paddy straw' to the industry and the farmers as a resource that creates value and wealth.

3) Paddy straw has to be established as fuel resource or product before the industry. We have 5-6 industries in Punjab, which consume around 3 lakh tonnes of paddy straw as fuel. We are hopeful that after the new incentives, more industries will start using paddy straw as fuel for boilers. Already a few industries have shown interest and we are expecting the consumption of paddy straw as fuel will rise to 5 lakh tonnes this season,

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

10) Consider following with reference to **Central Vista** :

- 1) The revamp of the Central Vista, which stretches from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, is expected to be in full swing in 2023, when India is set to host the G-20 summit for world leaders.
- 2) The construction of the new Parliament building and redevelopment of Central Vista Avenue could be completed ahead of schedule, while the project to construct the first three of the 10 proposed Secretariat buildings has run into delays at the tendering stage
- 3) The ₹3,463-crore project includes construction and five-year maintenance contract for three CCS buildings to be made on the site of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, which has been shifted to a temporary location at the erstwhile Janpath Hotel.
- 4) The Central Vista project includes the construction of a new residence for the Vice-President, for which the CPWD has invited bids, and a new residence and office for the Prime Minister, which are yet to be finalised

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

11) Consider following with reference to **IUCN** :

The IUCN on Saturday officially launched its “green status” — the first global standard for assessing species recovery and measuring conservation impacts. “It makes the invisible work of conservation visible,

- 1) Komodo dragons, the largest living lizards, which are found only in the World Heritage-listed **Komodo National Park** (Indonesia) and neighbouring Flores, were listed as “endangered”.

2) Habitat loss, overexploitation and illegal trade have hammered global wildlife populations for decades, and climate change is now kicking in as a direct threat as well, the IUCN reported.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

12) Consider following with reference to **Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH)** law of 2013 :

- 1) As per the PoSH law guidelines, firms are required to form an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to inquire into complaints .
- 2) As per the extant law, bonus dues are barred only in case of employees dismissed for fraud, violent conduct and theft or sabotage.
- 3) The Code on Wages lays down norms for annual bonus dues that accrue to employees, replacing the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. The new Code, expected to become operational once the government notifies the rules, includes 'conviction for sexual harassment' as a ground for denying bonus payouts to employees.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

13) Consider following with reference to **Production – Linked Incentive (PLI)** :

1) The government is set to extend the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing pharmaceuticals, medical devices and electronics announced under the AtmaNirbhar Bharat package to six more sectors,

2) PLI will soon become valid for 'nine to 10' sectors from four at present, and this is meant to incentivise investors already in the country to put up globally comparable capacities in scale and competitiveness

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

14) Consider following with reference to **Gudalur Forest Division (Tamil Nadu)** :

In Gudalur, the landscape is such that boundaries between human settlements and forests are not well-defined. Moreover, wildlife presence outside the forests is also extremely high, meaning people have more interactions with wildlife

1) the Gudalur forest division has emerged as one of the most difficult landscapes to manage in the Nilgiris in terms of preventing wildlife crimes, Forest Department officials

2) Contiguous with Nilambur and Wayanad (both in Kerala), and used by elephants to make their way to the Mukurthi National Park from the Sigur plateau, the division is surrounded by districts that are known to be awash with both legal and illegal firearms, says a conservationist familiar with the landscape.

3) It is suspected that the motive for the shooting of the elephant and the leopard could be in retaliation to the problematic interactions, such as crop-raiding or cattle lifting.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

15) Consider following with reference to **‘Sponge Cities’** :

Urban floods of this scale cannot be contained by the municipal authorities alone. Nor can they be dealt with by the State government. They cannot be managed without concerted and focused investments of energy and resources. Such investments can only be done in a mission mode organisation with active participation of civil society organisations at the metropolitan scale. In Hyderabad, this can be done by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, but all metropolitan areas have similar organisations with constitutional mandates via the metropolitan planning committee

1) The idea of a sponge city is to make cities more permeable so as to hold and use the water which falls upon it. Sponge cities absorb the rain water, which is then naturally filtered by the soil and allowed to reach urban aquifers. This allows for the extraction of water from the ground through urban or peri-urban wells. This water can be treated easily and used for city water supply. In built form, this implies contiguous open green spaces, interconnected waterways, and channels and ponds across neighbourhoods that can naturally detain and filter water.,

2) It implies support for urban ecosystems, bio-diversity and newer cultural and recreational opportunities

3) These can all be delivered effectively through an urban mission along the lines of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) and Smart Cities Mission. On a top priority, such a mission should address the following.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

16) Consider following with reference to **USA Electoral College** (President Elections, 2020) :

1) First-past-the-post is a ‘plurality’ voting system where the candidate winning the most votes in a constituency is elected. While a ‘constituency’ means a Lok Sabha constituency in the general election in India, it is mostly a State in the U.S. presidential election.

2) In 48 States and DC, the candidate winning most votes in a State receives all of that State’s electors; Nebraska and Maine are further divided in congressional districts.

3) The U.S. 'Electoral College' has 538 electors, where an absolute majority of at least 270 electoral votes is required to win the election. Each State gets two electoral votes for its two U.S. Senators, and one more vote for each of its members in the House of Representatives. California has the maximum electors (55), while Alaska has only three electoral votes. And the Twenty-third Amendment, ratified in 1961, grants the District of Columbia the same number of electors as the least populous State.

4) Consequently, individual citizens in less populated States have proportionately more voting power than those in more populous States. Dividing the estimated population of the U.S. in 2019, obtained by the U.S. Census Bureau, i.e. 328,239,523, by the total electoral votes (i.e. 538), one electoral vote corresponds to every 610,111 people, on an average.

5) However, remarkable variation exists between the States. Florida and Wyoming (with 29 and 3 electoral votes, and population figures of 21,477,737 and 578,759, respectively) have 740,612 and 192,920 people per electoral vote, respectively. Thus, while an average person of Florida has 82.4% clout of an average American in the Electoral College, an average person of Wyoming has 316.3%.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- (d) None

Ans: c

17) Consider following with reference to **'Swing States' in USA President election results (2020)** :

1) It is widely observed that most of the States in the U.S. have voted for the same party, the Republicans or the Democrats, in the most recent elections. However, some States occasionally 'swing' from one party to another..

2) Thus, the key election strategy is to fix the campaign plan accordingly. For obvious reasons, there is not much point of desperate campaigning in States heavily inclined towards favouring either party.

3) The list of 'swing States' certainly changes over time. In 2020, States such as Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina, Arizona, Wisconsin, and Iowa feature prominently

in this list. However, Ohio, Wisconsin and Iowa were not among the most competitive States according to a pre-election analysis of 2016

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

18) Consider following with reference to North-East Monsoon (2020) :

- 1) The southwest monsoon's withdrawal heralds the advent of north-easterly winds that bring in the northeast monsoon to parts of peninsular Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- 2) While significant to the agriculture there, the northeast monsoon contributes 10%-12% of India's annual rainfall, against the southwest monsoon's 75%-80%.
- 3) That, and its limited geographic spread has meant that the northeast monsoon is not showered with as much research attention. However, studies show that northeast monsoon rainfall displays significant variation and climate models are fairly inaccurate in their forecasts of its unfolding over the subcontinent

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

19) Consider following with reference to South-West Monsoon and LPA (2020) :

The southwest monsoon 2020 has officially drawn to an end with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) declaring a withdrawal of the associated winds and rainfall pattern from India on Wednesday. The over 8% surplus this year has surpassed the IMD's estimates. For the first time since 2010, India got more than 100% of its long period average (LPA) of 88 cm in

consecutive years. In 2019 year, the country saw record rainfall of 110% of the LPA, the highest in a quarter century

1) India has never got over 105% of the LPA in consecutive years in at least 30 years, according to records available since 1988 on the IMD website. Meteorologists often speak of two or three decade 'epochs' of rainfall variation. Since 2000, India was in a low patch with several drought years and had barely a handful of above normal or excess rainfall. In that light, the two years of a munificent monsoon could signal a possible return to a rainy epoch. While it could mean more rain, it also implies floods, overflowing dams, landslides and loss of lives.

2) Moreover, surplus rains are not evenly distributed in time and space. Therefore, much like there are attempts to improve flood forecast warnings — especially the short-term ones — there ought to be commensurate efforts by authorities and infrastructure agencies to prepare for the environmental and ecological impact of excess rain.

3) In 2020 year the IMD undertook a long-due revision of the onset and withdrawal dates of the monsoon in India. By this reckoning, the monsoon's normal withdrawal date was October 15. Historically, this has always been a statistical average and the actual withdrawal is usually within a few days of this. However, this year the withdrawal has been extremely delayed

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

20) Consider following with reference to **Aegean Sea** :

1) The **Aegean Sea** is an elongated embayment of the Mediterranean Sea between Europe and Asia. It is located between the Balkans and Anatolia

2) Fourteen people were killed in Turkey and Greece after a strong earthquake struck the Aegean Sea on 30.10.2020, bringing buildings crashing down and setting off tidal waves which slammed into coastal areas and islands.

3) People ran onto streets in panic in the Turkish city of Izmir

4) In Greek island of Samos also walls collapsed

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

21) Consider following with reference to **China (2020) 14th Five Year Plan** :

1) China's ruling Communist Party concluded a key annual conclave outlining new long-term targets for boosting innovation and military strength, eyeing what it called "**an important strategic period**" for fulfilling its ambitions at home and abroad.

2) A lengthy communique issued in Beijing followed the four-day plenum of the Communist Party of China's (CPC) Central Committee, which ended in October, 2020, announced three goals to be achieved by 2025, 2027 and 2035 — a **14th five-year plan (2021-2025)**

3) It emphasised boosting domestic consumption and innovation, a national security and defence modernisation plan ahead of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) centennial in 2027, and a 'Vision 2035' longer-term economic blueprint that calls for "big leaps" in economic strength and technological prowess

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

22) Consider following with reference to **15th Finance Commission** :

The Fifteenth Finance Commission was constituted on November 27, 2017, against the backdrop of the abolition of the Planning Commission and the distinction between Plan and non-Plan expenditure, and introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

1) Three years after it was constituted, the Fifteenth Finance Commission has finalised its report for fund devolution from the Centre to States for the five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. (October, 2020 news)

2) Although its original remit was to recommend the fund-sharing formula between the Centre and States from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the commission's term was extended by 11 months. In 2019 year, the government had requested the Commission to submit an initial report just for the year 2020-21.

3) That report had pared the States' share of the divisible tax **pool from 42%**, as recommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission, **to 41%**, citing the creation of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

23) Consider following with reference to **Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR)** in Tirunelveli district (Tamil Nadu) :

1) KMTR was declared a tiger reserve in 1988, the first in Tamil Nadu. It has been identified as a Type-I tiger conservation unit representing the tropical moist evergreen forests. It also forms part of the inter-State Agasthiyarmalai Biosphere Reserve, declared one of the plant diversity centres by UNESCO.

2) It was also declared the Regional Centre of Endemism in the Indian subcontinent. There are 2,255 species of Angiosperms so far recorded from the KMTR, including 448 species endemic to the **Western Ghats**, in addition to 150 species that are strictly endemic to the Agasthiyarmalai,

3) One has to cross the Papanasam checkpoint and reach the Mundanthurai plateau and thereon travel to Servalar and the Karaiyar dam inside the core.

4) The 30-km 'katcha' road connecting the border with Kerala through the dense jungle would usually be maintained to ensure the movement of the vehicles of KMTR officials to reach the spots within the shortest possible time.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

24) Consider following with reference to **Roshni Act** :

The J&K government in October, 2020 decided to declare all the actions taken under the Jammu and Kashmir State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001, also known as the Roshni Act, under which 20 lakh kanals of land was to be transferred to existing occupants, as "null and void", and has decided to retrieve the land within six months.

1) The J&K government has decided to implement the High Court order, where it declared the Jammu and Kashmir State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 as amended from time to time as unconstitutional, contrary to law and unsustainable

2) The Roshni Act, enacted during Farooq Abdullah's regime, aimed at earning ₹25,000 crore by transferring 20 lakh kanals of State land to existing occupants against payment at market rates

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

25) Consider following with reference to **Seaplane Service** : (November, 2020 news)

- 1) The country's first seaplane service between the Statue of Unity near Kevadiya in Narmada district of Gujarat and the Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad
- 2) Mr. Modi had undertaken a similar ride from the Sabarmati river in Ahmedabad to Dharoi dam in Mehsana while campaigning for the Gujarat election in 2017.
- 3) The 19-seater seaplane will be used for flights between the two points as part of the regional connectivity scheme. Initially, the plane will make four trips a day.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

26) Consider following with reference to **e-resource centre, at Nagpur** :

- 1) first ever e-resource centre and virtual court for traffic and transport to enable speedy justice for litigants, called 'Nyay Kaushal', at Nagpur.
- 2) The e-resource Centre at Nagpur is meant to be a step at mitigating various inequalities, being connected to the Supreme Court, the High Courts and the Taluka Courts."
- 3) The centre will provide the easiest way of filing court matters by utilising technology. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and a saving in costs. The virtual court can deal with all traffic challan cases from every corner of Maharashtra online. It will be possible for the litigants to pay the fine and get the traffic challan case disposed of with the click of a button. The virtual court will be working from Katol in Nagpur district.
- 4) Delhi was the first to start virtual traffic courts across India, with almost 27,00,000 challans received by the virtual courts, and ₹19.8 crore collected by the government online."

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

27) Consider following with reference to 007 :

1) Sean Connery, the charismatic Scottish actor rose to international superstardom as the suave and fearless secret agent James Bond and then abandoned the role to carve out an Oscar-winning career in other rugged roles.

2) Connery continued as Bond in **From Russia With Love, Goldfinger, Thunderball, You Only Live Twice** and **Diamonds Are Forever**, often performing his own stunts. **Diamonds Are Forever** came out in 1971 and by then Connery had grown weary of playing 007 and feared he wasn't being taken seriously despite his dramatic performances in Alfred Hitchcock's *Marnie* and Sidney Lumet's *The Hill*.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

28) Consider following with reference to Nagorno-Karabakh :

1) Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan

2) But has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a war there ended in 1994

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

- (c) 1, 2
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

29) Consider following with reference to **D614G mutation** :

- 1) When the virus enters an individual's body, it aims at creating copies of itself. When it makes an error in this copying process, we get a mutation.
- 2) In this case, the virus replaced the aspartic acid (D) in the 614th position of the amino acid with glycine (G). Hence the mutation is called the D614G. This mutated form of the virus was first identified in China and then in Europe. Later it spread to other countries like the U.S. and Canada and was eventually reported in India.
- 3) The D614G mutation is situated in the spike protein of the virus
- 4) In simple words, this particular mutation aids the virus in attaching more efficiently with the ACE2 receptor in the human host, thereby making it more successful in entering a human body than its predecessors

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

30) Consider following with reference to **USA Geography** :

- 1) **States in the east coast region** — New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island,
- 2) in the mid-west (like Illinois), the south (Virginia, Maryland, Delaware),
- 3) **west coast** (California, Oregon, Washington State),
- 4) **mountainous west** (Colorado, New Mexico),
- 5) **Hawaii in the Pacific Island**,

6) **States in the deep south and the south** — Oklahoma, Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina; Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Utah in the mountainous west, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana in the mid-west,
7) **Alaska in the Pacific.**

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- (d) None

Ans: c

31) Consider following with reference to **USA and India agreements** :

On October 27, 2020 India and the U.S. signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) during the third 2+2 dialogue of defence and foreign ministers of the two countries. BECA is the fourth and the last of the foundational agreements that both countries have concluded,

1) **starting with GSOMIA (General Security of Military Information Agreement) in 2002,**

2) **LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement) in 2016,**

3) **COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018**

4) **The BECA enables exchange of geospatial information. Akin to a GPS that enables navigation, such exchange of geospatial information enhances the accuracy of a missile or the utility of a drone.**

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

32) Consider following with reference to **Nipah virus** :

1) According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the zoonotic illness is “transmitted to people from animals,

2) It can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly from person-to-person.”

3) In infected people, it causes a range of illnesses from asymptomatic infection to acute respiratory illness and fatal encephalitis

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

33) Consider following with reference to Article 100 :

1) Bills are certified as Money Bills to bypass the Rajya Sabha even where they do not meet the specific description of Money Bills provided under Article 110

2). This Article identifies seven areas that can be governed through the enactment of Money Bills, including the imposition of tax, the regulation of borrowing and appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

3) Even when the result through voice votes are unclear, the exact number of “ayes” and “nays” are not always counted, suggesting that Bills may be passed without securing the majority vote required under Article 100. This issue arose most recently when the controversial farm laws were reportedly rushed and passed by voice vote in the Rajya Sabha despite objections by Opposition members.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

34) Consider following with reference to NMP :

- 1) The government's announcement of the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), a scheme to transfer the rights to operate public infrastructure for a fixed period, has received attention in the media.
- 2) Hopefully, in the skirmish over the details of the scheme, not to mention the partisan allegations flying around, the fact of the severe infrastructure deficit that India faces, and the imperative to address it, will not get overlooked. We need infrastructure not only to speed up growth in a slackened economy but also to lead a dignified life, even after we have seen off the COVID-19 pandemic
- 3) The important consideration in an evaluation of the NMP would be the volume of funds expected to be generated. The government has announced an indicative value of ₹6 lakh crore accruing over four years. This is extraordinarily low in relation to two comparators. First, it is only 10% higher than the budgeted capital expenditure of the Government of India actually for 2021-22. Next, see it in relation to the figure of ₹100 lakh crore estimated as the infrastructural investment India needs.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

35) Consider following with reference to Panjshir valley :

- 1) Few in Panjshir, a rugged valley north of Kabul that held out for nearly a decade against the Soviet Union's occupation
- 2) It is also the Taliban's first rule from 1996-2001, seem to trust their promises.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

36) Consider following with reference to Guinea :

- 1) Guinea — one of the world's poorest countries despite boasting significant mineral resources — has long been beset by political instability.
- 2) impoverished west African nation
- 3) Capital : Konacry

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

37) Consider following with reference to **Platform work** :

- 1) The Code on Social Security Bill, 2020, for the first time in Indian law, attempted to define 'platform work' outside of the traditional employment category..
- 2) It says: "Platform work means a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services or any such other activities which may be notified by the Central Government, in exchange for payment
- 3) While the long overdue move to recognise platform work has been made, the Code has drawn criticism from platform workers' associations for failing to delineate it from gig work and

unorganised work. A categorical clarification could ensure that social security measures are provided to workers without compromising the touted qualities of platform work: flexibility and a sense of ownership

4) Platform workers were responsible for delivery of essential services during the pandemic at great personal risk to themselves. They have also been responsible for keeping platform companies afloat despite the pandemic-induced financial crisis.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

38) Consider following with reference to National Investment Pipeline (NIP) :

- 1) NIP is a part of the Government of India's initiative to provide world class infrastructure to its citizens and enhance the ease of living .
- 2) NIP was launched with 6,835 projects , which is now expanded to more than 7,300 projects
- 3) Ministries were also asked to update the National Infrastructure Pipeline dashboard regularly to allow seamless online monitoring.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

39) Consider following with reference to border districts of Gujarat, sharing borders with Pakistan :

- 1) Kutch (Dhordo village)

2) Banaskantha

3) Patan

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

40) Consider following with reference to AIPA :

The year 2021 would mark the beginning of implementation of the Paris Agreement and constitution of AIPA is central to strengthening the national systems and institutional arrangements for implementation and monitoring of climate actions. It will also ensure that India maintains its climate leadership as one of the few countries in the world whose climate actions are consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

1) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has constituted a high-level inter-ministerial Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA) under the chairmanship of Secretary, MoEFCC.

2) The purpose of AIPA is to generate a coordinated response on climate change matters that ensures India is on track towards meeting its obligations under the Paris Agreement including its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

3) Another key function of AIPA would be to operate as a National Authority to regulate carbon markets in India under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, formulate guidelines for consideration of projects or activities under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, issue guidelines on carbon pricing, market mechanism, and other similar instruments that have a bearing on climate change and NDCs.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

41) Consider following with reference to Millets :

- 1) Millet is a common term to categorize small-seeded grasses that are often termed nutri-cereals, and includes Sorghum, Pearl Millet, Ragi, Small Millet, Foxtail Millet, Proso Millet, Barnyard Millet, Kodo Millet and other millets..
- 2) Millets are the cereal crops generally small-seeded and known for high nutritive value.
- 3) Increasing interest in reviving the consumption of millets across various countries is favoring the growth prospects of this product in recent years within the country and for exports as well

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

42) Consider following with reference to PM-KUSUM :

Ministry of New and Renewable (MNRE), after consultation with state governments, has decided to issue Guidelines for Implementation of Feeder Level Solarisation under Component-C of PM-KUSUM Scheme. The Scheme consists of three components..

- 1) The Component-A includes installation of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants,
- 2) Component-B includes installation of standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps
- 3) Component-C includes Solarisation of Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

43) Consider following with reference to Koilwar bridge :

- 1) It is the three lane 1.5 km long **Koilwar bridge over Sone river in Bihar** and inaugurated through Video Conferencing . A sum of Rs 266 crore has been spent on the bridge. The existing two lane bridge for both rail and road traffic is 138 years old.
- 2) A six-lane bridge is being made in its place, of which, a three-lane carriageway has been opened for public. After completion of the other carriageway, the traffic on NH-922 and NH-30 will ease substantially.
- 3) The bridge is major road for transport between Bihar and UP.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

44) Consider following with reference to Indo-Gangetic Plains :

Scientists have found that aerosols like black carbon and dust, which makes the Indo-Gangetic Plain one of the most polluted regions of the world, have led to increased incidents of high rainfall events in the foothills of the Himalayan Region.

- 1) The Indo-Gangetic Plain is located South and upwind of the Himalayan foothills.
- 2) The region is associated with high aerosol loading, much of which is black carbon and dust, and thus provides an opportunity for studying how aerosol affects extreme rainfall events, particularly when air mass is forced from a low elevation to a higher elevation as it moves over rising terrain technically called orographic forcing
- 3) The results of the study indicate that aerosols can play a vital role in exciting high precipitation (HP) events over the Himalayas during the monsoon season. Thus, aerosols, including chemistry, are essential to consider when forecasting HP events over the Himalayan region in regional modelling studies.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

45) Consider following with reference to mRNA vaccines :

- 1) The mRNA vaccines do not use the conventional model to produce immune response. Instead, mRNA vaccine carries the molecular instructions to make the protein in the body through a synthetic RNA of the virus..
- 2) The host body uses this to produce the viral protein that is recognized and thereby making the body mount an immune response against the disease. mRNA-based vaccines are scientifically the ideal choice to address a pandemic because of their rapid developmental timeline. The mRNA vaccine is considered safe as is non-infectious, non-integrating in nature, and degraded by standard cellular mechanisms. They are expected to be highly efficacious because of their inherent capability of being translatable into the protein structure inside the cell cytoplasm.

3) Additionally, mRNA vaccines are fully synthetic and do not require a host for growth, e.g., eggs or bacteria. Therefore, they can be quickly manufactured in an inexpensive manner under cGMP conditions to ensure their "availability" and "accessibility" for mass vaccination on a sustainable basis

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

46) Consider following with reference to Himagiri Project 17A :

1) ***Himgiri'***, the first of the three Project 17A ships being built at M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata was launched

2) Project 17A has upheld India's vision for Atmanirbhar Bharat. P17A ships have been indigenously designed by Directorate of Naval Design (Surface Ship Design Group) - DND(SSG), and are being built at indigenous yards namely MDL and GRSE

3) **P17A ships are the first gas turbine propulsion and largest combat platforms ever built at GRSE.**

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

47) Consider following with reference to Role of India Ocean Circulation (Barotropic wave) and its interactions with atmospheric circulations (MJO) :

- 1) Changes in sea level may be attributed either to barotropic (involving the entire water column) or baroclinic processes (governed by stratification).
- 2) It has been widely accepted that barotropic sea level changes in the tropics are insignificant at intraseasonal time scales (periods of 30–80 days).
- 3) The origin of this variability is linked to a small patch of wind over the Eastern Indian Ocean, associated with boreal winter Madden–Julian Oscillations (MJO). These large fluctuations are likely to play a prominent role in the intraseasonal sea level and mass budgets. Because of their much faster propagation than baroclinic processes, they allow the basin to adjust to climatic perturbations much more rapidly than was previously thought.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

48) Consider following with reference to E20 fuel :

1) adoption of E20 fuel, i.e, blend of 20% of ethanol with gasoline, as an automotive fuel and for the adoption of mass emission standards for this fuel

2) development of E20 compliant vehicles

3) It will also help in reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, etc. It will help reduce the oil import bill, thereby saving foreign exchange and boosting energy security.

4) The compatibility of the vehicle to the percentage of ethanol in the blend of ethanol and gasoline shall be defined by the vehicle manufacturer and the same shall be displayed on the vehicle by putting a clearly visible sticker.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

49) Consider following with reference to Mission Purvodaya in Steel Sector :

- 1) 'Mission Purvodaya' in steel sector wherein he had stressed driving the growth of eastern India through creation of integrated steel hub and adding significantly to the country's steel making capacity.
- 2) Both IISCO and Durgapur steel plants of SAIL have an important role to play in the development of the eastern region as well as the nation
- 3) SAIL's IISCO Steel Plant (ISP) and Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) situated in Burnpur and Durgapur at West Bengal.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

50) Consider following with reference to PNG :

- 1) About 1644 of Industrial Units spread across 50 industrial areas in Delhi had been identified to switch over to Piped Natural Gas (PNG).
- 2) Though sizeable number of Industries are using PNG, the Commission stressed the need to switch over to PNG by all identified Industries in Delhi considering the fact that industrial sector is one of the major contributors to air pollution in Delhi and National Capital Region
- 3) Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) were impressed upon to complete the pipeline network, metering and associated infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

51) Consider following with reference to Article 51 A (h) of Constitution of India :

1) Article 51A(h) of the Indian Constitution which states that it is the duty of every citizen of India to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of enquiry and reform, stressing how the solution to many problems of the modern world lie in science.

2) It deals with Fundamental Duties of citizens of India

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

52) Consider following with reference to advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility :

1) The state-of-the-art HWT Test facility is pressure vacuum driven enclosed free jet facility having nozzle exit diameter of 1 meter and will simulate Mach No 5 to 12 (Mach represents the multiplication factor to the speed of sound).

2) After USA and Russia, India is the third country to have such a large facility in terms of size and operating capability.

3) It is an indigenous development and an outcome of synergistic partnership with Indian industries. The facility has the capability to simulate hypersonic flow over a wide spectrum and will play a major role in the realization of highly complex futuristic aerospace and defence systems.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

53) Consider following with reference to the well Asokenagar-1, Bengal Basin :

1) ONGC took a major step by commencing oil production from the well Asokenagar-1, Bengal Basin in 24 Paragana district.

2) The well Asokenagar-1 was completed as an oil producer under Early-Monetization Plan issued by Government of India. This makes ONGC having discovered and put to production seven out of the eight producing basins of India covering 83 percent of established oil & gas reserves. ONGC is India's largest oil and gas producer contributing 72 percent of the country's hydrocarbon production

3) The well Asokenagar-1 has heralded the end of painstaking search for hydrocarbons in the region by ONGC by sending its first hydrocarbon consignment produced during well testing to IOCL's Haldia Oil Refinery done earlier on 5 November 2020.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

54) Consider following with reference to Consumer Protection Act, 2019 :

1) The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 which has replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 were notified in July, 2020. The relevant Rules and Regulations, including the E-Commerce Rules, which specify the duties and obligations of sellers and e-commerce entities were also notified.

2) With the notification of rules, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to regulate matters relating to violation of rights of consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements and to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class has become functional

3) In pursuance of Rule 8 of the Consumer Protection (Consumer disputes Redressal Commission) Rules, 2020, an online portal has been launched on September 7, 2020 for electronic filing of consumer cases in the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

55) Consider following with reference to ferry service between Hazira and Ghogha :

1) MOPSW has recently successfully implemented one of such ferry routes by deploying RoPAX vessel ferry service between Hazira and Ghogha.

2) This ferry service has reduced the distance between Ghogha and Hazira from 370 Km to 90 Km and travel time from 10 to 12 hours to about 5 hours.

3) This will result in huge savings of fuel (approx. 9000 litres per day)

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

56) Consider following with reference to Dhokra products / style metal works :

- 1) Dhokra is a non-ferrous metal casting style which uses the lost-wax technique. This style of metal casting has been in vogue in all parts of India for centuries.
- 2) The dhokra products reflect the simplicity and motifs of tribal and folk life and make for excellent gifting options.
- 3) Hence they are popular both in India and abroad.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

57) Consider following with reference to CoWIN :

- 1) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) along with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced the launching of "CoWIN", a Grand Challenge for strengthening the COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN) system, a digitalised platform to be used to effectively roll out and scale up the mechanism for COVID Vaccine Distribution System, nationally
- 2) National Health Authority, Aarogya Sethu, CSC, DigiLocker, UMANG are partners of it .
- 3) Fastest tech platform globally

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

58) Consider following with reference to FIDF :

India is the second largest fish producing country in the world accounting for 7.56% of global production and contributing about 1.24% to the country's Gross Value Added (GVA) and over 7.28% to the agricultural GVA. Fisheries and aquaculture continue to be an important source of food, nutrition, income and livelihood to millions of people. Export earnings from the Fisheries sector has been Rs.46,662.85 crores during 2019-20. The sector provides livelihood support to about 280 lakh people at the primary level and almost twice the number along the value chain and the annual average growth rate in the Fisheries sector has been 7% over the last few years

- 1) The Union Government in its Budget 2018 has set aside **Rs. 7,550 crore** for setting up of a dedicated Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF). The fund has the potential to benefit over 4 million marine and inland fishers especially women, SHGs, weaker sections, due to availability of modern infrastructure and added value of produce.
- 2) The Fund would be created in collaboration with NABARD, NCDC and Specified commercial banks. National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) will be the Nodal Implementing Agency for overall coordination of the FIDF activities. FIDF is expected to generate both direct and indirect employment opportunities to around 9.40 lakh persons in fishing and allied activities.
- 3) The fund would (i) fill the large infrastructure gaps in fisheries sector, (ii) create employment opportunity to the rural population in fishing and allied activities, (iii) contributes towards enhancement of fish production and productivity, (iv) offers manifold benefits and (v) fulfill the requirements of tapping the full fisheries potential and achieving the vision given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for doubling farmers' income.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

59) Consider following with reference to DTH :
Approval is given for the proposal for revision of the guidelines for obtaining license for providing Direct-To-Home (DTH) broadcasting service in India.

1) License for the DTH will be issued for a period of 20 years in place of present 10 years. Further the period of License may be renewed by 10 years at a time.

2) License fee has been revised from 10% of GR to 8% of AGR. AGR will be calculated by deduction of GST from GR.

3) DTH operators shall be permitted to operate to a maximum of 5% of its total channel carrying capacity as permitted platform channels. A one-time non-refundable registration fee of Rs.10,000 per PS channel shall be charged from a DTH operator.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

60) Consider following with reference to Tso Kar Wetland Complex :

1) India has added Tso Kar Wetland Complex in Ladakh as its 42nd Ramsar site, which is a second one in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.

2) The Tso Kar Basin is a high-altitude wetland complex, consisting of two principal waterbodies, Startsapuk Tso, a freshwater lake of about 438 hectares to the south, and Tso Kar itself, a hypersaline lake of 1800 hectares to the north, situated in the Changthang region of Ladakh, India. It is called Tso Kar, meaning white lake, because of the white salt efflorescence found on the margins due to the evaporation of highly saline water.

3) The Tso Kar Basin is an A1 Category Important Bird Area (IBA) as per Bird Life International and a key staging site in the Central Asian Flyway. The site is also one of the most important breeding areas of the Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) in India. This IBA is also the major breeding area for Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Bar-headed Geese (*Anser indicus*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunicephalus*), Lesser Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) and many other species.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

61) Consider following with reference to Ramsar List and Wetlands :

1) The aim of the Ramsar list is “to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits”.

2) Wetlands provide a wide range of important resources and ecosystem services such as food, water, fibre, groundwater recharge, water purification, flood moderation, erosion control and climate regulation.

3) Wetlands are, in fact a major source of water and our main supply of freshwater comes from an array of wetlands which help soak rainfall and recharge groundwater.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

62) Consider following with reference to 13 Water – quality parameters under Jal Jeevan Mission :

Water quality testing is one of the priority areas under Jal Jeevan Mission, the flagship programme of Union Government. The aim of the innovation challenge is to ensure that water sources are tested at various locations, at different levels; thereby, helping the policy framers to design programs which address the water contamination issues.

- 1) pH value 6.5 to 8.5 ; TDS : 500 mg/litre ; Turbidity – 1 NTU ; Chloride 250 mg/ltr
- 2) Total alkalinity 200 mg/ltr ; Total hardness 200 mg/ltr ; Sulphate 200 mg/ltr
- 3) Iron 1.0 mg/ltr ; Total arsenic 0.01 mg / ltr ; Fluoride 1.0 mg/ltr ; Nitrate 45 mg/ltr
- 4) Total coliform bacteria & E.coli or thermotolerant coliform bacteria - Not detectable in Any 100 ml sample

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

63) Consider following with reference to Jammu-Kashmir Ayushman Bharat-SEHAT Scheme :

- 1) everybody in the state gets free treatment of Rs. 5 lakhs under this scheme,
- 2) after the SEHAT scheme, the same benefit will be available to about 21 lakh families.
- 3) There are more than 24,000 hospitals across the country where you will be able to get treatment under the SEHAT scheme.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

64) Consider following with reference to NMPB :

In the first phase NMPB consortia proposed for medicinal plant species

- 1) Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*), Pippali (*Piper longum*),
- 2) Aonla (*Phyllanthus emblica*), Guggulu (*Commiphora wightii*),
- 3) Satavari (*Asparagus racemosus*).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

65) Consider following with reference to program BEAMS (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) :

- 1) The introduction of BEAMS program in 10 coastal states have resulted into international level of cleanliness at beaches with over 500 tonnes of solid waste collected, recycled and scientifically disposed at these beaches reducing the menace of marine litter by over 78% and marine plastic by over 83%.
- 2) Approximately 11000 KL of water was saved by recycling & reuse with BEAMS program, which has resulted into an increase in footfall at these beaches by over 85% cumulative.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

66) Consider following with reference to the beaches where the International Blue Flags were hoisted are:

- 1) Kappad (Kerala), Shivrajpur (Gujarat),
- 2) Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh),
- 3) Golden (Odisha) and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

4) The Flags were also simultaneously hoisted on these beaches physically by state ministers and senior officials of the respective state and Union territories.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

67) Consider following with reference to Tribes in India :

- 1) Patelia tribe from Madhya Pradesh
- 2) Vasava tribes of Gujarat
- 3) Kharwar and Oraon tribes of Jharkhand; AdimJanjati tribes and Lohra tribes of Jharkhand.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

68) Consider following :
Government is focussing on the five wheels

- 1) highways,
- 2) railways, airways,
- 3) waterways and i-ways

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

69) Consider following with reference to electoral bearer bonds :

- 1) Electoral Bonds may be purchased by a person (as defined in item No. 2 (d) of Gazette Notification), who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India. A person being an individual can buy Electoral Bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals.
- 2) Only the Political Parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and which secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, shall be eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds.
- 3) The Electoral Bonds shall be encashed by an eligible Political Party only through a Bank account with the Authorised Bank

4) The State Bank of India (SBI), in the XV Phase of sale, has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorised Branches (as per list enclosed) w.e.f. 01.01.2021 to 10.01.2021.

5) The Electoral Bonds shall be valid for **fifteen (15) calendar days** from the date of issue and no payment shall be made to any payee Political Party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period. The Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible Political Party in its account shall be credited on the same day.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- (d) None

Ans: c

70) Consider following with reference to Ramayan Cruise Tour :

1) Ramayan Cruise Tour' on the Saryu river in Ayodhya will be launched . Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways chaired a review meeting for the implementation of cruise service.

2) It will be the first-ever luxury Cruise service on the Saryu river (Ghagra/National Waterways-40) in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

3) It aims to give mesmerizing experience to devotees with one-of-its-kind spiritual journeys while cruising through the famous ghats of the holy river Saryu.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

71) Consider following with reference to Willingdon island :

1) Cochin is a major port in India, and Willingdon Island is a landmark.

2)

The Island is connected to the mainland by Venduruthy Bridge, which has road and railway links. There are two railway stations on the Island - the Mattancherry Halt and the Cochin Harbour Terminus.

3) The headquarters of the Southern Naval Command of the Indian Navy is located on the island

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

72) Consider following with reference to Sagarmala Programme :

1) The vision of the Programme is to reduce logistics cost of EXIM and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment.

2) This includes reducing the cost of transporting domestic cargo; lowering logistical cost of bulk commodities by locating future industrial capacities near the coast; improving export competitiveness by developing port proximate discrete manufacturing clusters, etc.

3) The Sagarmala programme has identified 504 projects under four pillars – 211 port modernization projects, 199 port connectivity projects, 32 port-led industrialization projects and 62 coastal community development projects which can unlock the opportunities for port-led development and are expected to mobilize more than Rs. 3.57 Lac Cr of infrastructure investment

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

73) Consider following with reference to peaceful users of outer space :

1) remote sensing of the earth; satellite communication and satellitebased navigation; Space science and planetary exploration; use of spacecraft and space systems and ground system; and application of space technology.

2) remote sensing of the earth; satellite communication; satellite navigation; space science and exploration of outer space.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2,

(d) None

Ans: c

74) Consider following with reference to Ayushman Bharat :

Ayushman Bharat comprises of two component

1)

The first component pertains to creation of 1,50,000 **Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)** by upgrading the Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and rural and urban Primary Health Centres (PHCs), in both urban and rural areas, which will bring health care closer to the community.

2) The second component is the Ayushman Bharat-**Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2,

(d) None

Ans: c

75) Consider following with reference to eSanjeevani :

1) The National Telemedicine Service "eSanjeevani" is a digital health initiative of the Ministry supports two types of teleconsultation services-Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations.

2) eSanjeevani was rolled out in November 2019 as an important component of the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme

3) It aims to implement tele-consultation in all the 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres in a 'Hub and Spoke' model, by December 2022. NHM in States identify and set up dedicated 'Hubs' in Medical Colleges and District hospitals to enable tele-consultations services to 'Spokes', set up at SHCs and PHCs.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

76) Consider following with reference to RTM & GTAM :

.

1) Two new products in Power Exchange were launched - Real Time Market (RTM) and Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM).

2) RTM was launched from 01.06.2020 enabling Discoms and other buyers to procure power nearer to delivery time.

3) GTAM was launched from 21.08.2020 enabling procurement of renewable power from the Power Exchanges.

4)The introduction of Green Markets on the Power Exchanges will facilitate achievement of green energy targets in a most efficient and cost optimized manner

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

77)Consider following with reference to Kasturi Cotton India :

1) Branding of Indian cotton was initiated by Ministry of Textiles for the first time at national level for quality consciousness and building image of Indian cotton at Global level.

2) In this endeavor, Brand name and logo for Indian cotton was launched on 7th October 2020 on the occasion of World Cotton Day as “KASTURI COTTON INDIA” to attain the objective of making India Atmanirbhar and vocal for local in the field of cotton.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

78)Consider following with reference to Coal Bed Methane(CBM) :

- 1) It means a natural gas trapped in a coal seam. Coal bed Methane (CBM), an unconventional source of natural gas is now considered as an alternative source for augmenting India's energy resource
- 2) India has the fifth largest proven coal reserves in the world and thus holds significant prospects for exploration and exploitation of CBM.
- 3) In order to harness CBM potential in the country, Government has undertaken several initiatives including the CBM policy.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

79) Consider following with reference to Surface Coal Gasification :

- 1) India has a reserve of 289 Billion tonnes of non-coking coal and about 80% of coal produced is used in thermal power plants. Coal gasification is considered as cleaner option as compared to burning of coal and utilises the chemical properties of coal.
- 2) Syn Gas produced from Coal gasification can be utilised in producing Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), energy fuel (methanol & ethanol), production of urea for fertilisers and production of Chemicals such as Acetic Acid, Methyl Acetate, Acetic Anhydride, DME, Ethylene and Propylene, Oxo chemicals and Poly Olefins.
- 3) **These products will help in import substitution and help the mission of *Atmanirbhar* Bharat**

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

80) Consider following with reference to One District One Product (ODOP) :

1) The Hon'ble PM's clarion call of 'Atmanirbhar' to the nation in his address on the 74th Independence Day – August 15, 2020 explicitly emphasized that we as a nation must move on the path of value addition to our natural as well as human resources. DPIIT is working on the initiative of One District One Product to take this vision forward

2) OODP has been envisaged to be a transformational step forward realizing the true potential of a district, fuel economic growth and generate employment and rural entrepreneurship.

3) ODOP has already been implemented in some of the States (for example, UP). By scaling it up as a national movement, we can look at creating a pool of 739 products from 739 districts in India that can be regulated.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

81) Consider following with reference to S.Q.A.A.F :

1) School Quality Assessment and Assurance Framework (S.Q.A.A.F) , which was operationalized .

2) It would address the deficiency of the absence of a common scientific framework for dimensions like curricula, pedagogy, assessment, infrastructure, inclusive practices and governance process.

3) SQAAF will help in bridging this inequality.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only

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

Ans: c

82)Consider following with reference to N-DEAR :

- 1) National Digital Architecture i.e. N-DEAR is likely to play a major role in eradicating inequality in education and its modernization.
- 2) N-DEAR will act as a 'super-connect' between various academic activities in the same way as UPI interface revolutionized the banking sector.
- 3) The country is making technology like Talking Books and Audiobooks a part of education.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

83)Consider following with reference to Vidyanjali 2.0 :

- 1) 'Vidyanjali 2.0' is like a platform for the country's resolve of 'Sabka Prayas' with 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'
- 2) In this society, our private sector has to come forward and contribute to increasing the quality of education in government schools.
- 3) Vidyanjali portal (for facilitating education volunteers/ donors/ CSR contributors for school development).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only

- (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

84) Consider following with reference to Manasarovar Yatra Route :

- 1) The ongoing work on the **Ghatibagarh-Lipulekh** as part of the Mansarovar Yatra Route was affected due to COVID-19 lockdown. Required permission was obtained from the State Govt to recommence the work as it is critical to complete formation cutting before the monsoons.
- 2) Resources were mobilised and concentrated efforts to undertake formation cutting works was undertaken. This achieved initial connectivity of the road on 17 Apr 2020.
- 3) Link road to Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (such road connected Kailash Mansarovar route to Lipulekh pass) was inaugurated on 08 May 2020.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

85) Consider following with reference to Passes and Roads in Mountains :

- 1) Razdhan Pass : Bandipur – Gurez Road
- 2) Zojila Pass : Srinagar – Leh Road
- 3) Rohtang Pass : Manali – Leh Road
- 4) Rimkhim Pass : Suman – Rimkhim Road
- 5) Niti Pass : Kurkuti – Niti Road

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- (d) None

Ans: c

86) Consider following with reference to ASIIM :
ASIIM through the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCFSC).

1). Ambedkar Social Innovation Incubation Mission (ASIIM)

2) Its objectives include: To promote entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs; To support (1,000) innovative ideas till 2024 through a synergetic work with the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) set up by Department of Science and Technology; to support, promote, hand-hold the start-up ideas till they reach commercial stage by providing liberal equity support; and To incentivise students with innovative mind-set to take to entrepreneurship with confidence

3) This initiative under VCF-SC will promote innovation in the SC youth and would help them to become job-givers from job-seekers; and would further give fillip to the 'Stand Up India' initiative of the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

87) Consider following with reference to NashaMukt Bharat (2020-21) :

1) NashaMukt Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21) for 272 Most Affected Districts' was e-launched by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on the occasion of "International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

2) NashaMukt Bharat Annual Action Plan for 2020-21 would focus on 272 most affected districts and launch a three-pronged attack combining efforts of Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through the Health Dept..

3) The Action Plan has the following components: Awareness generation programmes; Focus on Higher Educational institutions, University Campuses and Schools; Community outreach and identification of dependent population; Focus on Treatment facilities in Hospital settings; and Capacity Building Programmes for Service Provider

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

88) Consider following with reference to Geographical Indication (GI) :

1) The Geographical Indication, which has been recognized by the World Trade Organization, is used to denote the geographical territory from where a product, be it an agricultural produce, natural product or manufactured, and also conveys assurance of qualities or attributes that are unique to that specific geographic region.

2) India became a signatory to this convention, when, as a member of the WTO, it enacted the Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection Act), 1999, which came into effect from September 15, 2003.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

89) Consider following pairs :

1) Aarogya Setu: contact tracing app, has been downloaded 16.71 crore times (Android, iOS and KaiOS) and has successfully predicted a large number of potential COVID-19 hotspots.

2) DigiLocker: the digital platform for issuance and verification of documents issued by Government and private departments, achieved 5.19 crore registered users; over 426 crore documents have been issued from 722 Issuer organisations.

3) UMANG : a mobile app (Android, iOS and KaiOS), is a unified platform aggregating major govt services (center, state and local bodies); 2084 services are available and the app is integrated with Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Payment Gateway etc.

4) Jeevan Pramaan : a biometric-enabled digital service for pensioners to submit their Digital Life Certificates (DLC) online, processed 4.31 crore DLCs till November 2020.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (d) None

Ans: c

90) Consider following with reference to 1000 Springs Initiative :

The '1000 Springs Initiative' is a unique project of Springs Rejuvenation which aims at improving access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities living in difficult and inaccessible part of rural areas in India.

1) It is an integrated solution around natural springs. It includes provision of infrastructure for piped water supply for drinking; provision of water for irrigation; community-led total sanitation initiatives; and provision for water for backyard nutrition gardens, generating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the tribal people..

2) It is hoped that the learning and suggestions coming out of the consultation will be used for further expansion of the project

3) online portal on GIS-based Spring Atlas with hydrological and chemical properties of the Springs is available

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

91) Consider following with reference to **Ice Stupas in Ladakh** :

Ladakh is characterised by distinct geographical and climatic features. It is known as a cold desert. With reducing precipitation, increasing average temperatures, and reduced glaciers to water the villages, some Himalayan villages are now slowly turning into ghost towns with abandoned but habitable houses and wasted agricultural land. This gives rise to three major modern issues of Ladakh relating to water scarcity, low indoor temperatures in buildings, and a shift from the original agrarian-based economy resulting into youth migration.

1) A unique way to solve water problems and livelihood problems through Action Research project in Ladakh has been initiated with SECMOL, Ladakh. 26 Ice stupas were built by Villagers and on an average 3 lakh liter water was stored in each such stupa for the winter season of 2019-20.

2) Through this project, anticipating villagers were able to conserve about 75 lakh litres of water during winters and eco-tourism activities like “1st Ladakh Ice Climbing Festival” gave opportunity to the local youth to be indulged in eco-entrepreneurial ventures.

3) It will help in rehabilitation of abandoned villages and can change economy of the village by solving water problem, plantation of trees and irrigation. The stupas are source of tourist attraction and plantation of trees through community participation and engaging local in Home Stay project will help in

their economic upliftment. In 2 years, Ice Stupas would be established in 50 villages for drinking water and water irrigation required for agriculture and would go a long way in changing economy of the area.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

92) Consider following with reference to **Bharat Parv** :

1) **“Bharat Parv”** is organized at the Gyan Path and Red Fort Ground, Delhi from 26th to 31st January 2020, as a part of the Republic Day Celebrations.

2) The theme of the Bharat Parv was ‘150 Years of Mahatma’ and ‘Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat’.

3) The main attractions during Bharat Parv 2020 included display of Republic Day tableaux, performance by Armed Forces Band, pavilion by State Governments/UTs and the line Ministries, food stalls, cultural performances, handicraft and handloom stalls, etc.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

93) Consider following with reference to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) in collaboration with private sector which will boost “Atmanirbhar Bharat” . :

1) It is a historic decision to open up India’s Space sector for participation by private players. He said,

2) The decision to create Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) will provide a level playing field for private companies as well as Start-Ups.

3) The proposed range of space activities includes Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, Geospatial services, Satellite Constellation, Application products, etc,

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

94) Consider following with reference to Indian Antarctic expeditions :

The 40th expedition journey will be flagged off from Goa on January 5, 2021, with 43 members onboard. The chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasily Golovnin will make this journey and will reach Antarctica in 30 days. After leaving behind a team of 40 members, it would return to India in April 2021. On return, it will also bring back the winter team of the preceding trip.

1) The Indian Antarctic expeditions began in 1981. The first trip comprised of a team of 21 scientists and support staff led by Dr. S.Z. Qasim.

2) After a humble beginning, the Indian Antarctic programme has now credited to have built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica—named Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri, and Bharati.

3) As of today, India has two operational research stations in Antarctica named Maitri and Bharati. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, manages the entire Indian Antarctic program.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

95) Consider following with reference to Construction & Demolition (C&D) activities in National Capital Region :

Intensive drives were conducted by these agencies from 24.12.2020 to 31.12.2020 by constituting about 227 teams.

1) . These teams carried out surprise checks and inspections at more than 3000 C&D sites of which about 386 sites were found to be non-compliant with the various C&D Waste Management Rules / Guidelines and dust mitigation measures stipulated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Central Pollution Control Board. Further, an amount of approx. Rs.1.59 crore was levied as environment compensation against the defaulting agencies besides orders for stoppage of work at 12 locations

2) Compliance with respect to transportation of materials related to C&D activities was also seen by the inspecting teams. About 325 vehicles, not in conformance with guidelines related to transportation of C&D materials, were levied environment compensation charges of approximately Rs. 1.17 crore.

3) Such fortnightly drives are planned to be continued to enforce compliance of the C&D waste management rules and related guidelines to abate dust pollution from C&D sector, which contributes significantly to poor air quality in the National Capital Region

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

96) Consider following with reference to GST Compensation : (January, 2021 news)

10th weekly instalment of Rs.6,000 crore to the States to meet the GST compensation shortfall, was released in January, 2021 . Out of this, an amount of Rs.5,516.60 crore has been released to 23 States and an amount of Rs.483.40 crore has been released to the 3 Union Territories (UT) with Legislative Assembly (Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir & Puducherry) who are members of the GST Council. The remaining 5 States, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim do not have a gap in revenue on account of GST implementation. Now, more than 50 percent of

the estimated GST compensation shortfall has been released to the States & UT with Legislative Assembly.

1) The Government of India had set up a special borrowing window in October, 2020 to meet the estimated shortfall of Rs.1.10 lakh crore in revenue arising on account of implementation of GST. The borrowings are being done through this window by the Government of India on behalf of the States and UTs. The borrowings have been done in 10 rounds

2) In addition to providing funds through the special borrowing window to meet the shortfall in revenue on account of GST implementation, the Government of India has also granted additional borrowing permission equivalent to 0.50 % of Gross States Domestic Product(GSDP) to the states choosing Option-I to meet GST compensation shortfall to help them in mobilising additional financial resources. All the States have been given their preference for Option-I.

3) Permission for borrowing the entire additional amount of Rs.1,06,830 crore(0.50 % of GSDP) has been granted to 28 States under this provision

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

97) Consider following with reference to PSA Oxygen Concentrator Plants :

1) Installation of PSA Oxygen Concentrator Plants in public health facilities is an important step to reduce the health facility's dependence on the system of store and supply and to enable these facilities to have their own oxygen generation capacity

2) PSA : Pressure Swing Adsorption

3) Adequate and uninterrupted supply of oxygen is an essential pre-requisite for managing moderate and severe cases of COVID -19, in addition to various other medical conditions where this need arises.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

98) Consider following with reference to advisory for management of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) in the country. :

1) The advisory envisages empowering gram panchayats in dealing with the problematic wild animals as per the section 11 (1) (b) of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972..

2) Utilising add-on coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna for crop compensation against crop damage due to HWC and augmenting fodder and water sources within the forest areas are some key steps envisaged to reduce HWC

3) . Payment of a portion of ex-gratia as interim relief within 24 hours of the incident to the victim/family

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

99) Consider following with reference to **Caracal** :

1) Caracal, a medium size wild cat found in some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, included into the list of critically endangered species for taking up conservation efforts with financial support under Centrally sponsored Scheme-Development of Wildlife Habitat.

2) Now, there are 22 wildlife species under recovery programme for critically endangered species.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2

(d) None

Ans: c

100) Consider following with reference to **Avian Influenza (AI)** :

Avian Influenza (AI) viruses have been circulating worldwide for centuries with four known major outbreaks recorded in the last century. India notified the first outbreak of avian influenza in 2006. Infection in humans is not yet reported in India though the disease is zoonotic. There is no direct evidence that AI viruses can be transmitted to humans via the consumption of contaminated poultry products

1) Some samples of crow from Kale Hanumanji Forest Nakka, Jaipur, Rajasthan found positive for H5N8 Avian influenza virus

2) . Implementing management practices that incorporate bio security principles, personal hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection protocols, as well as cooking and processing standards, are effective means of controlling the spread of the AI viruses.

3) In India, the disease spreads mainly by migratory birds coming into India during winter months i.e. from September – October to February – March. The secondary spread by human handling (through fomites) cannot be ruled out.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

TSPSC GROUP I Prelims 2022 (Scheduled on 16.10.2022)
TSLPRB SI & CONSTABLES

Model Questions (for GS Paper)
Set No. 8 {Prepared on 28 .5.2022 }

For Study purpose
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1)Consider the following with reference to **India and EU** :

1) India and the European Union (European Union) committed to a framework for strategic cooperation until 2025, and vowed to cooperate on their response to the coronavirus pandemic and at the United Nations Security Council.

2)“India and the EU are natural partners,” said Prim Minister in his opening remarks. “Our partnership is important for global peace and stability, and this reality is clearer given the situation around the world,” he added. He also referred to shared “universal values” of democracy, pluralism, respect for international institutions and multilateralism between India and the EU.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

2)Consider the following :

1) The Water Resources Department (WRD) began improvement works at Tamaraiakkam dam, one of the oldest across **Kosasthalaiyar river**. Built in 1868, this structure plays a crucial role in storing and diverting surplus water for Chennai’s drinking water supply.

2)Located 15 km downstream of Poondi reservoir, one of the prime storage points for city’s water supply, the Tamaraiakkam anaicut, built near Ammanambakkam village, Tiruvallur district, is nearly 190.80 m long.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only

- (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

3) Consider the following with reference to **superspreaders** :

1) The groups labelled superspreaders represent some of the most vulnerable groups in Indian society. Vegetable vendors and others that supply essential services during this crisis are not only more vulnerable for infection because of the nature of their profession but are also more likely to face adverse outcomes, if infected, because of their marginality. These groups are less likely to have access to good health care, more vulnerable to economic shocks caused by the illness, and little voice in the political process to defend their rights.

2) Why some individuals tend to be superspreaders is a question epidemiologists continue to grapple with, more so in the context of COVID-19, the science around which continues to evolve. Initial evidence indicates that factors such as the mode of transmission through finer aerosols that can be suspended in the air for long, an individual's ability to shed higher loads of virus than is typical of others, and the presence of an infected individual in indoor, closed spaces could make such persons superspreaders.

3) A particularly challenging aspect of this pandemic has been the large proportion of asymptomatic infected patients who can shed high virus loads before experiencing symptoms and can spread infection to many contacts without their knowledge. Because of this complexity, practices such as universal masking, social distancing, and hand hygiene have become key to containing the pandemic.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

4) Consider the following with reference to **reverse migration** :

1) Lessons should be learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic which saw unprecedented reverse migration, members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, headed by Congress leader , said at a meeting .

2) The Committee has advised the government to set up a national database of migrant workers so that they don't fall out of the social security cover.

3) The members, it is learnt, asked Home Secretary and other officials from the Union Home Ministry to explain if better coordination between States and districts could have prevented the massive exodus of migrant workers, many of whom trudged back many kilometres to their home States.

4)The officials, sources said, informed the panel that if a nationwide lockdown had not been imposed, the number of cases could have gone up to 50 lakh and India would have seen nearly 1.5 lakh deaths.

5)The officials also warned that going by the global trends, the number of cases will continue to spiral and projections for weeks ahead is grim.

6)“This pandemic has brought to the fore the gaping holes in our social security network, which need to be plugged. The government can announce any plans but unless the benefit reaches the concerned, it is of no utility,” one of the members said. The committee has urged the government to come up with the database at the earliest since the pandemic and consequent economic uncertainty is likely to continue for while.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6

(d) None

Ans: c

5)Consider the following with reference to **sovereign portfolio guarantee (PCGS)**. :

1) The Union Cabinet had, on May 20, 2020 approved the sovereign portfolio guarantee of up to 20% of the first loss for purchase of Bonds or Commercial Papers with a rating of AA and below, including unrated paper with original or initial maturity of up to one year issued by NBFCs/HFCs/MFIs by public sector banks through an extension of the PCGS.

2)Public sector banks (PSBs) have purchased bonds and commercial papers worth ₹14,667 crore issued by 67 NBFCs under the revamped Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS), Finance Minister said .

3)As part of the nearly ₹21 lakh crore special economic package amid the COVID-19 crisis, Finance Minister announced Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) 2.0 worth ₹45,000 crore for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and micro finance institutions (MFIs)

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

6)Consider the following with reference to **postal ballots** :

1) The Election Commission in July 2020 said the postal ballot facility for electors above the age of 65 in the Bihar Assembly elections, which would have been the first time it would have been used since the Centre had notified it on June 19, would not be implemented.

2) In a statement, the EC said the decision was taken for the Assembly elections and bypolls due soon due to logistical challenges.

3) The poll body said the option of postal ballots would be available to electors over 80 years of age, persons with disabilities, essential service workers and those infected with COVID-19 or suspected to be.

4) After the Law Ministry notified the extension of postal ballots to electors over 65, several political parties had raised concerns over the decision.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

7) Consider the following with reference to **Sattarghat bridge** :

1) 1.4-km-long Sattarghat bridge inaugurated by Mr. Kumar on June 16 through video conferencing was washed away in floodwaters just 29 days after inauguration.

2) The swollen floodwater in the Gandak washed away the northern side of the newly inaugurated bridge and disrupted traffic movement causing great inconvenience to the commuters

3) Many rivers in Bihar, especially in the northern parts of the State, will be swollen and flowing above the danger mark, giving rise to the threat of flood in those areas.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

8) Consider the following with reference to **multilateral system** :

1) Calling on members of the United Nations to pledge for reform within the world body, Prime Minister of India said the multilateral system needed to be more representative, and India believed that “the path to achieve sustainable peace and prosperity” was through multilateralism.

2) He was speaking at a high-level dialogue of the UN’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on “Multilateralism after COVID-19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?”

3) “Only reformed multilateralism with a reformed United Nations at its centre can meet the aspirations of humanity,” said in his speech focusing on India’s battle against the coronavirus pandemic

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

9) Consider the following with reference to **PM-KUSUM** :

1) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM), a Central government scheme for installation of solar pumps with a 70% subsidy.

2) Under the PM-KUSUM, which is being implemented on a “first come, first serve” basis, a farmer gets total subsidy of 70% of the cost of a pump. Of this, the State’s share is 40% and that of the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy 30%. The balance 30% has to be borne by the beneficiary.

3) For example, on average, a 7.5-horsepower-capacity pump (using alternating current or direct current) costs around ₹3,33,000. As the State and Central subsidy will account for 70% of the cost, a beneficiary will have to spend ₹1,00,000. Nine suppliers have been chosen for the State.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

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

Ans: c

10) Consider the following with reference to **lion population** :

1) Starting 2 p.m. on June 5, some 1,400 forest personnel, armed with binoculars, cameras and spreadsheets fanned out across dry deciduous and thorny scrub forests, fields and villages in and around **Gujarat's Gir National Park** to count the world's only remaining Asiatic lion population. The survey was over in 24 hours. And within the next few days the tally was announced.

2) The lion population, said the State forest department, had increased significantly by 29%, from 523 five years ago to 674. The department also said that the big cat's distribution had increased to 30,000 sq.km. from 22,000 sq.km., covering nine districts in Saurashtra. All this despite the scourge of the canine distemper virus (CDV) outbreak in 2018 that killed 36 lions.

3) This heartening news about the Asiatic lion — an animal that was once close to extinction — was celebrated widely; 'Kudos to the people of Gujarat and all those whose efforts have led to this excellent feat,' the Prime Minister tweeted. But very soon, scientists raised questions: how do you count lions across thousands of square kilometres in 24 hours? How do you analyse and arrive at a figure in a matter of days? Is it not time that the census method — the block count method — used for decades, was upgraded to test newer techniques?

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

11) Consider the following : **(Population growth in India and other countries)**

When this century ends, India may no longer be a country of a billion, says a projection

1) At the current rate of growth, India's population is likely to peak by 2047 at about 1.61 billion and then decline to 1.03 billion by 2100.

2) However, were it to meet UN Sustainable Goal Development targets, the peak would be earlier and see a population decline to 929 million.

3)Conventional wisdom is that though a decline in population is expected, it is expected to begin only around 2046 and that fall, according to the latest 2019 assessment by the United Nations Development Programme calculation, is expected to see India's population settle at a little over 1.4 billion, though this too ranges from 2.1-0.9 billion

3)The sharper fall, say the group of scientists who are affiliated to the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, is due to the assumption that all women globally will have have much higher access to contraception and education.

4)This scenario will lead to a sharper reduction in the Total Fertility Rate, a metric that shows on average how many children a women must have to keep replenishing population. A TFR lower than 2.1, it is said, leads to a decline in a country's population.

5)The UNPD forecasts assume that all countries mirror the trend in selected low-fertility countries in Europe, east and southeast Asia, and North America, where the TFRs converge towards a level of approximately 1.75.

6)"In our model, in a population where all females have 16 years of education and 95% of females have access to contraception, the global TFR was projected to converge to 1.41 (1.35–1.47). The difference between a convergent TFR of 1.75 or 1.41 is profound," the study said.

7)Seen this way, they argue, world population is expected to peak by 2061 at 9.73 billion and by 2100 dip to 8.79 billion. However, the UNDP forecasts about 10.8 billion by then.

8)India will, however, remain the most populous country. The five largest countries in 2100 (are projected) to be India, Nigeria, China, the U.S. and Pakistan.

9)However, these forecasts showed different future trajectories between countries.

10)"Nigeria is forecast to have continued population growth through 2100 and was expected to be the second most populous country by then," the study added.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

(d) None

Ans: c

12)Consider the following with reference to **Clause 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution** :

Amid the worsening political crisis in Rajasthan, rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot and 18 other dissident MLAs moved the High Court , challenging the disqualification notices issued to

them by the Assembly Speaker. The Pilot camp contended that they could not be disqualified merely for disagreeing with the decisions and policies of some leaders outside the Assembly.

Accordingly, the writ petition was amended and filed again to challenge the Speaker's notices as well as the validity of the Rajasthan Assembly Members (Disqualification on the Grounds of Changing Party) Rules, 1989, and **Clause 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution**, dealing with disqualification on the ground of defection.

1) Constitutional courts cannot judicially review disqualification proceedings under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) of the Constitution until the Speaker or Chairman makes a final decision on merits.

2) A 28-year-old judgment of the Supreme Court in *Kihoto Hollohan versus Zachillu and Others* has said that "judicial review cannot be available at a stage prior to the making of a decision by the Speaker/Chairman and an action would not be permissible. Nor would interference be permissible at an interlocutory stage of the proceedings."

"The only exception for any interlocutory interference being cases of interlocutory disqualifications or suspensions which may have grave, immediate and irreversible repercussions and consequence," the Bench had held.

3) The judgment is significant in the case of ousted Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and the 18 MLAs, who were issued notice under the anti-defection law after the ruling Congress sought their disqualification. They have approached the Rajasthan High Court challenging the constitutionality of Paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule which makes "voluntarily giving up membership of a political party" liable for disqualification.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

13) Consider the following with reference to **Chabahar-Zahedan railway project** :

1) The Government of India says it had not received any response from Iran since December 2019 on the future of the **Chabahar-Zahedan railway project** that the state-owned railway construction company IRCON was to have constructed and financed. The ONGC's foreign arm OVL is also out of the Farzad-B gas field exploration project.

2) The government cited policy changes by the Iranian government, Iran's precarious finances, and the U.S. sanctions situation as the reasons for the decisions on Indian infrastructure projects in Iran, which would both be undertaken through local companies instead.

3) Later, Iranian Railways and its transport department inaugurated laying of track for the 628-km stretch from the **southern port city of Chabahar to Zahedan on the border with Afghanistan**. Officials had told that the track would now be funded by Iran's own National Development fund.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

14) Consider the following with reference to TRAFFIC & CITES :

1) Tortoise and freshwater turtles are among the most trafficked in the country. A report released in 2019 by TRAFFIC, an international wildlife trade monitoring organisation, showed that at least 200 tortoises and freshwater turtles fall prey to illicit poaching and smuggling every week, or 11,000 each year, adding up to over 1,11,130 turtles poached or smuggled between September 2009 and September 2019.

2) One of the major challenges for freshwater turtle conservation in the country is that wildlife crime prevention agencies are not sufficiently equipped to know how to distinguish one species from the other, or their protection status in accordance with CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) and the Wildlife Protection Act.

3) "Suppose turtles are recovered at Kolkata Airport, then KURMA will help you reach five places in Kolkata that one can approach for help. Different rescue centres are also registered on the app, and also a number of experts who can provide more information on the species,"

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

15) Consider the following :

Over the years, the Chabahar project has grown, and now envisages a port, a free trade zone, the 628-km railway line to Zahedan, and then the little over 1,000-km track to Sarakhs on the border with Turkmenistan.

The inauguration of a track-laying project from Iran’s Chabahar port to Zahedan on the border with Afghanistan , has ensured that Chabahar — which literally means “four seasons”, named for its salubrious weather — is once again in the middle of a storm over the fate of India’s investment there.

The Chabahar project is ambitious and will require deep pockets, but New Delhi has always weighed its strategic benefits above the costs.

1)India-Iran relations are historic and New Delhi has sought to maintain these ties in the face of opposition from Iran’s adversaries, namely the United States, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

2)The Chabahar project ties India and Iran together as New Delhi deals with its difficult neighbour to the west, Pakistan.

3)A major trade and connectivity hub on Iran’s coast not only gives India an alternative route to Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan, but also has the potential to provide an Indian strategic counter to Pakistan’s Gwadar port being developed by China right next door to Chabahar.

4)The Chabahar trade zone could be an important weigh station for India’s energy imports and food and material exports coming from Kandla and Mundra ports.

5)And the rail project will allow India an independent corridor not only to Afghanistan, which Pakistan has denied it, but also to Central Asia and Russia

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5

(d) None

Ans: c

16)Consider the following with reference to UP Population Policy draft (12.7.2021):

Every section of society must join in the awareness programme for population control, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Sunday as he launched the State’s population policy for 2021-2030.

Mr. Adityanath said rising population was the root of major problems and prevailing inequality in society. “Increasing population can be an obstacle to development,” he said here, stating that the new policy was drafted keeping in mind all sections of society.

If there is no gap between the birth of two children, it will naturally affect their nutrition, he said, explaining the need for spacing and control in population.

1)The new policy aims at decreasing the total fertility rate from 2.7 to 2.1 by 2026 and 1.7 by 2030, increase modern contraceptive prevalence rate from 31.7% to 45% by 2026 and 52% by 2030, increase male methods of contraception use from 10.8% to

15.1% by 2026 and 16.4% by 2030, decrease maternal mortality rate from 197 to 150 to 98, and infant mortality rate from 43 to 32 to 22, and under 5 infant mortality rate from 47 to 35 to 25.

2) Targeting stabilisation, the draft of the policy also said the State would attempt to maintain a balance of population among the various communities. "Awareness and extensive programmes would be held among those communities, cadres and geographical areas that have a higher fertility rate," the policy read.

3) Addressing a function at his official residence here, the Chief Minister said efforts to control population were linked to comprehensive awareness in society. "We should not forget that the increase in population contributes to poverty in society. Hence, until all sections of society are made comprehensively aware, there will be a delay in fulfilling various goals. Every section of society has to be associated with the awareness campaign,"

4) The health of a mother and her child have to be linked with this, the CM said.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

17) Consider the following :

1) Chinese nationals displayed banners in protest from across Indus river, close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), when Indian villagers were celebrating the birthday of the Dalai Lama in Demchok in eastern Ladakh.

2) Koyul (Kakjung), one of the last settlements in the Demchok sector,

3) The developments come against the backdrop of a continuing deadlock in the talks at various levels to resolve the ongoing military stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

4) While the first phase of disengagement at Pangong Tso was completed in February, efforts to work out an agreement for the second phase of disengagement at Gogra and Hot Springs have been held up. Other frictions areas at Demchok and Depsang still remain.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

18) Consider the following :

1) The Chennai city police are planning to improve traffic management by installing more smart poles, which are integrated to a command centre, and are eliciting the opinions of police personnel on the field, according to Commissioner of Police.

2) Smart poles have been installed in about 50 locations by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC). "We plan to expand the scope of traffic management through smart poles. These cloud-based poles will be able to monitor the status of traffic in an area and relay the status to nearby police officers as well as the control room. The proposed new Command and Control Centre will have a state-of-the-art data centre and analytical capability, apart from manual interface through wall screens,"

3) The Smart City project is being implemented by the GCC and other departments at a cost of ₹900 crore. The project has a component for traffic information and management, which includes smart poles.

4) The poles will have advanced cameras, and will give inputs on a real-time basis to the proposed Command and Control Centre.

5) Meanwhile, an Intelligent Traffic Management System, introduced recently on a pilot basis at five junctions in Anna Nagar and Thirumangalam, has been successful.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

19) Consider the following with reference to **Resident Grievance Officer** :

1) Twitter has appointed Mr.X as its Resident Grievance Officer for India, according to its website.

2) The micro-blogging site also published its **first compliance report**, which is mandatory under the new digital rules.

3) "In compliance with Rule 4(1)(d) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, we have published our inaugural report on July 11, 2021, for the reporting period from May 26, 2021, through to June 25, 2021," Twitter said on its website.

4) As per the new digital media rules, significant social media intermediaries are required **to appoint a grievance officer, a nodal officer and a chief compliance officer.**

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

20) Consider the following with reference to **Adolescent Population in India** :

1) At 253 million, India's adolescent population is among the largest.

2) Over 62% of India is aged between 15 and 59 years, and the median age of the population is less than 30 years.

3) India's 'demographic dividend' represents the potential for economic growth based on the age structure of the population.

4) However, transforming this potential into reality requires adolescents and the youth to be healthy and well-educated.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

21) Consider the following with reference to Koo Platform :

1) "Reviewed the implementation and compliance of Information Technology Rules, 2021 along with my colleague Mr. Y. These guidelines are empowering and protecting users and will ensure a safer and responsible social media ecosystem in India," Mr. X said in a post on the Koo platform, Twitter's Indian competitor.

2) The new rules, which came into effect from May 25, mandate social media companies to establish a grievance redress mechanism for resolving complaints from the users or victims.

3) All significant social media companies **with a user base of over 50 lakh** shall appoint a grievance officer to deal with such complaints and share the name and contact details of such officers.

4) The big social media companies are mandated to appoint a Chief Compliance Officer, a Nodal Contact Person and a Resident Grievance Officer.

5) All of them should be residents of India.

6) Twitter has already appointed an interim chief compliance officer and is expected to appoint a nodal officer soon.

7) In its compliance report, titled "India Transparency Report", Twitter has provided data on the different categories of complaints from users and action taken on them as well as

provided information on its proactive monitoring efforts. Between May 26, 2021 and June 25, 2021, Twitter received a total of 38 complaints, which resulted in action against 133 URLs.

8)Of these, the largest number of complaints pertained to defamation(20), followed by abuse or harassment (6) and sensitive adult content (4).

9)Twitter also processed 56 grievances appealing for suspension of user accounts, of which seven were overturned and remaining suspended.

10)The social media giant has also said that proactive monitoring of user content led to suspension of 18,385 accounts for child sexual exploitation and 4,179 accounts for terrorism related activities globally.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

(d) None

Ans: c

22)Consider the following with reference to **Kesaria Buddha Stupa in east Champaran District of Bihar** :

1)The world-famous Kesaria Buddha stupa in east Champaran district of Bihar is waterlogged following floods in some parts of the district after heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of river **Gandak in neighbouring Nepal**.

2)East and West Champaran districts share their borders with Nepal at many places.

3)The stupa, located about 110 km from the State capital Patna, has a circumference of almost 400 feet and stands at a height of about 104 feet. The first construction of the nationally protected stupa is dated to the 3rd century BCE.

4)It is regarded as the largest Buddhist stupa in the world and has been drawing tourists from across several Buddhist countries.

5)The stupa's exploration had started in the early 19th century after its discovery led by **Colonel Mackenzie in 1814**. Later, it was excavated by **General Cunningham in 1861-62** and in 1998 an ASI team led by archaeologist **K.K. Muhammad** had excavated the site properly.

6)The original Kesaria stupa is said to date back to the time of **emperor Ashoka** (circa 250 BCE) as the remains of an Ashokan pillar was discovered there. The local people call the stupa "devalaya," meaning "house of gods".

7)The ASI has declared it a protected monument. However, a larger part of the stupa is yet to be developed as it remains under thick vegetation.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7

(d) None

Ans: c

23) Consider the following with reference to **water droplets and smaller water particles from mouth and nose** :

The most vulnerable group could be unvaccinated individuals, particularly those below the age of 18. While most of the Railway hospitals have been provided with sufficient facilities for oxygen supply by way of enhanced number of cylinders, concentrators and Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) plants, the advisory asked senior medical officers to review the availability of adequate stock of medicines/consumables, besides sensitising doctors/paramedical staff on the future course of the pandemic.

1) Bhagwan Mantri, consultant, pulmonology, Moolchand Hospital, noted that lower relative humidity aided airborne transmission of water droplets and aerosols.

“When we cough, sneeze, talk or sing, water droplets and smaller water particles [aerosols] containing living viruses disperse into the air. Droplets and aerosols tend to stay afloat longer and travel farther in the air with lower relative humidity. Virus-containing aerosols, in particular, can penetrate more deeply into the lungs to increase the possibility of transmission,” he said.

2) “When moisture levels are insufficient, viral particles have a greater ‘docking’ potential at airway receptor sites, which can lead to an increased risk of infection. Low relative humidity has a drying effect on the cells and mucous linings of our airways. These cells act as a defence against viral particles and other invading foreign substances. Drying out airway linings impairs their ability to function properly,” Mr. Mantri added.

However, he said adherence to COVID-appropriate behaviour was the only way to reduce the transmission risk in any atmospheric condition.

3) The lingering second COVID-19 wave and the current weather — a combination of high heat and humidity prevailing across some parts of India — have prompted doctors to caution the general public to strictly follow COVID-appropriate behaviour to ensure that places with common air conditioning and poor ventilation do not prove to be superspreader zones.

4) The effect of worsened weather on an ongoing illness contributed in terms of aggravated symptoms, said Anurag Aggarwal, associate consultant, internal medicine, QRG Health City, Faridabad, who added that there was no proven research on how the virus responded to weather conditions.

5) Bhagwan Mantri, consultant, pulmonology, Moolchand Hospital, noted that lower relative humidity aided airborne transmission of water droplets and aerosols.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

24) Consider the following with reference to **Rhinos** :

1) "Rhinos have blurred vision and tend to attack based on smell and hearing.

2) All rhinos have poor eyesight. Some, like the one that has made a highway beside the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) its temporary home, have even poorer vision.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

25) Consider the following with reference to **Human Rights** :

1) Torture is not defined in the Indian Penal Code, but the definitions of 'hurt' and 'grievous hurt' are clearly laid down. Though the definition of 'hurt' does not include mental torture, Indian courts have included psychic torture, environmental coercion, tiring interrogative prolixity, and overbearing and intimidatory methods, among others, in the ambit of torture. Voluntarily causing hurt and grievous hurt to extort confession are also provided in the Code with enhanced punishment. Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, a judicial magistrate inquires into every custodial death.

2) The National Human Rights Commission has laid down specific guidelines for conducting autopsy under the eyes of the camera.

3) However, a fresh draft of the Prevention of Torture Bill was released in 2017 for seeking suggestions from various stakeholders. The Bill was not only vague but also very harsh for the police to discharge its responsibilities without fear of prosecution and persecution. It was inconsistent with the existing provisions of law. It included 'severe or prolonged pain or suffering' as a form of torture but that was left undefined.

4) The proposed quantum of punishment was too harsh. Though the 262nd Law Commission Report recommended that the death penalty be abolished except in cases of 'terrorism-related offences', the Bill provided for the death penalty for custodial deaths. While most countries have deleted or are deleting the death penalty from their

statute books, for India to enact fresh legislation with the death penalty as the ultimate form of punishment shows its continuing passive mindset towards human life.

5) In 2017, the Central government admitted in the Supreme Court that it was seriously considering the 273rd Report of the Law Commission that recommended ratification of the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment (CAT). CAT was signed by India, but is yet to be ratified. However, except for minor discrepancies, the prevalent law in India is adequate and well in tune with the provisions of CAT.

6) "The investigations, the prosecutions are not fair; these must be rectified first," he said. He exhorted that the police need to be trained better. The temptation to use third-degree methods must be replaced with scientific skills. Thus, the need of the hour is to strike at the root cause of the problem and implement recommendations of various commissions to bring in necessary reforms.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
- (d) None

Ans: c

26) Consider the following with reference to **Galwan valley** :

1) In the Galwan Valley, the 1960 line ran east of the bend of **the Galwan river, called the Y-nallah**, which was the site of the June 15 clash. The clash took place following a dispute during the de-escalation process, triggered when the PLA put up a tent near the bend, and marked the worst violence on the border since 1967.

2) Chinese troops were on the north bank of Pangong Lake in Ladakh in an area that is beyond what even China described as its official boundary during talks with India in 1960, official records show.

3) China's tent that it set up on the bend of the Galwan river, which sparked the violent face-off culminating in the death of 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese personnel on June 15, was also beyond China's territorial claims, according to the 1960 records.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

27) Consider the following with reference to **UN Security Council reforms /General Assembly/Economic and Social Council** :

1) Despite India's repeated demands for reform of the UN Security Council, the process of the expansion of the membership is expected to slow down this year with the final draft of the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the U.N. favouring a softer approach to the issue.

2) "We reiterate our call for reforms of three of the principal organs of the United Nations.

3) We commit to instil new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council and continue the work to revitalise the General Assembly and strengthen the Economic and Social Council. The review of the peace-building architecture has our full support," the final draft says. The Declaration is a powerful reiteration of the UN's founding principles that brought a new world order 75 years ago.

4) Mention of 'discussions' in this key anniversary document is being interpreted as dilution of the progress made on the path of reform of the principal organs of the UN during the 122nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

5) At the meeting on September 15, 2008, the General Assembly on the basis of previous resolutions had 'decided' to proceed with the "modalities in order to prepare and facilitate intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council".

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

28) Consider the following with reference to **Case Fatality Rate (CFR)** : (July, 2020 news)

1) India's case fatality rate (CFR) — the number of fatalities due to COVID-19 as a proportion of the number of people testing positive

2) CFR has fallen below 2.5% for the first time, said a statement issued by Union Health Ministry. The Ministry attributed this reduction to focused efforts of the Union and the State

governments and the administrations of the Union Territories on efficient clinical management of hospitalised cases.

3)“The effective containment strategy, aggressive testing and standardised clinical management protocols based on holistic standard care approach has now caused the case fatality rate to significantly dip and India now has one of the lowest case fatality rates in the world (2.49%) which is also progressively falling,”

4)“Many States have conducted population surveys to map and identify the vulnerable population like the elderly, pregnant women and those with co-morbidities. This, with the help of technological solutions like mobile apps, has ensured keeping the high-risk population under continuous observation, thus aiding early identification, timely clinical treatment and reducing fatalities,”

5)It also acknowledged the work at the ground level by frontline health workers such as ASHAs and ANMs, who according to the Ministry have done a commendable job of managing the migrant population and to enhance awareness at the community level.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

29)Consider the following with reference to **NMML** :

1)The NMML, an autonomous institution operating under the Union Ministry of Culture, is in the process of selecting agencies to develop audio-visual content, running a cafe and souvenir shop, and carrying out branding, marketing and online services related to the Prime Ministers' museum.

2)Prime Ministers' museum is proposed to be set up in New Delhi

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

30)Consider the following with reference to **Tribals in Odisha** :

- 1)As per conservative estimates, 20 lakh people stay inside the 18 major protected forests.
- 2)Odisha houses the largest diverse groups of tribal population (62 tribes) in India. Thirteen of them are particularly vulnerable groups. "They also preserve food such as roots, seeds and meat. As a matter of fact, they find it difficult to step out of their villages as roads get cut off by swirling stream water,"
- 3)Though there has been a substantial rise in the Covid-19 cases in the tribal-dominated districts such as Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur, the spread has been confined to mainly district and sub-divisional headquarter towns.
- 4)"The tribals do not depend on markets during rainy season. Nature gives them abundant nutritious food in the shape of leafy vegetables, roots, tuber as well as fungi. As per our studies, 228 nutritious food items are found in Similipal alone. And half of the edible varieties are sourced during the monsoon."
- 5)Around 8 lakh people, mostly tribals, live in 1,461 villages that fall in Similipal.
- 6)They grow indigenous rice varieties, horse gram, black gram and sesamum indicum.
- 7)This population virtually stays in lockdown mode during monsoon.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7
- (d) None

Ans: c

31)Consider the following with reference **to Oximeter** :

:

People with COVID-19 often need oxygenation support, so this tool, a staple for many doctors, has become something of a necessity for the layperson.

- 1)Oximeters have been flying off the shelves for many households' first aid kits, largely because they are non-invasive, low-cost, easy to use, and effective at detecting hypoxemia (low blood oxygen levels).
- 2)Oximeter comprises a monitor which contains the batteries and display; a probe, which consists of light emitting diodes or LEDs and a light detector called a photo-detector. This probe senses the user's pulse.
- 3)There are two important readings:

- (i) the pulse rate, recorded as beats per minute (60 to 100 is the safe range); and
- (ii) the oxygen saturation of haemoglobin in arterial blood, the reading of which is recorded as SpO₂. Normal readings range from 95% to 100%; anything less, and the user should get medical assistance from a doctor. If your oximeter has alarms, a typical readings will set them off.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1, 2, and 3 (i) & 3(ii)
(d) None

Ans: c

32) Consider the following with reference to Sacred groves (**biodiversity potential of the groves**) :

Sacred groves, also called kavu in Malayalam, are remnants of natural forests, seen on the premises of Hindu ancestral homes (tharavaad). A portion of the land is assigned to house serpent god or Bhagavathi, Yakshi or Ayyappan.

1) "At the sacred groves in Alappuzha, there are many as 600 diverse species of plants in less than one square kilometre area. At the Silent Valley National Park, spread across 90 square kilometres, around 900 species of flowering plants alone have been reported. That is the **biodiversity potential of the groves,**"

2) The groves are treasure houses of rare species, and medicinal and economically important plants. Felling trees from these lands is considered taboo. "The groves are looked after by joint families who fear the wrath of the resident god. Emergence of nuclear families led to construction of new houses in place of ancestral homes, leading to their destruction,"

3) "The ponds in groves are a mini watershed, support an ecosystem, and recharge the water table. Wells in the surrounding areas never dry up."

4) In India, there are over a lakh sacred groves across different states. "They go by different names like koyil kaadu in Tamil, orans in Rajasthan, devara kaadu in Karnataka, and sernas in Madhya Pradesh. In Himachal Pradesh, people dust their clothes off when they cross the groves to ensure that they leave everything behind. Such religious beliefs strengthen protection measures. Just like the way we protect monuments like the Taj and charismatic animals like the tiger, we have to protect ancient sacred groves. They are a gene pool of critically endangered plant species."

5)“India is the largest planter of casuarina in the world. The tree pulp goes into the paper-making industry. Casuarina stems find use as fabrication material in scaffolding work, and are also used to safeguard banana plantations from wind.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

33)Consider the following :

The planned privatisation of some services of the Indian Railways could impact maintenance, operations and welfare

1)The Railway Board says the “objective of the initiative was to introduce modern technology rolling stock with reduced maintenance, reduced transit time, boost job creation, provide enhanced safety, provide world class travel experience to passengers, and also reduce demand supply deficit in the passenger transportation sector”.

2)But this is a step which will lead to dual control and split responsibility, resulting in higher fares, depriving the common man of travel by these trains, and repercussions in terms of maintenance and operations.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

34)Consider the following with reference to In India, **the many divides — digital, rural-urban and rich-poor** : (2020 news based question)

The decision to reopen schools must be guided primarily by epidemiological evidence

1)Among the Centre’s responses to the problem, initiated through organisations such as the CBSE, is a reduction of the syllabus load for Classes 9 to 12 by 30%, although this ostensibly supportive decision has become controversial for its choice of topics for removal: democratic rights, federalism, citizenship and secularism, to name a few.

2) There is a discernible trend of diminishing basic rights as a necessary sacrifice to fight the pandemic, but impoverishing the syllabus on these topics can only stunt social development.

3) The alternative, of remote and online learning opportunities, is skewed by economic status and geography.

4) In India, **the many divides — digital, rural-urban and rich-poor** — have painfully come to the fore between regions and even within States. There are instances of children left behind, without computer access, Internet connectivity, TV sets and even electricity.

5) The issue of reopening schools in a calibrated manner must, therefore, be addressed soon, but based mainly on epidemiological evidence. It is understandable that in the present confused situation, 21 out of 36 States and Union Territories including worst-affected Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have not taken a view yet on when to permit direct classes.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5

(d) None

Ans: c

35) Consider the following with reference to _____ :

Lynchings point to a breakdown of the 'rule of law' in several States

1) The NCRB did collect data on lynchings in 2017 but did not publish those for reasons best known to it.

2) In 2019 there was also a controversy over the usage of the word 'lynching', termed it as an attempt to defame India.

3) Wild conspiracy theories spread fast on social media, but one cannot overlook the context of polarising diatribes, often initiated by political leaders, related to cow protection, movement of people across the border and religious issues.

4) The victims are invariably from vulnerable groups. Whatever name one calls it by, lynchings are an abomination that must have no place in a democratic society, which India prides itself to be.

5) Lynchings are a uniquely unsettling derailment of governance — while an act of mob violence is itself a sign of failure of law enforcement, it is committed in an apparent consideration that there can be no legal recourse.

6) In a pathological subversion of principles, the police inaction in cases of mob violence is reciprocated by an apparent public sanction of extrajudicial punishments by the police. All this bodes ill for the country. Mob violence indeed defames the country and there must be stringent

intervention by the police to bring an end to this. The political leadership also has a role to play in questioning the social consent that allows mob violence.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
- (d) None

Ans: c

36) Consider the following with reference to **Secular Nationalism** :

- 1) Secular nationalism was an important ideological marker of the 20th century.
- 2) States wedded to left ideologies wished to root out religion from public spaces and also as a factor in the lives of their citizens.
- 3) Other polities, whether liberal and democratic or authoritarian, were committed to reducing the salience of religion as an ingredient in nationalism and in public life even if they were reconciled to its continuing significance in the private sphere.
- 4) These were elements of a progressive outlook which influenced political elites not only in the developed world but also in de-colonised countries.
- 5) Ataturk and his attempts at propelling Turkey into the modern era won him admirers including Jawaharlal Nehru. Now the secular impulse is under challenge everywhere.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

37) Consider the following **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** :

Prime Minister announced a three-month extension to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana.

- 1) The government would provide 5 kg of grains and 1 kg of chickpea monthly to about 800 million beneficiaries across the country.
- 2) Alongside, it is highlighted the implementation of the 'One Nation, One Ration' (ONOR) scheme to improve access to subsidised grains for migrant workers.
- 3) Lack of access to food drove millions of them to their native villages during the lockdown period.

4) While these measures are welcome, they may fall short of reaching all sections of this vulnerable population.

5) Most migrant workers do not live with families; many do not cook their meals.

6) Instead, a significant number rely on roadside vendors and dhabas. Without access to cooking arrangement or fuel, only subsidised grains are not a sufficient solution to ensure nourishment. Neither would it be sufficient to attract them back to the urban areas as access to affordable food remains a major concern. Instead, is there a way to ensure safe, nutritious and affordable food for all urban poor, while saving fiscal resources, creating jobs, and furthering sustainability goals?

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6

(d) None

Ans: c

38) Consider the following with reference to **Non-aligned Movement** :

1) Non-alignment is an old concept today, but India will never be a part of an alliance system, according to External Affairs Minister

2) Speaking about the consequences of global shifts, including the United States and the assertiveness of China, it is said they were opening spaces for middle powers like India, Japan, the European Union and others.

3) "Non-alignment was a term of a particular era and geopolitical landscape. One aspect was independence, which remains a factor of continuity for us," It is said at a virtual conference on the "Geopolitics of opportunity: as the world rebalances, how should India capitalise?"

4) "The consequence of repositioning of the United States, that the big umbrella is now smaller than it used to be, has allowed many other countries to play more autonomous roles. It doesn't affect us as much because we were never part of an alliance system and we will never be. But countries who depended more on the U.S. are finding they have to take a call themselves on many issues,"

5) India must now take more "risks", as the world expected it to take a more proactive stance on the "big issues" of the day, including connectivity, maritime security, terrorism, climate change and terrorism, .

6) While he didn't comment on the ongoing tensions over the Line of Actual control (LAC), the Minister said that India had moved slowly in comparison to China on the economic front, and that China's economy was now five times that of India's despite them being the same size in 1988.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
- (d) None

Ans: c

39) Consider the following with reference to e-commerce portals :

The e-commerce portals will have to set up a robust consumer redressal mechanism as part of the rules under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, that come into force.

The Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020, which fall under the Consumer Protection Act,

1) The e-commerce entities will have to provide every detail relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment, modes of payment, grievance redressal mechanism, payment methods, security of payment methods, charge-back options and so on.

2) "They will also have to mention the country of origin which are necessary for enabling the consumer to make an informed decision at the pre-purchase stage on its platform,"

3) The e-commerce platforms also have to acknowledge the receipt of any consumer complaint within 48 hours and redress the complaint within one month from the date of receipt under this Act. And will also have to appoint a grievance officer for consumer grievance redressal.

4) These rules, are mandatory and not merely advisories as issued earlier. This is the first time that such detailed rules have been published by the Government of India for e-commerce entities.

5) Mentioning the country of origin is equally essential. "Where an e-commerce entity offers imported goods or services for sale, it shall mention the name and details of any importer from whom it has purchased such goods or services, or who may be a seller on its platform," the draft rules say.

6) Under the rules, sellers cannot refuse to take back goods or withdraw services or refuse refunds, if such goods or services are defective, deficient, delivered late, or if they do not meet the description on the platform. The rules also prohibit the e-commerce companies from manipulating the price of the goods or services to gain unreasonable profit through unjustified prices.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
- (d) None

Ans: c

40) Consider the following with reference to **first Arab space mission to Mars** :

1)The first Arab space mission to Mars, an unmanned probe dubbed “**Hope**”, blasted off from Japan on a mission to reveal more about the atmosphere of the Red Planet.

2)The Japanese rocket carrying the probe developed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southern Japan right on schedule at 6.58 a.m. local time. The launch of the probe, known as “**Al-Amal**” in **Arabic**, had twice been delayed because of bad weather, but the present lift-off appeared smooth and successful.

3)“Our **493 million km journey** to the Red Planet starts here.”

4)Only the **United States, India, the former Soviet Union, and the European Space Agency** have successfully sent missions to orbit the fourth planet from the sun, while China is preparing to launch its first Mars rover later this month.

5)The Emirati project is one of three racing to Mars, including **Tianwen-1 from China** and **Mars 2020 from the United States**, taking advantage of a period when the Earth and Mars are nearest. In October, Mars will be a comparatively close 38.6 million miles (62.07 million kilometres) from Earth, according to NASA.

6)“Hope” is expected to enter Mars orbit by February 2021, marking the year of the 50th anniversary of the unification of the UAE, an alliance of seven emirates.

7)Unlike the two other Mars ventures scheduled for this year, it will not land on the Red Planet, but instead orbit it for **a whole Martian year, or 687 days**.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7
- (d) None

Ans: c

41)Consider the following :

1)A hard-line Sinhala Buddhist group calls itself ‘Ravana Balaya’, while Sri Lanka named its first satellite, launched into orbit last June, ‘**Ravana-1**’.

2)Addressing a conference civil aviation specialists in Colombo in 2016, then Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Nimal Siripala de Silva had remarked that while the modern history of global aviation began with the Wright Brothers, it was common legend in Sri Lanka that a brave king called **Ravana, used a flying machine called “Dandu monara”** to fly not only within the country, but also in the region.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

- (c) 1, 2
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

42) Consider the following with reference to Article 159 :

1) Before the meeting, a State Governor said it was “part of his duty to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution,” under Article 159.

2) Indeed, the Governor has a constitutional role to perform, but Mr. Dhankhar, Governor, West Bengal appears enthusiastic to stretch his mandate all the time.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

43) Consider the following with reference to China-Bhutan-India (‘Chicken neck’) :

1) Since 1984, when China and Bhutan began talks, the areas of dispute have only included **Pasamlung** and **Jakarlung valleys** to the north (what China calls middle) area, and **Doklam** and other pasturelands to the west.

2) The eastern boundary of Bhutan, which borders Arunachal Pradesh, has never been in contention.

3) “What is important to note is that according to Bhutan, the **Sakteng area** in the east was never brought up in the several rounds of border talks with China. So this is a new claim and a moving of the goalposts,”

4) **Doklam swap** would give the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) access to the strategically sensitive “**chicken neck**” of the **Siliguri corridor(India)**

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

44) Consider the following with reference to **social security number for migrant workers** :

1) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour has recommended that the government introduce a **social security number for migrant workers**, especially those in unorganised sectors that are beyond the purview of labour laws.

2) The panel, headed by Biju Janata Dal leader Bhartruhari Mahtab, has suggested that such a number is essential to avert situations such as the one at the beginning of the lockdown when several lakh workers had to walk back to their villages from big cities as they were shut out of employment overnight.

3) At a meeting of the panel held, Labour Secretary revealed that the government was planning to set up a website to register migrant workers. He further said a worker's Aadhaar would be used for the registration.

4) "The members felt that Aadhaar alone doesn't work. A social security number will help in mapping the number of migrant workers and their migration patterns," said one of the committee members who attended the meeting.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

45) Consider the following with reference to Anthrax (**bacterium that causes anthrax**)

:

1) Anthrax has claimed the life of a wild elephant in a reserve forest area near Anaikatti in Coimbatore district, the Forest Department said

2) The blood smear samples collected from the carcass had the presence of **Bacillus anthracis, the bacterium that causes anthrax**,

3) Anthrax is endemic to elephant habitats. Cross-infection may happen as head of cattle and wild animals use the same grazing areas and waterbodies on forest fringes.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

46) Consider the following :

The Supreme Court of India's verdict, upholding the authority of a committee of the Delhi Assembly to summon a senior official of Facebook, is an extremely nuanced

recognition of the extent of powers of State Assemblies in matters regulated by an Act of Parliament.

1)The question mark about the powers arose in the first place because Facebook, whose India vice-president was repeatedly summoned by Delhi Assembly's Committee on Peace and Harmony on the subject of the Delhi riots of 2020, argued before the Supreme Court that this was a case of overreach; and that Delhi's law and order came under the central government.

2)This was also the position taken by the central government, which argued that the Delhi Assembly had no jurisdiction in this matter. The social media platform also pointed out that it was governed by the IT Act of Parliament, and this is not therefore something that any State government can be concerned with.

2)The Court, in upholding the summons, did not go merely by the legislative powers of a House. It rightly said, "The Assembly does not only perform the **function of legislating**; there are many other aspects of governance which can form part of the essential functions of the Legislative Assembly and consequently the committee."

3)Its point was that the "**inquisitorial**" and "**recommendatory**" powers of a House can be used for better governance. But it also cautioned the committee from "transgressing into any fields reserved for the Union Government".

4)Significantly, the verdict comes amid a long phase of discordance over legislative turf between the central government and the Delhi government, something that the Bench did note amid discussions about the spirit of federalism.

5)Not just that. It also comes at a time when social media intermediaries are legally fighting some aspects of the new IT rules that govern them. Their responsibility toward the many legislatures will only become more heightened because of this verdict.

6)The Court refused to buy the argument that social media intermediaries are "merely a platform for exchange of ideas without performing any significant role themselves". It then linked what happens in these platforms to the real world.

7)Misinformation on social media, the Court said, has had "a direct impact on vast areas of subject matter which ultimately affect the governance of States".

8)Given the constraints of the powers of the Delhi Assembly vis-à-vis law and order, the very fact that the Court found that its committee still could summon the Facebook India official without encroaching upon the turf of the Centre now opens the gates for scrutiny of social media platforms by other States, which however have significantly more powers with respect to law and order. The stage is set for more scrutiny.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8

(d) None

Ans: c

47) Consider the following :

1) The western United States and Canada was suffering under scorching temperatures to start the week, with heat warnings still in place and authorities struggling to reign in wildfires in both countries.

2) Sweltering conditions hit much of the Pacific seaboard and as far inland as the western edge of the **Rocky Mountains**, in a dramatic, prolonged heat wave experts attribute directly to climate change.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

48) Consider the following with reference to **plasma donation** :

Plasma is the largest part of our blood. It makes up more than half (about 55%) of its overall content. When separated from the rest of the blood, plasma is a light yellow liquid. Plasma carries water, salts and enzymes. The main role of plasma is to take nutrients, hormones, and proteins to the parts of the body that need it. Cells also put their waste products into the Plasma.

1) People can donate plasma 14 days after recovering from COVID-19.

2) Those with co-morbid conditions like hypertension, diabetes, cardiac diseases, renal diseases and cancers, and those who have undergone organ transplants are not eligible to donate plasma.

3) Eligible persons can donate plasma twice, after an interval of 14 days.

4) At the plasma bank, 500 ml of plasma would be collected from each eligible donor, and the process would take a maximum of 30 minutes.

5) The plasma is stored at a temperature of 40 degree Celsius, and could be stored for up to a year.

6) The equipment for the plasma bank was procured through the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation. (for Tamil Nadu)

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
- (d) None

Ans: c

49) Consider the following with reference to High Courts :

1) Out of the seven Union Territories originally placed under Article 239A, all except Puducherry were granted Statehood by 1989.

2) Most Union Territories under 239A at least had Benches of High Courts when they attained Statehood.

3) Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya had Benches of the Gauhati High Court before they got their own High Courts.

4) Interestingly, the Delhi High Court was established in 1966 before Delhi got its legislature in 1993.

5) In 1962, when Puducherry was merged with India, the jurisdiction of the Madras High Court was extended to it. After several decades, in 2017, the Puducherry legislature unanimously resolved to have its own High Court, and the Madras High Court was informed on July 7, 2017. Prior to this, in April 2017, the Pondicherry Bar Association also passed a resolution seeking establishment of the High Court.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6

(d) None

Ans: c

50) Consider the following with reference to Bhutan's eastern boundary :

1) For the third time since early June, China repeated its claim that Bhutan's eastern boundary was a "disputed" area with Bhutan.

2) Its first claim was at a UNDP-led Global Environment Facility conference on June 2-3, when the Chinese representative tried to stop funding for the Sakteng forest reserve in Bhutan's eastern district of Trashigang, which abuts Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district.

3) The claim was surprising for several reasons: China has not objected earlier to funding provided to the sanctuary at the GEF. Second, the Trashigang area does not share a boundary with China. Finally, whatever the origins of the claim, Chinese officials have not raised the eastern boundary in 24 rounds of talks with Bhutan, that began in 1984.

4) Thus far, talks have been only about the Pasamlung and Jakarlung valleys in Bhutan's north, and Doklam and other pasturelands to the west, that come up to the trijunction point with India.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

51) Consider the following with reference **to illicit liquor** :

Methanol, also known as methyl alcohol or methyl hydrate, amongst other names, is a chemical and the simplest alcohol

Methanol may cause birth defects of the central nervous system in humans. Chronic poisoning from repeated exposure to methanol vapor may produce inflammation of the eye (conjunctivitis), recurrent headaches, giddiness, insomnia, stomach disturbances, and visual failure.

1) Once again, the scourge **of illicit liquor** has struck, this time in Punjab, killing more than 100 people and leaving many crippled. The victims, Tarn Taran and Gurdaspur districts, were sold hooch that apparently had a large amount **of denatured alcohol**.

2) Almost every year, India's moonshine market inflicts tremendous destruction in the form of **blindness, tissue damage and death**, as commercial alcohol becomes expensive for the less affluent, and corrupt bureaucracies allow that void to be filled by illicit liquor vendors who almost invariably **use toxic methanol instead of ethanol**.

3) Policies that fail to contain illicit alcohol produce long-term health impacts, as people tend to consume brews that have higher concentrations of alcohol, or toxic substances such as methanol.

4) **Methanol damages more** .

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

52) Consider the following with reference to **diplomatic consignment /bags** : **(Also useful for Ethics Paper in Main Exam.)**

The seizure of 30 kg of gold, worth ₹14.82 crore, at the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport on July 5 would have ended up as another routine seizure made by the

Commissionerate of Customs (Preventive) if not for the fact that the contraband had arrived in a diplomatic consignment meant for the Charge d’Affaires of the UAE

1)The NIA has so far arrested four suspects, while the Customs Department has arrested 13 persons in connection with the smuggling racket, after the seizure of 30 kg of gold at Thiruvananthapuram airport on July 5.

2)Accused Sarith P.S., a former employee of the UAE consulate, was arrested by the Customs Department. Swapna Suresh, also a former employee of the consulate, and Sandeep Nair were arrested by the NIA in Bengaluru on July 11.

3)Further investigation led the agency to zero in on Dubai-based Faizal Fareed.

4)The NIA has approached the Interpol seeking a “Blue Notice” against him, to gather more information about his identity and location.

5)The committee had also pointed out that “such association and frequent contacts with a foreign consulate official” violated the All-India Service Conduct Rules, 1968. It said it had recommended Mr. Sivasankar’s suspension from service “in view of the wider ramifications of this case”.

7)A senior State official said the committee’s finding and statements of other accused in the case had prompted the NIA to examine Mr. Sivasankar.The question whether the proceeds from the well-entrenched smuggling operation had gone to “finance terrorism” was central to the NIA probe.The agency was also purportedly investigating whether any person had remotely aided a foreign power.Mr. Sivasankar has repeatedly maintained his innocence. He had told the Customs that he knew Ms. Swapna at a familial level and had no knowledge of the crime or other aspects of her character.

8)The committee had also pointed out that “such association and frequent contacts with a foreign consulate official” violated the All-India Service Conduct Rules, 1968. It said it had recommended Mr. Sivasankar’s suspension from service “in view of the wider ramifications of this case”.A senior State official said the committee’s finding and statements of other accused in the case had prompted the NIA to examine Mr. Sivasankar.The question whether the proceeds from the well-entrenched smuggling operation had gone to “finance terrorism” was central to the NIA probe.The agency was also purportedly investigating whether any person had remotely aided a foreign power.Mr. Sivasankar has repeatedly maintained his innocence. He had told the Customs that he knew Ms. Swapna at a familial level and had no knowledge of the crime or other aspects of her character.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8

(d) None

Ans: c

53) Consider the following with reference to Article 212 :

1) The Speaker said the High Court's interim order granting extended time to Mr. Pilot and the other MLAs to file their replies to the July 14 anti-defection notices amounted to **violation of Article 212 (courts not to inquire into the proceedings of the legislature).**

2) "The notice dated July 14 is a proceeding in the House and immune from judicial interference at that stage. The notice was only limited to inviting comments from the Respondents [Mr. Pilot and other MLAs] and there was nothing adverse against them at that stage. A notice is much prior to any final determination or decision on disqualification. The proceedings, including the notice, are in the realm of the legislative proceedings under Paragraph 6(2) of the Tenth Schedule," the Speaker's office argued.

3) It said judicial review of an ongoing anti-defection proceedings was limited.

The Supreme Court refused Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi's plea to stop the State's High Court from deciding the validity of the anti-defection notices he issued to former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and 18 dissident Congress MLAs.

4) But the High Court order on July 24 will be subject to the final decision on the Speaker's remonstrance in the top court that the HC crossed the 'Lakshman Rekha' and interfered with an ongoing disqualification proceedings even before he could take a final decision.

5) The Speaker had complained that the HC had no jurisdiction to ask him to defer the disqualification proceedings till July 24.

6) During the hearing, a three-judge Bench, led by Justice Arun Mishra, said the "larger question" here is **whether a legislator's "voice of dissent" can be "shut down" with the threat of disqualification.** Can expressing dissent amount to "voluntarily giving up the party membership" under Paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and invite anti-defection proceedings?

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6

(d) None

Ans: c

54) Consider the following with reference to trade with Afghanistan :

1) Pakistan had allowed Afghanistan to send goods to India using the border from July 15 under the Pakistan-Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement.

2) "The arrival of 14 trucks laden with dry fruits, mulathhi [liquorice] and assorted goods in the last four days till July 21, worth over ₹5 crore, has brought back a semblance of

normalcy in the markets,” said director of the Confederation of International Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

3)Over 14 trucks with goods worth ₹5 crore from Afghanistan have crossed over to India through the **Attari-Wagah border in Punjab’s Amritsar** since Pakistan allowed Afghanistan to send goods to India, a trade body said. Both Pakistan and India had suspended trade through the border in March to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

4)Traders from India usually import dry fruits and herbal items from Afghanistan.

5) Indian traders who dealt in Afghan food items such as **almonds, raisins, fig, apricots, mulathhi and spices** had started placing orders since transit trade was allowed. The resumption of business would revive the ₹250 crore dry fruits trade, which would benefit a large section of people, including daily wage earners and transporters, directly and indirectly,

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

55)Consider the following with reference to women officers be granted PC : (2020 news)

1)The order follows a Supreme Court verdict in February that directed the government that women officers be granted PC and command postings in all services other than combat. Following this, Army chief Gen. Manoj Naravane said it was an enabling one and gave a lot of clarity on how to move forward. He stated that the same procedure for male SSC officers would be followed for women to give permanent commission.

2)About 322 women officers had approached the top court and the issue of command postings came up in the discussion on subsequent avenues after the grant of PC.

3)The Ministry of Defence has issued the formal Government Sanction Letter for grant of permanent commission (PC) to women officers in the Army.

4)“In anticipation, the Army Headquarters had set in motion a series of preparatory actions for conduct of the Permanent Commission Selection Board for affected women officers. **The Selection Board will be scheduled as soon as all affected Short Service Commissioned (SSC) women officers exercise their option and complete requisite documentation,**” the Army said

5)A glass ceiling was shattered and the Ministry of Defence issued a formal letter granting permanent commission to women officers in the Indian Army. The uphill battle to break a gender stereotype and provide equal opportunities for women in the Army had to be fought right up to the highest level, in the Supreme Court. Even so, the MoD’s Government Sanction Letter specifying the **grant of permanent commission to Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers in all the 10 streams in which they**

presently serve is a cause for celebration. It will go a long way in ending a prejudice associated with the Army. True, the fight was far from easy. It was long and protracted, as the government initially glossed over a Delhi High Court ruling in the litigants' favour 10 years ago. Then in the Supreme Court, just what the litigants were up against became clear from the views of the government. A written note to the Court pointed at "physiological limitations" of women officers, saying that these were great challenges for women officers to meet the exigencies of service. In February, the Supreme Court read the government the riot act, asking it to abide by its own policy on granting permanent commission to women in the SSC and giving them command postings in all services other than combat.

6)The misogyny was called out in a 54-page judgment.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
- (d) None

Ans: c

56)Consider the following with reference to **Mars mission by China** : (2020 news)

1)China launched its most ambitious Mars mission yet in a bold attempt to join the U.S. in successfully landing a spacecraft on the red planet.

2)A Long March-5 carrier rocket took off under clear skies around 12-40 p.m. from Hainan Island, south of China's mainland. Hundreds of space enthusiasts cried out excitedly on a beach across the bay from the launch site.

3)China's tandem spacecraft — with both an orbiter and a rover — will take seven months to reach Mars, like the others. If all goes well, Tianwen-1, or "quest for heavenly truth," will look for underground water, if it's present, as well as evidence of possible ancient life.

4)It marked the second flight to Mars this week, after a UAE orbiter blasted off on a rocket from Japan on Monday. And the U.S. is aiming to launch Perseverance, its most sophisticated Mars rover ever, from Cape Canaveral, Florida

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

57)Consider the following with reference to **X Schedule** : (July2020 news)

1)The Rajasthan High Court's order, directing that status quo be maintained in the disqualification proceedings against 19 legislators and holding a legal challenge to the Rajasthan Assembly Speaker's notice under the anti-defection law to be maintainable, borders on judicial indiscipline.

2)And the 1992 judgment, while upholding the **validity of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution, the anti-defection law, also declared that Para 2 — a part of which is now under challenge and** is the ostensible reason for the High Court to entertain the petition — does not violate the freedom of speech, vote or conscience of elected members.

3)Yet, the High Court is now venturing to find out whether Para 2(1)(a), which deals with disqualifying lawmakers who “voluntarily give up membership” of their party, has been examined by the apex court from the point of view of “intra-party democracy”. If at all the provision's validity is to be tested, it can only be done in a case arising out of it. When no decision has been rendered by the Speaker, it is beyond comprehension how the court entertained arguments on the issuance of the notice and on whether dissidents can be disqualified for questioning the party line.

4)Para 2(1)(a) has been used by Speakers for years, and many such disqualification orders have been upheld by the Supreme Court, including as recently as November 2019 in a Karnataka case. Admitting a matter without explaining how the law laid down by the Supreme Court does not bind a High Court raises grave questions of judicial propriety. However, even as the political crisis plays out on the lawns of Raj Bhavan, the top court itself appears to be raising the question whether dissent within a party can attract disqualification proceedings. Whatever the circumstances, the SC should not condone improper and premature judicial intervention.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

58)Consider the following with reference to measures to control population :

1)Incentives and penalties form an integral component of the measures to control population growth, announced by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister. These steps are aimed at reducing U.P.'s total fertility rate (TFR), recorded as 2.7 by the National Family Health Survey-4 in 2016, a figure only lower than that of neighbouring Bihar (3.1 as of 2020 in NFHS-5).

2)Aims in this direction — increasing the rate of modern contraceptive prevalence, male contraception, decreasing maternal mortality and infant mortality rates significantly by 2026 — are, on the face of it, in line with what was stressed at the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development in 1994.

3)The Cairo Consensus called for a promotion of reproductive rights, empowering women, universal education, maternal and infant health to untangle the knotty issue of poverty and high fertility. But rather than taking steps in this direction, the Government seems to have taken the

beaten path of a mixture of incentives and penalties to tackle what is a socio-economic issue as a demographic one.

4) In a draft Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilisation and Welfare) Bill, 2021, the Government aims to incentivise one-child families and reward those with two children with perks in government schemes, rebates in taxes and loans, and cash awards if family planning is done among other sops. Disincentives for those with more than two children include denial of subsidies and welfare benefits, a bar on applying for government

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

59) Consider the following with reference to Cinematography Act

1) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, which had the potential of regulating the business of lakhs of cable operators, multi-system operators and broadcasters, was going to be debated and it was the draft of the proposed Bill that was being discussed threadbare with stakeholders.

2) Government can always turn back and say, 'hey we gave you 100 days'. But here is the rub. The Government never put up for public discussion what it was seeking to amend and control. The November 2020 Executive order bringing Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms or video streaming service providers such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and others under the ambit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, exposed the real intentions of the Government. But when the now former Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Minister commented that the Ministry officials had no fix on the number of OTT platforms and users in the country, his concern was legitimate. After all, this is a business and along with the entertainment industry, had reached ₹1.82 trillion in 2019 and has been projected to cross ₹2.4 trillion by 2022 (FICCI report on media and entertainment). In fact, digital media overtook filmed entertainment in 2019. And to throw in some more figures, there are around 550 million television and smartphone consumers in the country. The figures are expected to double by 2025.

3) There are over 200 million OTT subscribers. The major draw of OTT is this: the content being served to you when you want it. You are free to watch what you wish to at a time chosen by you on a platform you are comfortable with. Your smartphone doubles up as the screen as you navigate your ride on the metro.

4) Now, we even have the Government's draft on the proposed amendments to the Cinematograph Act of 1952, seeking to control the Central Board of Film Certification's power of certification!

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

60) Consider the following with reference to **Boh valley in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh** :

1) Rescue operations are under way in the **Boh valley in Kangra district, HP after a landslide**, in which one person died and nine are feared trapped beneath the debris.

2) A team of the National Disaster Response Force rescued four people, and efforts are on to pull others out of the rubble,

3) Superintendent of Police said a woman died and nine were still feared trapped under the debris after their houses collapsed in the landslide triggered by heavy rain.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

61) Consider the following with reference to **Sugar cane production (from sugar cane and B-Molasses are diverted to Ethanol)** :

Area under sugarcane is expected to be almost 54.55 lakh hectare in 2021-2022 sugar season (**October to September**) or 3% higher than the current season's area, according to the Indian Sugar Mills' Association (ISMA).

Uttar Pradesh is estimated to have a sugarcane area of 23.12 lakh hectare against 23.07 lakh hectares in 2020-2021 season. **Maharashtra's cane** area has risen by about 11% to 12.75 lakh hectare. The area in **Karnataka** is 5.22 lakh hectare against 5.01 lakh hectare.

1) Sugar production so far during the current sugar season, that ends in September, is 307 lakh tonne.

2) Another two lakh tonne is expected to be produced during the special season in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, taking the total production for the current sugar year to 309 lakh tonne.

3) After accounting for a reduction in sugar production on account of diversion of cane **juice and B-molasses to ethanol**, ISMA estimates production in 2021-2022 season at about 310 lakh tonne.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

62) Consider the following with reference to **Core Inflation** :

“While the core inflation hardened further to 10.4% in June, from 10% in May, the pace of the month-on-month uptick in this index eased to a four-month low of 0.5%,” said chief economist at ICRA, who expects core inflation to rise further in July, before commencing a gradual downtrend from August.

1) The term core inflation was coined by Eckstein (1981) who defined it as ‘the trend increase of the cost of factors of production’ that ‘originates in the long-term expectations of inflation in the minds of households and businesses, in the contractual arrangements which sustain the wage-price momentum, and in the tax system’.

2) The concept of core inflation became popular in the 1970s during periods of high inflation and now normally refers to that component of inflation that is likely to persist for a long period, say, for several years and, therefore, useful for near-term and medium-term inflation forecasting. Most core measures are based on the concept that total inflation can be separated into two components: the core part, representing the underlying trend of inflation as shaped by the pressure of aggregate demand against capacity, and the non-core part, which reflects price movements caused by temporary shocks or relative price changes.

2) Core inflation is the change of goods and services but does not include those from the food and energy sectors. This measure of inflation excludes these items because their prices are much more volatile.

3) It is most often calculated using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is a measure of prices of goods and services .

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

63) Consider the following with reference to draft population control Bill UP & **Cairo International Conference on Population and Development in 1994.**

:
Incentives and penalties form an integral component of the measures to control population growth, announced by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister in July 2021 .

1) These steps are aimed at reducing U.P.'s total fertility rate (TFR), recorded as 2.7 by the National Family Health Survey-4 in 2016, a figure only lower than that of neighbouring Bihar (3.1 as of 2020 in NFHS-5).

2) Increasing the rate of modern contraceptive prevalence, male contraception, decreasing maternal mortality and infant mortality rates significantly by 2026 — are, on the face of it, in line with what was stressed at the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development in 1994.

3) The Cairo Consensus called for a promotion of reproductive rights, empowering women, universal education, maternal and infant health to untangle the knotty issue of poverty and high fertility.

4) In a draft Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilisation and Welfare) Bill, 2021, the Government aims to incentivise one-child families and reward those with two children with perks in government schemes, rebates in taxes and loans, and cash awards if family planning is done among other sops.

5) Disincentives for those with more than two children include denial of subsidies and welfare benefits, a bar on applying for government jobs and taking part in local elections.

6) Assam, also led by the BJP, is mulling a similar policy.

7) The Supreme Court, in 2003, upheld a Haryana government law barring persons with more than two children from contesting local body polls, but the legal grounding of the moves impinging upon the informed choice of the individual remained questionable

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7

(d) None

Ans: c

64) Consider the following with reference to National Income (2020-21) :

The provisional estimates of annual national income (2020-21), released on May 31 by the National Statistical Office, did not have any surprises, but for one, that is, there is nothing encouraging in the numbers.

1) The agriculture sector continued its impressive growth performance, reiterating that it still remains as the vital sector of the economy, especially at times of crisis.

2) The manufacturing sector continued its subdued growth performance, failing to emerge as the growth driver, with production interruptions due to localised lockdowns to be blamed.

3)The contraction in trade (-18.2%), construction (-8.6%), mining (-8.5%) and manufacturing (-7.2%) is a matter of concern as these sectors account for the bulk of low-skilled jobs.

4)Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q4 of 2020-21 is showing a growth of 1.6%, slightly better than expected, but for a period when the restrictions on mobility and economic activity witnessed reduction, this performance looks below par.

5)Further, this growth, which is an improvement over the 0.5% rate of growth in the previous quarter, is a statistical artefact as it is not devoid of the base effect and seasonality which plagues quarterly estimates.

6)The magnitude of contraction in the economy and the policy responses towards it raises an important issue, that is, the question of growth prospects for the next year.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
- (d) None

Ans: c

65)Consider the following with reference to Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021 :

1)Prior to tabling the Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021, in the 126-member Assembly Chief Minister said its **primary objective was to check the smuggling of cows to Bangladesh.**

2)It also seeks to restrict the sale of beef in areas dominated by non-beef consuming communities and within a 5-km radius of temples and 'satras' (Vaishnav monasteries) formed by the saint-reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva.

3)The Bill seeks to replace the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 1950, which allows the slaughter of cattle above 14 years of age or those that have become permanently incapacitated due to work, breeding, accident or deformity after local veterinary officers certify that they are fit for slaughter. The Bill retains this provision while intending to regulate the slaughter, consumption and illegal transportation of cattle across Assam.

4)It says the certified cattle can be slaughtered only in licensed and recognised slaughterhouses. "The State government may exempt certain places of worship, or certain occasions from the slaughter of cattle other than cow, heifer or calf, for religious purposes," it says.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

66) Consider the following with reference to **judicial activism** : (2020 news)

1) The judiciary must remain the first line of defence against any move to deprive citizens of their liberty.

2) "Our courts must ensure that they continue to remain the first line of defence against the deprivation of liberty of citizens. Deprivation of liberty for even a single day is one too many. We must always be mindful of the deeper systemic issues of our decisions," it is observed.

3) It is said that some may dub the role of the court as "**judicial activism**" or "**judicial overreach**". "The Supreme Court is a counter-majoritarian institution sworn to protect the rights of socio-economic minorities," he highlighted.

4) "The actions of the government had far-reaching effects on the constitutional rights of people, which involved right to affordable healthcare, including vaccination; rights of labourers, including migrant labourers and factory workers; right to livelihood; and rights of prisoners. Many such cases of constitutional violations found their way to the Supreme Court," .

5) As the "guardian of the Constitution", the Supreme Court had to put a break where executive or legislative actions infringed fundamental human rights, he asserted. He detailed the court's suo motu actions to ensure vaccination, improve COVID-19 management and decongestion of prisons to prevent the spread of the virus.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5

(d) None

Ans: c

67) Consider the following with reference to Ladakh (UT) : (2020 news)

1) Eleven months after it was carved out as a separate, administrative Union Territory (UT), the high-altitude desert region of Ladakh is at a crossroads, with minimal staff functioning from makeshift accommodation, no recruitment agency to fill gazetted posts, no formal bank and a dispute over its capital.

2) The challenge to ensure efficient administration in this high plateau located at an altitude of 9,800 feet can be gauged from the recent process to recruit doctors under the National Health Mission (NHM).

3) Out of the 110 doctors recruited from across the country, including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, in April-May this year with a package up to ₹2,50,000 per month, only 15 have opted to join so far.

4)“We have re-advertised these posts,” director, NHM Ladakh, Dr. Phuntsog Angchuk said.

5)Since the implementation of the J&K Reorganisation Act , a cumbersome process of division of assets from banks to fans and sofas between the UTs has hit a dead end.

6)While the J&K Bank remains the official bank of J&K, the new J&K domicile law bars outsiders, including people from Ladakh, from applying for recently announced posts in the bank. “The J&K Bank’s assets remain a common entity. Our youth should be allowed to sit for the test,” LAHDC-K chairman Mr. Khan said.

7)The J&K Bank has around two dozen branches in Ladakh and remains its largest bank with presence in the tough and remotest pockets of Leh and Kargil.

8)The clamour for domicile laws for Ladakh are growing now.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8

(d) None

Ans: c

68)Consider the following with reference to violin :

1)Violin entered the Indian musical scene from the subcontinent’s colonial rulers. Balaswami Dikshitar, the brother of Muthuswami Dikshitar, and Vadivelu, the youngest of the legendary ‘Thanjavur quartet’, were pioneers in adapting the instrument for Carnatic music. But the art of indigenously designing a handmade violin remained a mystery for centuries.

2)Now four craftsmen — three from Kerala and one from Tamil Nadu — have achieved a milestone in creating handmade copies of a Stradivarius violin dated to 1702, first designed by the great Antonio Stradivari in Italy, thanks to training imparted by the Lalgudi Trust.

3)These craftsmen were taught by the internationally renowned luthier (maker of stringed instruments) James Wimmer of Santa Barbara. Mr. Wimmer in turn learnt the art in Germany from Wolfgang Uebel, one of its foremost specialists.

4)“It is indeed a giant leap in the art of violin-making in India. It is a gratifying experience and the success coincides with the 90th birth anniversary of Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, who founded the Trust,” said violinist Lalgudi Krishnan, who invited Mr. Wimmer to Chennai.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

69) Consider the following with reference to unemployment :
Contextualising the current economic growth rates in terms of some other macroeconomic data would provide us a better perspective on growth recovery.

1) First, the unemployment data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) which says, "In May 2021, India's labour participation rate at 40 per cent was the same as it was in April 2021.

2) But, the unemployment rate shot up to 11.9 per cent from 8 per cent in April.

3) A stable labour participation rate combined with a higher unemployment rate implies a loss of jobs and a fall in the employment rate. The employment rate fell to 35.3 per cent in May 2021 from 36.8 per cent in April 2021. This is a very sharp fall for a single month... May 2021 was therefore a particularly stressful month on the jobs front".

4) According to CMIE, over 15 million jobs were lost in May 2021, higher than the 12.3 million in November 2016, the month of demonetisation.

5) May 2021 was also the fourth consecutive month of a fall in employment. The more worrying fact is that the cumulative fall in employment since January 2021 is 25.3 million of which 22.7 million were in the first quarter of FY 2021-2022, that is, during April and May.

6) This shows that the **second wave of the pandemic has already dented economic activities, postponing recovery further**. The job losses also bring out the high informality and vulnerability of labour in India as of the total jobs lost during April-May, 17.2 million were of daily wage earners.

7) Elementary textbook economics tells us that employment and aggregate demand in an economy are related via the channel of disposable incomes of workers. We also know that **aggregate demand and output growth have a positive correlation**.

8) Hence, the prospects of growth revival in the next year look bleak at the moment and from this perspective, it is worrying that in just April and May 2021, **India lost 25 million non-farm jobs**.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

70) Consider the following with reference to **BCI & PMI** :

1) **Business confidence index (BCI)**, from the survey by the industry body FICCI, plummeted to 51.5 from 74.2 in the previous round. The survey also highlights the weak demand conditions in the economy.

2) It says, "With household income being severely impacted and past savings being already drawn on during the first wave of infections, demand conditions can be expected to remain weak for longer." Compounding this is the uncertainty arising out of the imposition of **localised curbs due to the second wave of infections** and a muddled vaccine policy in the country.

3) **Growth recovery depends on demand recovery**. External demand looks robust as India's exports touched \$32 billion in May 2021, 67% higher than in May 2020 and 8% more than in May 2019. The combined increase in exports of April and May 2021 is over 12% indicating that global demand rebound is much faster than the domestic demand.

4) Stimulus programmes and a sharp decline in COVID-19 infections seem to be aiding these economies. What needs to be addressed immediately is the crisis of **low domestic demand**.

5) Since last year, the policy responses have been to rely **on credit easing**, focusing more on supply side measures, with more and more guarantees by the government to **improve flow of credit to important sectors**.

6) There has been less direct action by the government to support the vulnerable to alleviate their hardships. There were some sector-specific measures to alleviate distress in certain sectors, which were timely. However, this policy stance is unlikely to prop up growth for three reasons.

7) First, the bulk of the policy measures, including the most recent, are **supply side measures and not on the demand side**. In times of financial anxiety, what is needed is direct state spending for a quick demand boost. Second, large parts of all the stimulus packages announced till now would work only in the medium term. These include policies related to the external sector, infrastructure and manufacturing sector. In fact, some of the policies towards agriculture, such as productivity enhancement through the introduction of new varieties, will only work over years. Third, the use of credit backstops as the main plank of policy has limits compared to any direct measure on the demand side as this could result in poor growth performance if private investments do not pick up.

8)Further, **the credit easing approach** would take a longer time to multiply incomes as lending involves a lender's discretion and borrower's obligation. Interestingly, a tight-fisted fiscal policy approach comes at a time when conventional fiscal stimulus packages might not be enough as supply side issues arising out of episodic lockdowns need to be addressed simultaneously.

9)What is required now is a sharp revival in overall demand. Focusing on short-term magnified growth rates resting on low bases might be erroneous, as income levels matter more than growth rates at this juncture.

10) Focusing on growth rates has its merits in the long term as achieving higher income levels require sustained growth for longer periods. Bangladesh seems to be doing this without much fanfare, but the quest for sustained higher growth has been elusive for India for the last five years.

11)Manufacturing **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** also throws some light on the shape of things to come. PMI has slipped to a 10-month low indicating that the manufacturing sector is showing signs of strain with growth projections being revised lower.

12)Both **BCI and PMI slipping down** indicates that the overall optimism towards 2021-22 is low, which could impact investments and cause further job losses.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12

(d) None

Ans: c

71)Consider the following with reference to **Hill Councils in Ladakh** :

1)The fate of both the councils, LAHDC-Kargil and LAHDC-Leh, that manage governance issues at the micro level with budgetary independence and also give representation to people, is also hanging fire.

2)"There is confusion in the minds of people because there is no formal order on demarcating the functioning of the hill councils by the Ministry of Home Affairs so far," executive councillor of the LAHDC-Leh.

3)It is said the absence of business rules has failed to delineate powers. "The council should be granted legislative powers on the lines of Bodoland Council to frame laws. Otherwise, the councils will be ineffective," he said.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

72) Consider the following with reference to talks at Moldo : (August , 2020 news)

1) The high-powered China Study Group is expected to meet to discuss the outcome of the talks that are meant to take forward the stalled process of disengagement on the Line of Actual Control.

2) The talks which began around 11 a.m. on the **Chinese side at Moldo opposite Chushul** went on till 9.30 p.m., the source said. been learnt.

3) Details on its outcome are expected on after the government takes stock of the developments, it has

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

73) Consider the following with reference to Article 129 :

Article 129 : 129. Supreme Court to be a court of record The Supreme Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself

1) Freedom of speech and expression was the “ultimate guardian” of values upheld in the Constitution. The exercise of contempt powers by the Supreme Court must necessarily not be of a nature that went beyond ‘reasonable restrictions’.

2) **The power of contempt under Article 129 was to be utilised to aid in administration of justice.**

3) Contempt could not be pressed into service to stifle bona fide criticism from citizens who were well-informed about the omissions and commissions of the Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(d) None

Ans: c

74) Consider the following with reference to leopards :

1) As part of its global tiger census, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is set to release a dedicated report on leopard sightings.

2) The last formal census on India's leopards was conducted in 2014 which estimated the cat's population at between 12,000 and 14,000. They also estimated 8,000 leopards in the vicinity of tiger habitat.

3) Critics had pointed out that conducting a leopard survey, along with the tiger survey, is problematic as **the former is adapted to living on the edge of forests and human habitats**, unlike the tiger which is an elusive creature. This had led to gross errors in estimating the true numbers of leopards.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

75) Consider the following with reference to Ram Temple in Ayodhya :

1) The Supreme Court in November, 2019 permitted the construction of a Ram temple

2) Ram temple will be at the site where the Babri Masjid stood till December 6, 1992.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2

(d) None

Ans: c

76) Consider the following with reference to **Mandarin** language, **Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms** : (3.8.2020 news)

1) China called on India to "avoid politicising normal cooperation" following moves to review ongoing cooperation for language training between Indian universities and Chinese government-run programmes.

2) Following the decision to drop **Mandarin** from its list of suggested languages under the National Education Policy, the Ministry of Education (Ministry of Human Resource Development earlier) has put several higher education institutes that offer Chinese language training under the scanner.

3) the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi, in a statement responding to reports that the “Ministry of Education of India has decided to review **Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms** jointly established by China’s Confucius Institute and 7 Indian universities and colleges, as well as 54 Memoranda of Understanding on inter-school cooperation signed between Indian and Chinese higher education institutions,” said such cooperation had gone on “for more than 10 years”.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

77) Consider the following with reference to Mediation Committee :

1) On March 8 2019, the Supreme Court of India appointed a three-member Mediation Committee to attempt mediation in the Ayodhya Babri Masjid Ram Janambhumi dispute pending before the Court. Justice (retd.) Ibrahim Kalifula, former judge of the Court, Sri Sri Ravishankar and _____ were the three members. We immediately commenced the process of having meetings with the many parties to the case, together and separately. The initial time of two months was extended to August 15, 2019, which the Court advanced to July 31, 2019.

2) All parties could not reach agreement by that time, and the Court started the hearing of the case on August 6. In mid-September, at the request of some parties, the Court permitted resumption of mediation. Around the time of conclusion of arguments in end-October, several parties submitted their agreement on a settlement formula so that the views of other parties be sought under the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure or the formula be adopted for a broad order under Article 142 of the Constitution of India.

3) It adverted to the terms of settlement arrived at in the mediation process, but expressed its inability to proceed with the same since all parties had not signed it. It gave the disputed land and adjoining parcels to the Hindus for building the Ram Mandir and allotted five acres elsewhere to the Muslims.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

78) Consider the following :

The judgment was bitterly resented and intellectually criticised for favouring the Hindus. But there was also relief that there was closure to this issue and that no more bloodshed took place. Importantly, the Court breathed constitutional protection and longevity to the Protection of Places of Worship Act, 1991, which protects all other places of worship of all religions from conversion; with this, India will be spared repeats of this mandir and masjid mayhem.

- 1) The Supreme Court of India granted entire 2.77 Acres of disputed land to deity Ram Lalla, possession of land will remain Union Government.
- 2) It directed the Centre and UP government to allot five Acres of land to build a mosque.
- 3) [April 3, 1993: 'Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act' passed for acquiring land by the Centre in the disputed area.
- 4) The Supreme Court, exercising its jurisdiction under Article 139 A of the Constitution of India, transfers various writ petitions pending in the Allahabad High Court] { September 30, 2020 : The Allahabad High Court , in a 2:1 majority rules a three-way division of the disputed area between the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla) .

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

79) Consider the following with reference to Right to Access to Information :

1) Access to information might not yet be a fundamental right but it is certainly a human right. For the last one year, the residents of the J&K Valley

have been deprived of the benefit of 4G Internet. This has had an adverse impact on various aspects of daily life.

2) For students, the joy of learning has become an imposition with 2G Internet. Medical professionals have difficulty in advising and counselling their patients.

3) The right to health is an essential component of the right to life and this has been denied to a large number of patients. Businessmen have suffered, the economy in the Valley has taken a hit and it appears that the powers that be are in no mood to relent.

4) The Supreme Court has twice intervened but with no tangible effect. Orders concerning the Internet were required to be reviewed under the rules by a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary. The committee has been downgraded and is now headed by the Home Secretary. In other words, rather than a step forward towards access to information, a small step back has been taken.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

80) Consider the following with reference to J&K :

Though Syama Prasad Mukherjee highlighted the implications of Article 370 with the slogan “Ek desh mein do vidhan, do pradhan, do nishan nahi challenge (We can’t have two Constitutions, two Prime Ministers and two flags in one country)”, it was not until 1979 that the full discriminatory nature of Article 35A came to light.

1) A single-judge Bench quashed the appointment of Dr. Ravinder Maadan as an Assistant Professor at the Government Medical College in Jammu. The court ruled that Dr. Maadan, **who had married a non-state subject, was no longer a permanent resident and hence not eligible for government employment.** It was only 23 years later, in 2002, that a three-member Bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court declared that the daughter of a permanent resident marrying a non-permanent resident will not lose her permanent residency. However, it did not wade into the discriminatory nature of Article 35A and stated it to be an “academic issue”.

2) **Article 35A was unfair not just to women.** It deprived benefits to thousands of descendants of West Pakistan refugees who migrated during that period even though they are Indian citizens. It ensured that the descendants of Dalit Valmikis, brought in from Amritsar and Gurdaspur in Punjab as safai karamcharis in 1957, were ineligible for government jobs and were forced to continue in their designated occupation.

3)The presence of Article 370 in the Constitution paved the way for various constitutional anomalies. For instance, while Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code was struck down by the Supreme Court, it continued to exist in the **Ranbir Penal Code** that was followed in the erstwhile State. Similarly, critical legislation passed by the Government of India, such as the Right to Information Act, Right to Education Act and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, were not applicable to the erstwhile State.

4)It was for these reasons, and the Prime Minister’s vision of “one nation, one Constitution”, that led the government to effectively remove Articles 370 and 35A.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

81)Consider the following with reference to **Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) for Covid-19** :

1)Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) for Covid-19, are quick and are said to be very reliable in confirming if someone has tested positive for the virus. However, it has a low sensitivity or that it can also miss — sometimes as many as 50% — of those who may be carrying the infection.

2)Therefore, the ICMR advisory has been to retest all those who test negative for the test and those who manifest symptoms.

3)“It takes about five days for fever-like symptoms to manifest and there’s a big chance that in that period, both RT-PCR and antigen tests may miss detecting the virus.

4)The same goes for asymptomatics. In that sense, both are similar for finding a positive case. States have been told to use an intelligent and calibrated testing policy depending on which area needs more testing,”

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

82)Consider the following with reference to Permanent Commission (PC) to women officers :

1) After receiving the formal Government Sanction Letter (GSL) for grant of Permanent Commission (PC) to women officers, the Army headquarters is in the process of convening a special selection board for screening women officers for grant of PC.

2) the Defence Ministry issued the GSL specifying grant of PC to women officers in all streams in which they presently serve

3) in all streams in which they presently serve — Army Air Defence, Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Intelligence Corps in addition to the existing streams of Judge and Advocate General and Army Educational Corps.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

83) Consider the following with reference to **Delhi University's (DU) four-year degree experiment** :

1) Six years after **Delhi University's (DU) four-year degree experiment** ended in ignominy, with the University Grants Commission (UGC) shutting down the programme after vociferous protests from a section of students and faculty, the National Education Policy (NEP) has brought the concept back into the spotlight and recommends its implementation across the country.

2) For the then DU vice chancellor, who had to resign when his brainchild programme was struck down, the NEP is something of a vindication. "The NEP proposal mirrors many aspects of our programme at DU. We had also proposed a holistic, flexible educational experience," he says, noting that he was aiming at wider change than the simple addition of an extra year.

3) He relates the experience of discovering that top multinational finance companies which interviewed 1,200 students at DU had found only three worth hiring, because students simply did not have basic holistic knowledge to succeed in the real world.

4) "In that one year that we implemented the four-year degree, DU shot up to around 200 in the global rankings, higher than most IITs. Today, it is around the 800 rank mark," he says.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

84) Consider the following with reference to _____ :

1) The head of the NEP's drafting committee K. Kasturirangan agrees that Prof. Singh's initiative was a "visionary step" at that time. ". "

2) We must recognise that a student's knowledge base must be sufficiently flexible to cope with a 21st century job scenario," he says. "

3) At that time in DU, there was concern among students about whether they would gain anything from an extra year, as well as among teachers objecting to the additional work that would have to be put in to teach a four-year degree

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

85) Consider the following with reference to _____ Spain _____ :

1) Spain's former king Juan Carlos, at the centre of an alleged \$100-million corruption scandal, has reportedly fled to the **Dominican Republic** (Caribbean country) after his shock announcement that he was going into exile.

2) The 82-year-old revealed that he had taken the decision to leave Spain to help his son, the current King Felipe VI, "exercise his responsibilities".

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

86) Consider the following with reference to _____ Consumer Protection Act and _____ All kinds of B2C online services _____ :

1) "The Consumer Protection Act has already kicked in, but many online service providers still want to believe they are outside its scope," said the official on condition of anonymity. "All kinds of B2C online services, irrespective of their size and reach, all mobile app-based services and all businesses running on social media platforms, will come within the bill's purview.

2) Only unscrupulous players who exercise unfair trade practices or indulge in counterfeit merchandise need to worry.

3) Otherwise, this is a win-win piece of regulation that will protect the rights of customers and dignity of the brands," the official said.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

87) Consider the following with reference to RTE Act :

1) According to the RTE Act, 25% of entry-level seats must be set aside for students from economically weaker sections of the society. Enquiries made to a number of big schools in the city revealed that many schools had completed the admission process, especially for kindergarten, and **online classes** were going on since June, 2020

2) "Children from underprivileged sections, whose parents are usually daily wage workers, depend on RTE seats to enter private schools.

3) But, due to lack of clarity this year, these students will lose this opportunity," says C. Perarivalan, State general secretary of Tamil Puligal Katchi, who has been working for admitting underprivileged students from Karumbalai area under the RTE Act.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

88) Consider the following with reference to **Kabini's catchment area at Wayanad in Kerala** :

1) The **Mettur dam**,(Tamil Nadu) the primary storage point of Cauvery water in the State, is likely to soon witness a steep rise in inflow with the authorities in Karnataka beginning to release huge quantities of water from **Kabini dam**

2)Heavy rain in the previous days in **Kabini's catchment area at Wayanad in Kerala** led to huge inflows into the dam in Karnataka.

3)Another development that comes as a relief to water managers of Tamil Nadu is that **parts of the Cauvery's catchment area in south interior Karnataka** have also been recording substantial amounts of rain.

4)Unlike Kabini dam, which has reached around 90% of capacity, the **Krishnaraja Sagar** (KRS) dam's figure is around 60% and, as such, the chances of release of excess water from the dam are remote for the next few days.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

89)Consider the following with reference to migrant labour in informal sector :

1) It is considerations of this kind, more than financial hardship, that prompt single migrant workers to leave for their rural homes. The Indian labouring classes are much less rattled by joblessness as unemployment is a frequent, if unwelcome, visitor at their door.

2)This is clearly an outcome of the fact that 93% of our economy is informal. Ironically, the Industrial Disputes Act encourages this trend. It mandates employers to pay severance wages, and other benefits, only if workers are hired, and on the rolls, continuously for over 248 days.

3)This law has had the unintended consequence of making it attractive for management to periodically flip labour around. As a result, only a minuscule minority stays employed for long.

4) Most other workers suffer joblessness for long periods in the bear pit called the city. Yet, it took just two days of the lockdown for a large number of male workers to start the trudge to their respective villages.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

90) Consider the following with reference to **ammonium nitrate** :

1) The devastating blast in **central Beirut** (Lebanon) on 4.8.2020 that killed 135 people and wounded 4,000 has once again turned the spotlight on a city that had in the past survived civil wars, sectarian violence, foreign interventions and terrorist attacks.

2) The blast was caused by the detonation of more than 2,700 tonnes of **ammonium nitrate** that had been stored in a warehouse at the Beirut port after it was confiscated from a cargo ship six years ago.

3) The blast rattled buildings on the **Mediterranean island of Cyprus**, about 160 km away.

4) President Michel Aoun said 2,750 tonnes of **ammonium nitrate, used in fertilisers and bombs**, had been stored for six years at the port without safety measures, after it was seized.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

91) Consider the following with reference to **EWS quota 10% Article 15(6) and 16(6)** :

1) The three-judge Bench had refused to stay the implementation of the **Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, which provides the 10% Quota**, when it had reserved for orders a year ago (i.e., 2019). Several petitioners, including Janhit Abhiyan and Kerala Munnoka Samudaya Aikya Munnani, the latter represented by advocate, had challenged the validity of the Constitutional Amendment, saying the 50% quota limit was part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

The economic reservation was introduced in the Constitution by amending Articles 15 and 16 and adding clauses empowering the State governments to provide reservation on the basis of economic backwardness

“It is the case of the petitioners that the very amendments run contrary to the Constitutional scheme, and no segment of available seats/posts can be reserved only on the basis of economic criterion. As such, we are of the view that such questions do constitute substantial questions of law to be considered by a Bench of five judges,” the judgment said.

.2) The Centre had argued that it was every State’s prerogative to provide 10% economic reservation in State government jobs and admissions in State-run education institutions

3)“Whether or not to provide reservation to the economically weaker section (EWS) of the society for appointment in State government jobs and for admission to State government educational institutions, **as per provisions of the newly inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) of the Constitution,** is to be decided by the State government concerned,” a seven-page affidavit filed by the Central government had said.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

92) Consider the following with reference to **Pokkali variety of rice (from Kerala) known for salt water resistance** :

1) Two farmers in South 24 Parganas district in West Bengal are betting on the **pokkali variety of rice from Kerala to tide over a crisis-like situation created by severe seawater** incursion into paddy fields in vast areas of the Sundarbans after cyclone Amphan hit West Bengal on May 20.

2) The pokkali variety, known for its saltwater resistance, flourishes in the paddy fields of coastal Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts.

3) The uniqueness of the rice has brought it the Geographical Indication (GI) tag and is the subject of continuing research.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

93) Consider the following :

- 1) On July 8, 2021, the Union government announced the “India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package: **Phase II**”, with the stated purpose to boost health infrastructure and prepare for a possible third wave of COVID-19.
- 2) Through this financial package, there is plan to increase COVID-19 beds, improve the oxygen availability and supply, create buffer stocks of essential medicines; purchase equipment and strengthen paediatric beds..
- 3) However, the package barely has any attention on improving the availability of health human resources

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

94) Consider the following with reference to **OPEC and crude oil production** :

1) For now, the risk has receded that the United Arab Emirates (UAE), said to hold the world’s largest untapped crude reserves, might quit the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The end to the UAE’s weeks-long impasse with Saudi Arabia, one of the world’s biggest crude exporters, and Russia, a non-OPEC state, was brought about by deal. Under its terms, the UAE’s demand for an increase in its oil output quotas, in recognition of its higher production capacity, has been conceded. The baselines have also been raised for Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq and Kuwait.

2) The bloc will now step up crude production by 400,000 barrels a day starting in August. The deal will extend until the end of 2022. The output boost is **in response to rising oil prices in the wake of the rebound in economic activity following the easing of lockdown restrictions and increased COVID-19 vaccinations in different parts of the world.**

3) Sunday’s deal has also extended until the end of next year the broad terms of the unprecedented production cuts the bloc enforced in April 2020.

4) The cartel cut oil production by 9.7 million barrels a day (mbd) as **oil demand fell from 100 mbd to 91.1 mbd and prices plummeted from \$70 in January 2020 to around \$20 in April.**

5) The bloc has since gradually rolled back these steep cuts and hopes to return production to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2022.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

95) Consider the following with reference to UAPA :

1) Public prosecutors are influential at every stage of a trial. They decide what offences the accused person should be charged with, whether to seek pretrial custody, and what sentence to ask for. However, public prosecutors, unlike defence counsel, have an ethical obligation to seek justice balancing the interests of the victims of crime, society, and those accused of crimes. They represent the public and are not mere mouthpieces for law enforcement agencies.

2) The Supreme Court in *Sheo Nandan Paswan v. State of Bihar* (1986) cautioned that even though prosecutors have a duty to represent the executive for trying the offender, and it is broadly their responsibility to see that the trial results in conviction, they need not be extremely concerned about the outcome of the case. They act as officers of the court and are obliged to ensure that the accused person is not unfairly treated. The High Court of Delhi, in *Jitendra Kumar v. State* (1999), warned that, "In performance of his duty he can prosecute the accused, but he cannot assume the role of a persecutor. It is no part of his duty to secure conviction at all costs... The Public Prosecutor should act fairly and impartially and must be conscious of the rights of the accused. He is not only required to conduct prosecution case... but [also] respect and protect the rights of the accused."

3) The duty of a public prosecutor to not assume the role of persecutor is vital in trials under special statutes like the UAPA, which water down fair trial guarantees.

4) Undertrial detention becomes a convenient means to punish those accused under the UAPA without convicting them. Such trials are long-drawn-out, and the conviction rate is low. In 2019, in 11% of UAPA cases (pending from previous years and filed in 2019), the police closed the case because of insufficient evidence or because the accused was untraceable. Charge sheets were filed in only 9% of the UAPA cases. The conviction rate for UAPA cases was 29.2% compared to an average conviction rate of 50.4% for crimes committed under the Indian Penal Code.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

96) Consider the following with reference to combating illicit trafficking of narcotic, drugs and psychotropic substances, besides chemical precursors :

1) India has signed 26 bilateral pacts, 15 memoranda of understanding and two agreements on security cooperation with different countries for combating illicit trafficking of narcotic, drugs and psychotropic substances, besides chemical precursors, according to a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

2)The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) coordinated with various international organisations for sharing information and intelligence to combat transnational drug trafficking. They included the SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk; Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa; Colombo Plan; Association of Southeast Asian Nations; ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters; Bay of Bengal Initiative For Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Co-Operation; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the International Narcotics Control Board,

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

97)Consider the following with reference to **NSO Group's Pegasus spyware** :

1) The use of NSO Group's Pegasus spyware against Opposition leaders, activists, judges and journalists would not have occurred if intelligence agencies were grounded in law and with provisions for holding them accountable,

2)The NSO maintains that it sells the malware, which can secretly unlock the target's phone, computer or other devices, collect information and transfer it into another device without the permission of the user, only to government agencies to fight terrorism and other serious crimes.

3)"NSO Group will continue to investigate all credible claims of misuse and take appropriate action based on the results of these investigations,"

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

98)Consider the following with reference to CAA :

1)The CAA was passed in 2019 to fast-track the citizenship process for non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, who took refuge in India till December 31, 2014.

2)The NRC of 1951 was updated in Assam to leave out 19.06 lakh persons out of some 3.3 crore applicants.

3) “Not a single Indian Muslim will face any loss due to the new citizenship Act. India has been following the [1950] Nehru-Liaquat Pact, which states that each country would protect its minorities while Pakistan failed to do so.”

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

99)Consider the following with reference to domicile certificate in J&K :

1) The Jammu and Kashmir administration has rolled out the process of issuing domicile certificates to the spouses of the erstwhile State subjects who have a domicile certificate.

2)This would allow the husbands of the women married outside to acquire the document for the first time.

3)“In exercise of the powers conferred by proviso to **Article 309 of the Constitution of India** read with Section of the J&K Civil Service (Decentralisation and recruitment) Act, 2010, the government hereby grants domicile certificates to spouse of a domicile,” a government order, dated July 20, 2021, said.

4)The government has authorised tahsildars to issue the certificate against a “valid proof of marriage”.

5)According to the J&K Grant of Domicile Certificate Procedure Rules, 2020, the domicile certificate would be issued to all Permanent Resident Certificate holders and their children living outside the Union Territory

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

100)Consider the following with reference to :

1)The Itanagar Bench of the Gauhati High Court has stayed the Arunachal Pradesh government’s June notification prescribing temporary entry permits for “developmental works in public and private sectors” only to those vaccinated against COVID-19.

2)Hearing a public interest litigation petition filed by Dibang Valley district resident Madan Milli in July , Justice Nani Tagia said the notification classifying people into the vaccinated and the unvaccinated for the purpose of issuance of temporary permit “violates Articles 14, 19 (1) (d) and 21 of the Constitution of India”.

3)Indians who intend to visit Arunachal Pradesh — as in three other north-eastern States — for business or tourism need to possess an Inner-Line Permit (ILP), a British era system.

4)“Tourist ILPs shall remain suspended during the period of this order [till August 1]. However, for developmental works in both public and private sectors, temporary permits may be issued, provided such persons are vaccinated for COVID-19,” Clause 11 of the government notification read

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

TSPSC GROUP I Prelims 2022 (Scheduled on 16.10.2022)
TSLPRB SI & CONSTABLES

Model Questions (for GS Paper)
Set No. 9 {Prepared on 28 .5.2022 }

For Study purpose
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1)Consider the following with reference to POSHAN Abhiyan :

1) POSHAN Abhiyaan has been launched in March 2018 to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner by leveraging technology, convergence and Jan Andolan.

2) Malnutrition is not the direct cause of death among children under five years of age. Though it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections. Malnourished children are more vulnerable to any infection than normal children.

3) The overall under five mortality rate (number of deaths per thousand live births) has reduced from 74.3 as reported by 3rd National Family Health Survey report released in 2005-06 to 49.7 as 4th National Family Health Survey report released in 2015-16

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

2)Consider the following with reference to Cloud computing **& GI Cloud (MeghRaj)** :

Cloud computing is the on demand availability of computer system resources, especially data storage and computing power, without direct active management by the user

1) For better governance and speeding up the delivery of e-services, India has already started an ambitious initiative on harnessing the advantages of cloud computing. This initiative called "MeghRaj", is technically known as "GI Cloud".

2) An important report of the Department of Electronics and IT (DeitY), Government of India published in April 2013 titled "Government of India's GI Cloud (MeghRaj) Strategic Direction Paper" shows the ambition and objective of the Government of India to provide information and communication technology (ICT) services at the most reliable manner at a cheaper cost.

3) As per the report, the GI Cloud is the Government of India's cloud computing environment that will be used by government departments and agencies at the centre and states to provide services to citizens and businesses via internet and mobile connectivity.

4) It will enable the government to leverage cloud computing for effective delivery of e-services and optimise ICT spending of the government

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

3) Consider the following with reference to Sources of Lunar Water :

1) Understanding the sources of lunar water is crucial for studying the history of lunar evolution and also the solar wind interaction with Moon and other airless bodies.

2) There have been several theories about the origin of water on Moon.

3) The prevailing theory is that positively charged hydrogen ions (H⁺) propelled by the solar wind bombard the lunar surface and spontaneously react to make water as hydroxyl (OH⁻) ions and molecular water (H₂O).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

4) Consider the following with reference to MOXIE :

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1) Mars has a thin atmosphere predominantly composed of carbon dioxide and no breathable oxygen

2) Hence, in future, human missions will have to be self-sufficient and produce breathable oxygen and liquid oxygen rocket fuel in-house on Mars.

3) **MOXIE or Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment** will perform the task. Like a tree, MOXIE will breathe-in the Martian atmospheric carbon-di-oxide and breathe out oxygen to produce oxygen on Mars. This car-battery-sized instrument is an experimental one.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

5) Consider the following with reference to 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables and Aahaar Kranti :

1) A balanced diet is one which provides all the nutrients in required amounts and proper proportions. It can easily be achieved through a blend of the four basic food groups.

2) United Nations has also declared 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, which vibes very well with Aahaar Kranti. In any case, fruits and vegetables make a large part of a balanced diet.

3) We all know that diet and well-being are inseparable partners. The UN sustainable goal # 3 that emphasizes on human well-being reads, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." This goal too makes Aahaar Kranti more meaningful.

4) Aahaar Kranti is a movement to raise awareness about the importance of nutritionally balanced diet in India. It is an effort to rouse the people to the value of our traditional diet, to the healing powers of local fruits and vegetables, and to the miracles of a balanced diet.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

6) Consider the following with reference to Covid-19 :

To analyse the genome sequence of the new strain of the virus, scientists around the world had collected samples from COVID-19 patients. The samples were then sequenced and the sequence analysis revealed that it has 88% genetic similarity to SARS-CoV and 50% similarity to MERS-CoV; also, the genome sequence does not support the belief that COVID-19 is laboratory construct.

1) The infection process has a lock-and-key mechanism. Here the lock is the spike surface glycoproteins present on SARS-CoV2 virus and the key is the ACE2 receptor present on the surface of human cell.

2) These ACE2 receptors unlock the virus by binding to spike surface glycoproteins that allow it to enter into the host body after which a second protein called TMPRSS2 activates the virus, allowing it to reproduce and transmit within the cell.

3) Once the virus starts multiplying inside the body, the infected person starts showing symptoms (symptomatic); although in some cases no symptoms are observed (asymptomatic).

4) The absence of symptoms does not mean that the individual is safe and would not spread any infection. In fact, they may suffer irreversible damage to their vital organs resulting in death. In Vishakhapatnam, for instance, a doctor working at AntiRetroviral Therapy (ART) Centre, and in the premises of the old Government Hospital in Vijayawada died suddenly after having breathing problems, though he was asymptomatic otherwise.

5) When it comes to sudden deaths, silent hypoxia caused by SARS-CoV-2 may be the main cause of death. More studies are required to identify why exactly the virus causes silent hypoxia, compared to other viruses like influenza, where it is not seen as often.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5

(d) None

Ans: c

7) Consider the following with reference to Vaccines :

Back in 1796, English doctor Edward Jenner used cowpox blood serum to generate immunity to smallpox. In the late 1800s, Louis Pasteur showed that microbes cause several infectious diseases. Later, Pasteur developed the process of laboratory-created vaccines using microbes.

- 1) Vaccines are essentially preventive agents and not curative.
- 2) Vaccines stimulate a person's immune system to produce immunity to a specific disease and protect the person from that disease.
- 3) Vaccines are mostly specific to a particular microbe (virus or bacteria) and helps in tuning the recipient's immune system against it
- 4) Following immunisation, vaccines elicit a controlled and very specific immune response and create cellular memory of immune cells to protect the person from future infection by the same infectious agent.
- 5) In most cases, vaccination is required once in a life-time and may involve booster doses in some diseases like tetanus, polio, etc
- 6) Vaccines are generally administered orally, through nasal spray or injection and do not require to be metabolized

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
- (d) None

Ans: c

8) Consider the following with reference to Strict ethical norms and vaccine research :

- 1) Strict ethical norms are associated with vaccine research as it involves sacrifice, experimental harm, pain and discomfort of a large number of laboratory animals and risking health of human subjects.
- 2) Mammalian model animals such as rats, mice, rabbits, pigs, calves, cattle, sheep, monkeys, and horses are frequently used for vaccine research to assess: (i) vaccine safety, (ii) protection against the disease/infection, (iii) limiting clinical symptoms, (iv) critical function of immune system, (v) magnitude of immune response, (vi) routes of administration, and (vii) which immune components are induced.
- 3) Major objective of ethical considerations for clinical trials include rationale of the trial, selection of participants, limiting biasness, health outcome, participant's consent, confidentiality, medical care and clinical follow-up.
- 4) Respective "Institutional Ethics Committees" (IEC) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) oversee the strict ethical compliance as per the guidelines issued by ICMR, New Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

9) Consider the following with reference to Food Processing in the Indian economy :

. Food processing also offers huge employment potential. In India, while the food processing industry's contribution to overall Gross Value Added (GVA) is only 1.6 per cent, it accounts for 1.8 million (12.4 per cent) and 5.1 million (14.2 per cent) jobs in registered and un-incorporated sectors, respectively.

1) Recognising this, the government has set the target for raising the share of processed food to 25 per cent of the total agricultural produce by 2025

2) The food processing sector was also opened up for 100 per cent FDI in 2016 under the automatic route.

3) Further, in 2017, 100 per cent FDI under the government route for retail trading, including through e-commerce, was permitted in respect of food products manufactured and/or produced in India

4) . For ensuring adequate credit flows, the Reserve Bank has accorded priority sector status to the food processing industry in 2015.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

10) Consider the following with reference to Food security and food distribution :

COVID has brought the importance of food security and food distribution or supply chain network to the forefront of public policy debate in India. Successive years of record production of foodgrains and horticulture crops has transformed India into a food surplus economy

1) Recognising this challenge, much of the policy attention in recent years for the sector has focused on addressing post-production frictions, comprising agri-logistics, storage facilities, processing and marketing.

2) Greater focus on processed food is one option that could help in dealing with multi-pronged challenges of surplus management.

3) Development of the food processing industry is likely to benefit the farm sector and the economy through greater value addition to farm output, reducing food wastages, stabilising food prices, expanding

export opportunities, encouraging crop diversification, providing direct and indirect employment opportunities, increasing farmers' income and enhancing consumer choices.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

11) Consider the following with reference to **Tourism and opportunities** :

1) Tourism has been one of the sectors in the economy most severely impacted by COVID-19. At the same time, this is also a sector where pent up demand could drive a V-shaped recovery when the situation normalises.

2) India has immense potential to meet a diverse range of tourist interests – religion; adventure; medical treatment; wellness and yoga; sports; film making; and eco-tourism.

3) We have four major biodiversity hotspots, 38 UNESCO World heritage sites- 18 biosphere reserves, over 7,000 km of coastline, rain forests, deserts, tribal habitation and a multi-cultural population.

4) The challenge nevertheless is to scale up our tourism market and enhance its contribution to economic development.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

12) Consider the following with reference to **Tourism and employment** :

As per the Third Report of Tourism Satellite Account for India (TSAI) 2018, the share of tourism in GDP was 5.1 per cent in 2016-17 and the share in employment was 12.2 per cent (with the direct and indirect shares at 5.32 per cent and 6.88 per cent, respectively).

1) In 2018-19, tourism's share in employment increased further to 12.8 per cent, with the total size of employment at 87.5 million.

2) The employment elasticity in this sector, thus, appears to be high. India attracted 10.89 million foreign tourists in 2019, an increase of 3.2 per cent over the previous year.

3) The foreign exchange earnings generated by the sector during the same period was about ₹2 trillion, a year-on-year increase of more than 8 per cent.

4) The country also jumped six positions to 34 out of 140 countries in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019 of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

13) Consider the following with reference to post Global Financial Crisis :

In the post global financial crisis (GFC) period, a view has emerged that the era of export-led growth is over, and India missed the opportunity by not prioritizing exports at the right time. Globally, the key impediments to exports post-GFC include:

- (1) generalized increase in protectionism by trading partners;
- (2) weak global demand conditions;
- (3) race to the bottom (to gain unfair competitive advantage, by using a policy mix of competitive depreciation, subsidies, tax and regulatory concessions);
- (4) automation, reducing the cost advantages stemming from cheap labour.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

14) Consider the following with reference to effects of Covid-19 on productivity levels :

By any reckoning, COVID-19 will leave long lasting scars on productivity levels of countries around the world

1) According to a recent World Bank assessment, COVID-19 could entail adverse effects on productivity because of dislocation of labour, disruption of value chains and decline in innovations

2) During earlier episodes of epidemics in the past – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Ebola and Zika – productivity is estimated to have declined by about 4 per cent over three years.

3) The COVID impact on productivity could be expected to be much larger.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

15) Consider the following with reference to India Innovation Index released by NiTi Aayog :

The share of patents applied and granted to India in total patents granted globally has been rising in recent years.

1) India's share, however, continues to be low at less than 1 per cent. Globally, the private sector plays a major role in R&D expenditure, while in India, a major part of R&D expenditure is incurred by the government, particularly on atomic energy, space research, earth sciences and biotechnology. Stepping up R&D investment in other areas would require more efforts by the private sector, with the government focusing on creating an enabling environment.

2) With a view to further promoting innovations in financial services, the Reserve Bank has announced an Innovation Hub with a focus on new capabilities in financial products and services that can help deepening financial inclusion and efficient banking services. Ongoing efforts are yielding results

3) India has recently entered the group of top 50 countries in the global innovation index (GII) list of 2020 for the first time.

4) The India Innovation Index, released by Niti Aayog, has been widely accepted as a major step in the direction of decentralisation of innovation across all states of the country. Sustaining this process will be vital, given particularly the trend decline in saving and investment rate in India.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

16) Consider the following with reference to Health and affordable healthcare :

Health is another vital component of human capital.

1) Good health increases life expectancy and productive working years.

2) In high income countries, per capita health expenditure in 2017 was about US\$ 2937, as against US\$ 130 in low middle-income countries (which include India).

3) Initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadi Pariyojana (PMBJP) and Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP), free drugs and diagnostic service provision initiatives are expected to improve the quality and affordability of healthcare.

4) The most important step towards providing affordable healthcare has been the launch of the Ayushman Bharat Yojna, which lays down the foundation of a 21st century health care system, covering both government and private sector hospitals.

5) COVID has brought to the fore the importance of easy access to health services to contain the mortality rate, given significant inter-state and intra-state differences in healthcare infrastructure.

6) While laudable crisis time response to scale up health infrastructure has helped in dealing with the health emergency, a more comprehensive approach similar to NEP for the health sector may be warranted, which must also cover deeper penetration of insurance, given the high burden of out of pocket expenses in India, and also preventive care.

7) Greater attention is required to improve the health ecosystem by ensuring creation of new medical colleges, higher number of PG seats and colleges for paramedics and nursing.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7

(d) None

Ans: c

17) Consider the following with reference to NEP 2020 :

The New Education Policy 2020 (NEP), a historic and much needed new age reform, has the potential to leverage India's favourable demographics by prioritising human capital.

The goal to increase public investment in the education sector to 6 per cent of GDP must be pursued vigorously.

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can develop necessary infrastructure, without jeopardising financial viability of private investment while ensuring quality education at affordable costs. Indian banks and the financial system would need to respond proactively to opportunities arising from the NEP for new financing.

1) Besides improving access to education, focus on quality of education and research will be critical to shape the outcome of education on economic development.

2) Skill acquisition is more important than mere mean years of schooling. The assessment of quality aspect of education often requires a multi-dimensional approach: reading and language proficiency; mathematics and numeracy proficiency; and scientific knowledge and understanding.

3) The emphasis on quality of education must begin at the foundation stage in schools up to plus 2 level.

4) At another level, the formation of the National Research Foundation as announced in the NEP is a welcome step to fund outstanding peer-reviewed research and to actively promote research in universities and colleges.

5) The creation of a National Educational Technology Forum as a platform for use of technology in education is a necessary step to meet the requirement of rapidly changing labour market.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5

(d) None

Ans: c

18) Consider the following with reference to **education as human capital** :

Investing in people adds to the stock of skills, expertise and knowledge available in a country, and that is critical to maximise its future growth potential. The assignment of importance to education dates back to Plato, Aristotle, Socrates and Kautilya. Its significance for economic development has received progressively increasing attention in recent decades, especially in the work of several Nobel laureates, including T.W. Schultz, Gary Becker, Robert Lucas and James Heckman. There has come about an explicit recognition of education as human capital in endogenous growth theory, backed up by cross-country empirical evidence.

1) In India, states with higher literacy rates are found to have higher per capita income, lesser infant mortality, better health conditions and also lower poverty.

2) Education and skill development, however, contribute less than half a percentage point to our overall labour productivity growth.

3) In order to reap the demographic dividend, we have to raise expenditure on education and acquisition of skills substantially.

4) It is important to recognise that investment in education pays by raising average wages.

5) In its Global Education Monitoring Report 2012, the UNESCO highlighted that every US\$1 spent on education generates additional income of about US\$10 to US\$15.

6) A World Bank (2014) study showed that an additional year of schooling increases earnings by 10 per cent a year.

7) Higher education also contributes to economic development through greater sensitivity to environment/climate change, energy use, civic participation and healthy lifestyle.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7
- (d) None

Ans: c

19) Consider the following with reference to stabilization of economy and support a quick recovery :

The immediate policy response to COVID in India has been to prioritize stabilization of the economy and support a quick recovery. Policies for durable and sustainable high growth in the medium-run after the crisis, nevertheless, are equally important.

While interacting with members of the National Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on July 27, 2020, experts had found five major dynamic shifts taking place in the economy: (i) fortunes shifting in favour of the farm sector; (ii) changing energy mix in favour of renewables; (iii) leveraging information and communication technology (ICT) and start-ups to power growth; (iv) shifts in supply/value chains, both domestic and global; and (v) infrastructure as the force multiplier of growth.

The following would determine our ability to step up and sustain India's growth in the medium-run:

- 1) human capital, in particular education and health
- 2) productivity
- 3) exports, which is linked to raising India's role in the global value chain
- 4) tourism
- 5) food processing and associated productivity gains

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

20) Consider the following with reference to financial markets in India :

1) Financial market conditions in India have eased significantly across segments in response to the frontloaded **cuts in the policy repo rate** and large system-wide as well as **targeted infusion of liquidity** by the RBI.

2) Despite substantial increase in the borrowing programme of the Government, persistently large surplus liquidity conditions have ensured non-disruptive mobilisation of resources at the lowest borrowing costs in a decade.

3) In August 2020, the yield on 10-year G-sec benchmark surged by 35 basis points amidst concerns over inflation and further increase in supply of government papers.

4) Following the RBI's announcement of special open market operations (OMOs) and other measures to restore orderly functioning of the G-sec market, bond yields have softened and traded in a narrow range in September, 2020

5) Although bank credit growth remains muted, scheduled commercial banks' investments in commercial paper, bonds, debentures and shares of corporate bodies in the year so far (up to August 28, 2020) increased by ₹5,615 crore as against a decline of ₹32,245 crore during the same period of last year.

6) Moreover, the benign financing conditions and the substantial narrowing of spreads have spurred a record issuance of corporate bonds of close to ₹3.2 lakh crore during 2020-21 up to August, 2020.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3, 4, 5, 6

(d) None

Ans: c

21) Consider the following with reference to global economy :

The global economy is estimated to have suffered the sharpest contraction in living memory in April-June 2020 on a seasonally adjusted quarter-on-quarter basis. World merchandise trade is estimated to have registered a steep year-on-year decline of more than 18 per cent in Q2 of 2020, according to the Goods Trade Barometer of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

High frequency indicators point to a trough in global economic activity in April-June quarter and a subsequent recovery is underway in several economies, such as the USA, UK, Euro-area and Russia. The global manufacturing and services PMIs rose to 51.8 and 51.9, respectively, in August, 2020 from 50.6 for both in July. Yet, infections remain stubbornly high in the Americas and are increasing again in many European and Asian countries, causing some of them to renew containment measures.

1) On the back of large policy stimulus and indications of the hesitant economic recovery, global financial markets have turned upbeat.

2) Equity markets in both advanced and emerging market economies have bounced back, scaling new peaks after the 'COVID crash' in February-March. (2020)

- 3) Bond yields have hardened in advanced economies on improvement in risk appetite, fuelling shift in investor's preferences towards riskier assets.
- 4) Portfolio flows to EMEs have resumed, and this has pushed up EME currencies, aided also by the US dollar's weakness following the Fed's recent communication on pursuing an average inflation target..
- 5) Gold prices moderated after reaching an all-time high in the first week of August 2020 on prospects of economic recovery

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

22) Consider the following :

- 1) India, with a large section of population in the working age group, is already the third largest economy in the world in terms of purchasing power parity and is aiming to become a USD 5 trillion economy.
- 2) The Government has been undertaking a series of calibrated macro measures through wide ranging structural reforms.
- 3) We need to harness the demographic dividend by meeting the aspirations of a large young population. This necessitates creating an enabling environment and infrastructure in the form of education, training and opportunity.
- 4) Among all the prerequisites for achieving demographic dividend and accelerated growth, quality of human resources, greater formalisation of economy, a higher credit to GDP ratio and greater financial inclusion are the differentiating factors that would elevate our economy to the desired level.
- 5) To improve the credit to GDP ratio, access to credit and cost of credit need to be addressed by lesser reliance on collateral security and greater cash-flow based lending.
- 6) Credit bureaus and the proposed Public Credit Registry (PCR) framework are expected to improve the **flow of credit as well as credit culture**.
- 7) As regards **financial inclusion**, a number of steps have been taken by the government and the RBI. As a result, large and hitherto excluded, sections of the population have been brought into the formal financial fold. In this context, promoting and deepening financial education would play a very important part in our endeavour to realise our collective potential.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7
- (d) None

Ans: c

23) Consider the following :

While pandemics are rare events and seldom replicate past episodes, studying their impact and policy responses provide valuable insights.

1) Four such severe pandemic outbreaks in India viz., 1896 plague, 1918 Spanish flu, 1958 Asian flu and 1974 small pox show that all were associated with a contraction/deceleration in GDP, with the 1918 Spanish flu remaining the “mother of all pandemics” in terms of loss of life and livelihood.

2) The recovery, however, was observed to be swift and complete within 2 years of these outbreaks, except in the case of the Spanish flu wherein GDP per capita climbed back to pre-outbreak levels only after four years in 1922.

3) Policy responses post these pandemics had essentially focused on the provisioning for medical and public health sectors as well as offsetting the debilitating impact of the pandemic on the economy.

4) It was seen that growth became excessively dependent on government expenditure, while timely and well calibrated exit from exceptional fiscal measures were critical for macroeconomic stability, going ahead.

5) Policy focus on boosting private consumption expenditure and investment was the key in reviving the economy on a durable basis.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

24) Consider the following with reference to :

The past year has witnessed unimaginable misery and agony across the world entailing large destruction of human life and wealth. Governments and central banks across the globe unleashed conventional and unconventional policy support

1) In India, the Reserve Bank undertook several conventional and unconventional measures in the wake of COVID-19.

2) Other than conventional measures, the RBI introduced long term repo operations (LTROs) and targeted long-term repo operations (TLTROs) to augment system as well as sector-specific liquidity to meet sectoral credit needs and alleviate stress.

3) Special refinance facilities were provided to select all India financial institutions (AIFIs), while a special liquidity facility for mutual funds (SLF-MF) was introduced to ease redemption pressures.

4) RBI's asset purchases did not dilute its balance sheet and hence, did not compromise on core principles of central banking. These purchases were confined to risk-free sovereign bonds (including state government securities) only.

5) The focus was to foster congenial financing conditions without jeopardising financial stability. Further, forward guidance gained prominence in the Reserve Bank's communication strategy to realise cooperative outcomes. Our commitment to ensure ample liquidity conditions supportive of recovery dispelled illiquidity fears and bolstered market sentiments. We will continue to support the recovery process through the provision of ample liquidity in the system, while maintaining financial stability.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

25) Consider the following :

The impact of demand and supply shocks is also reflected in the balance of payments. While commodity exporting countries faced lower current account surpluses due to negative shocks to their net terms of trade, net commodity importing countries such as India benefited, recording either lower deficits or even surpluses.

Lower crude oil prices and weak demand due to COVID-19 related lockdown in early days of the pandemic squeezed India's oil import bill by 42.5 per cent during April-January 2020-21.

In contrast to goods trade, India's net services exports remained relatively resilient despite travel receipts falling sharply due to travel restrictions. Unlike most of the other major economies, India's services exports gained traction from software exports. Domestic information technology (IT) companies benefitted from growing global demand for core transformation services as their customers focused on new models for IT operations during the pandemic. Remittance inflows fell amid widespread job losses in host countries. Nevertheless, the decline in remittances was more than offset by the lower trade deficit and robust net exports of services.

As noted by UNCTAD (2021), **India's inward foreign direct investment (FDI) bucked the global trend and grew positively in 2020, boosted by investments in the digital sector.**

1) In 2020-21 (April-December), net FDI to India at US\$ 40.5 billion was higher than US\$ 31.1 billion a year ago. India's optimistic growth outlook and ample global liquidity also induced net foreign portfolio investment of US\$ 35 billion in domestic equity market in 2020-21 (up to February 19, 2021).

2) Non-residents also made higher accretion to deposits with banks in India. Consequently, the surplus on both current and capital account is reflected in build-up of foreign exchange reserves during the year.

3) As on February 19, 2021, foreign exchange reserves were US\$ 583.9 billion, an accretion of US\$ 106.1 billion since end-March 2020. The external sector outlook would continue to be reshaped by headwinds and tailwinds associated with both domestic and global recovery

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

26) Consider the following with reference to manufacturing sector (MSME Sector) :

The manufacturing sector is spearheading the growth recovery as many contact intensive services sub-sectors are severely affected by the crisis. The initiatives by the Government under the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan and Union Budget 2021-22 towards developing a vibrant manufacturing sector and infrastructure acknowledges the strong linkages they have with the rest of the sectors.

1) The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme aims to make India an integral part of the global value chain. This, along with reforms in labour market, can go a long way in propelling growth to an elevated trajectory for the manufacturing sector and reap its employment potential.

2) Small and medium enterprises account for about two-thirds of the current membership of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

3) The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in India has emerged as the growth engine of the economy with a vast network of about 6.33 crore enterprises contributing 30 per cent to our nominal GDP and around 48 per cent to exports.

4) MSME sector employs about 11 crore people, second only to agriculture. The sector has been rendered especially vulnerable by the pandemic, necessitating concerted efforts to combat the stress and focus on revival of the sector.

5) In this regard, two major schemes, viz., the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) and the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD)** were introduced by the Government.

6) These schemes have been duly supported by various monetary and regulatory measures by the Reserve Bank in the form of interest rate cuts, higher structural and durable liquidity, moratorium on debt servicing, asset classification standstill, loan restructuring package and CRR exemptions on credit disbursed to new MSME borrowers. These measures will not only help in ameliorating stress in the sector but also open new opportunities. Going forward, the Reserve Bank stands ready to support the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for greater credit penetration to the MSME sector.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
- (d) None

Ans: c

27) Consider the following with reference to Digital Penetration in India :

Digital penetration in India has scaled a new high. The time has come to leverage its applications while at the same time strengthening the digital infrastructure. With approximately 1.2 billion wireless subscribers and 750 million internet subscribers, India is the second largest and one of the fastest-growing markets for digital consumers.

As digital capabilities improve and connectivity becomes omnipresent, technological innovation and technology-driven revolution are poised to quickly and radically change India's economy. They have the potential to raise the productivity of agriculture, manufacturing and businesses as well as improve the delivery of public services, such as health and education.

1) In the financial sector, this could lead to higher financial inclusion, lesser information asymmetry and reduced credit risk.

2) Similarly, open online courses, audio-visual training programmes and remote learning can strengthen the match between skills required by the industry and skills imparted in schools, colleges and technical institutes.

3) Healthcare delivery can be improved via digitisation of medical records, remote provision of diagnosis and prescription via smartphones and mobile internet.

4) Technology adoption in rural areas for '**precision farming**' by using geographical information systems-based soil, water and climate data to guide farming decisions as well as using real-time market information to guide sale of agro-products can add high value to the agriculture sector. The e-commerce sector with its lower cost of transactions is already revolutionising the market structure culminating in deeper market integration.

5) Gross domestic expenditure on research and development (GERD) in India is mainly driven by the Government with a share of 56 per cent in total R&D. It is important that for India to become a global technology and innovation leader, the corporate sector should take the lead as is the case in many emerging markets and advanced economies.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5

(d) None

Ans: c

28) Consider the following :

Post COVID-19, the health sector has undoubtedly emerged as a major fault line as well as the sector with tremendous growth opportunities.

1) With a network of more than 3000 companies, India now ranks third globally for pharmaceutical production by volume, with the sector generating a trade surplus of over US \$ 12 billion annually.

2) India now supplies more than half of the global demand for vaccines. The sector is expected to witness strong growth in the coming years with its commitment to R&D and low cost of production.

3) It is expected to supply a significant share of increased global demand for vaccines and medicines in the post COVID-19 scenario. Going forward, focus should be more on enhancing overall supply of health services at every level of value chain in a cost effective manner. Corporate sector needs to invest more to create scale and skill in this sector.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

29) Consider the following with reference to Free Trade Agreements :

Another policy area which needs focus for providing a durable push to India's exports and growth is Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with key strategically important economies. The potential FTAs need to take cognisance of not only domestic strengths and global opportunities but also the emerging geo-political landscape in the post-pandemic period..

1) While designing future FTAs, India's experience with FTAs can be a significant guidepost. Key considerations should be to identify countries and regions that not only have the potential as a market for domestic goods and services but also have the scope to enhance domestic competitiveness, especially in sectors covered under the PLI scheme

2) The post-Brexit scenario offers a greater scope for having separate trade agreements with the UK and the European Union. FTAs with these economies can boost not only the bilateral trade and investment relations but may also pave the way for greater collaboration in the areas of scientific research and climate change.

3) Due to favourable demographic dividend, Africa also offers immense potential for exports and investment from Indian firms. Large presence of Indian diaspora could help tap this potential.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

30) Consider the following with reference to global trade :

1) Recovery in world services trade, which grew faster than merchandise trade in the pre-pandemic period, is expected to be slower due to cross-border travel restrictions being still in place. There has, however, been greater emphasis on carrying out business operations with efficiency. This has increased the demand for cutting-edge software services and new business opportunities brought on by the ongoing global value chain reconfiguration. This has also provided resilience to software exports of IT companies.

2) A recent study by WTO (February 2021) estimates that by 2030, global trade growth would be 2 per cent higher annually, on average, because of the adoption of digital technologies

3) This should open up new opportunities for trade by reducing trade costs and strengthening ties between global value chains. Given our renewed focus on digitisation, India by being the largest software exporting country, is expected to gain with increased servicification.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

31) Consider the following with reference to Covid-19 :

1) Overall, we are on the cusp of a turnaround in fortunes. In contrast to rest of the world, the caseload of COVID-19 in India has declined and it is crucial for us to consolidate this decline and capitalise on the success that has been hard-earned.

2) The infection caseload in some parts of the country is, however, again creeping up. We need to stay vigilant and steadfast, and on our toes. The COVID war continues.

3) The battle of 2020 has been won, albeit with significant costs in terms of lives, livelihood and economic activity. We need to win the battle of 2021 also. Let us resolve to eventually win this war.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

32) Consider the following with reference to **Open Banking and Account Aggregator (NBFC)** :

Globally, open banking regulatory frameworks are structured to enable third party access to customer-permissioned data, requiring licencing or authorisation of third parties, and implementing data privacy and disclosure and consent requirements. Some frameworks may also contain provisions related to whether third parties can share and/or resell data onward to “fourth parties”, use the data for purposes beyond the customer’s original consent and to whether banks or third parties could be remunerated for sharing data. Open banking frameworks may also contain expectations or requirements on data storage and security.

1) India has kick started its approach to Open Banking by enabling an intermediary which will be responsible for the customers' consent management.

2) These intermediaries are licensed as Non-Banking Financial Companies. In September 2016, RBI announced creation of a new licensed entity called Account Aggregator (AA) and allowed them to consolidate financial information of a customer held with different financial entities, spread across financial sector regulators.

3) In India, AA acts as an intermediary between Financial Information Provider (FIP) such as bank, banking company, non-banking financial company, asset management company, depository, depository participant, insurance company, insurance repository, pension fund etc., and Financial Information User (FIU) which are entities registered with and regulated by any financial sector regulator. The flow of information takes place through appropriate Application Programming Interfaces (APIs).

4) The transfer of such information is based on an explicit consent of the customer and with appropriate agreements/ authorisations between the AA, the customer, and the financial information providers.

5) Data cannot be stored by the aggregator or used by it for any other purpose. Explicit and robust data security and customer grievance redressal mechanisms have been prescribed and the Account Aggregators are not permitted to undertake any other activity, primarily to protect the customers' interest.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

33) Consider the following with reference to Financial market conditions :

Domestic financial market conditions were benign at the start of the year (2020) but witnessed severe stress and dislocation as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded.

1) Thinning out of activity impacted market liquidity. Increased volatility of financial prices was observed across most asset classes.

2) Yields hardened in the government securities market and the yield curve steepened sharply amidst concerns about fiscal slippage and sustained sell-off by FPIs.

3) The financing conditions in the commercial paper and corporate bond market also deteriorated, reflecting overall market conditions as well as generalised risk aversion.

4) The Rupee sharply depreciated, with increasing volatility and heightened forward premia.

5) The Reserve Bank acted proactively and nimbly to ease financial market conditions and mitigate risks with a slew of conventional and unconventional measures.

6) Market participants responded with alacrity and together we have been able to ensure stable and resilient markets across all segments.

7) The Reserve Bank remains committed to fostering orderly functioning of financial markets and will continue to evaluate incoming information having a bearing on the financial markets and act, as needed, to mitigate any downside risks.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

(d) None

Ans: c

34) Consider the following :

Internationalisation of financial markets can lower transaction costs with efficiency gains. Over the last three decades, India has undergone a transformation from being a virtually closed economy to one that is globally connected and open to a much larger volume of international transactions and capital flows than before. Today, the capital account is convertible to a great extent.

1) Inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed in most sectors and outbound FDI by Indian incorporated entities is allowed as a multiple of their net worth. The external commercial borrowing framework has also been significantly liberalised to include more eligible borrowers, even as maturity requirements have been reduced and end-use restrictions have been relaxed.

2) Foreign portfolio investment in Indian debt markets has been expanded within calibrated macro-prudential norms. Limits under the Medium-Term Framework for investment by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have been gradually increased and procedures rationalized.

3) A Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) has been introduced, which provides relaxations from macroprudential controls but subject to a minimum retention period. In a major step towards greater internationalisation, the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) was introduced under which non-residents can invest in specified government securities without any restriction. Capital account convertibility will continue to be approached as a process rather than an event, taking cognizance of prevalent macroeconomic conditions. A long term vision with short and medium term goals is the way ahead.

4) As a major milestone towards opening up of markets, banks in India have been permitted to deal in the offshore rupee derivative markets. The measure is expected to reduce the segmentation between onshore and offshore markets, apart from reducing volatility and the cost of hedging.

5) Banks have also been permitted to undertake foreign exchange transactions beyond the usual onshore market hours, thus fostering real time market activity. In a complementary measure, exchanges and banking units in the GIFT City have been permitted to undertake Over the Counter (OTC) and exchange traded Rupee derivatives.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

35) Consider the following :

After witnessing a sharp contraction in GDP by 23.9% in Q1:2020-21 and a multi-speed normalisation of activity in Q2, the **Indian economy has exhibited stronger than expected pick up in momentum of recovery.**

1) The global economy has also witnessed a stronger than expected rebound in activity in Q3. The IMF has accordingly revised its assessment for global growth in 2020 to a less severe contraction than what was assessed in June 2020.

2) Even as the growth outlook has improved, downside risks to growth continue due to recent surge in infections in advanced economies and parts of India. We need to be watchful about the sustainability of demand after festivals and a possible reassessment of market expectations surrounding the vaccine.

3) The monetary policy guidance in October, 2020 emphasised the need to see through temporary inflation pressures and also maintain the accommodative stance at least during the current financial year and into the next financial year.

4) A key source of resilience in recent months has been the comfortable external balance position of India supported by surplus current account balances over two consecutive quarters, resumption of portfolio capital inflows on the back of robust FDI inflows, and sustained build-up of foreign exchange reserves.

5)The Government's recent policy focus to enhance India's participation in global value chains, including through production linked incentives for targeted sectors, can leverage on the strong external balance position of India

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

36)Consider the following with reference to objectives of conducting 5G trials :

1)The objectives of conducting 5G trials include testing 5G spectrum propagation characteristics especially in the Indian context; model tuning and evaluation of chosen equipment and vendors; testing of indigenous technology; testing of applications (such as tele-medicine, tele-education, augmented/ virtual reality, drone-based agricultural monitoring, etc.);and to test 5G phones and devices.

2)5G technology is expected to deliver improved user experience in terms of data download rates (expected to be 10 times that of 4G), up to three times greater spectrum efficiency, and ultra low latency to enable Industry 4.0.

3)Applications are across a wide range of sectors such as agriculture, education, health, transport, traffic management, smart cities, smart homes, and multiple applications of IOT (Internet of Things).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

37)Consider the following :

The permissions have been given by DoT as per the priorities and technology partners identified by TSPs themselves. .

1) The experimental spectrum is being given in various bands which include the mid-band (3.2 GHz to 3.67 GHz), millimeter wave band (24.25 GHz to 28.5 GHz) and in Sub-Gigahertz band (700 GHz).

2) TSPs will also be permitted to use their existing spectrum owned by them (800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2500 MHz) for conduct of 5G trials

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

38) Consider the following with reference to SVAMITVA :

SVAMITVA, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj was nationally launched by the Prime Minister on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April 2021 after successful completion of the pilot phase of the Scheme in 9 States. SVAMITVA Scheme aims to provide property rights to the residents of rural inhabited areas in India by using Drone survey and CORS Networks which provides mapping accuracy of 5 cms.

.1) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is the Nodal Ministry for implementation of the SVAMITVA scheme.

2) In the States, the Revenue Department/Land Records Department will be the Nodal Department and shall carry out the scheme with the support of State Panchayati Raj Departments

3) The SVAMITVA Framework developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj provides a detailed roadmap and guidelines for the various States in terms of the Scheme objectives, coverage, various components involved, year-wise funding pattern, survey approach and methodology, stakeholders involved and their roles and responsibility, monitoring and evaluation, and deliverables

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

39) Consider the following with reference to biodegradable and compostable yoga mat :

1) A biodegradable and compostable yoga mat developed from water hyacinth by six young girls from the fishing community in Assam could turn this water plant from a nuisance to wealth.

2) The girls belong to the fishing community living in the fringe of the Deepor Beel, a permanent freshwater lake in south west of Guwahati city, recognised as a Ramsar Site (a wetland of international importance) and a bird wildlife sanctuary..

3) The lake has been a source of livelihood for 9 villages of the fishing community who shared this biome for centuries, but over the years suffered from excessive growth and accumulation of water hyacinth

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

40) Consider the following :

1) Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) Uttar Pradesh and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology – Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (CCMB-LaCONES) Hyderabad do research .

2) With support from Dept. of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India, New Delhi, Central Zoo Authority of India (CZA), New Delhi and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi and Government of Andhra Pradesh project LaCONES was established in 1998.

3) Effective conservation measures include both in situ habitat preservation, species protection and ex situ conservation (captive breeding in controlled environment to restock original wild populations). In order to support both these measures using biotechnological tools and techniques in an innovative manner, LaCONES was established. The laboratory was itself established in 2007. This lab would strive to: "To promote excellence in conservation biotechnology and serve for conservation of endangered wildlife in India".

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

41) Consider the following :

In pursuance to the announcement of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) by Prime Minister, to ameliorate the hardships faced by the poor and needy due to various disruptions caused by the resurgence of COVID-19 in the country, the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India has started implementation of the Scheme for a period of 2 months i.e. May and June 2021,

1) The poor and vulnerable beneficiaries under NFSA do not suffer on account of the non-availability of foodgrains during the unprecedented time of crisis.

2) The Government of India will bear the entire cost on implementation of PMGKAY (May-June 2021) scheme, without any sharing by States/UTs.

3) Under this special scheme, about 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries covered under both categories of NFSA, namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH), are being provided with an additional quota of free-of-cost foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) at a scale of 5 Kg per person per month, over and above their regular monthly entitlements.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

42) Consider the following with reference to LMO from steel plants and PSA :

Liquid Medical Oxygen is sent from Durgapur (Steel Plant)

Liquid Medical Oxygen is sent from Angul (Orissa) and Rourkela (Orissa) (Steel Plants)

1) The process of converting the existing Pressure Swing Absorption (PSA) nitrogen plants for production of oxygen was discussed.

2) In the nitrogen plants Carbon Molecular Sieve (CMS) is used whereas Zeolite Molecular Sieve (ZMS) is required for producing oxygen

3) Therefore, by replacing CMS with ZMS and carrying out few other changes such as oxygen analyzer, control panel system, flow valves etc. existing nitrogen plants can be modified to produce oxygen.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

43) Consider the following with reference to SUTRA model :

1) SUTRA model predicted the second wave to peak by the third week of April and to stay most likely around 1 lakh daily cases.

2) In the case of COVID-19, it is clear that the nature of the virus has been changing very rapidly

3) In such a context, any prediction for COVID-19 must be continually readjusted, sometimes almost daily

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

44) Consider the following with reference to 'Kayakalp' :

Kayakalp initiative of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare began in 2015 with the aim of improving infrastructure upkeep, hygiene and sanitation, and infection control practices in Central Government institutions and public health facilities in all the States and UTs. Health facilities are assessed and scored on a number of parameters.

1) The number of “satisfied” patients as reported through “Mera Aspataal”, an ICT-based patient feedback system. Kayakalp made a modest beginning in its first year with assessing only the District Hospitals (DH).

2) Subsequently, within a span of three years, all the Sub District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, and Primary Health Centres (Rural and Urban) have also been brought under its ambit.

3) The number of facilities participating in Kayakalp has increased manifold. Starting with participation of 700 DHs, in the last financial year, approximately 26,000 health facilities have participated in Kayakalp

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

45) Consider the following :

The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi was concerned for **public and private sanitation** which was also a part of his Satyagraha campaign since the days he spent in South Africa.

1) For Gandhiji, the drive for cleanliness in society was an integral part of the process in bringing about a casteless and free society. “Everyone is his own scavenger,” said Gandhiji, reiterating the fact of making cleanliness a personal responsibility and the key to removing untouchability.

2) In South Africa itself, Gandhiji took to scavenging and propagated the advice among Indians to keep their lavatories clean and dry. Once he returned to India, his focus on sanitation grew stronger. He firmly emphasised on the need for education on hygiene and sanitation among Indians and stated “the scavenger’s work must be our special function in India.” Gandhiji laid down the need for having clean water and air and the precise method of dealing with open defecation. “

3) Swaraj ought to begin with our streets,” he always said. Gandhiji has said, ‘Sanitation is more important than Independence’. Our Hon’ble Prime Minister took inspiration from Gandhiji’s ideas on hygiene and started a campaign, ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ or ‘Clean India Mission’

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

46) Consider the following :

- 1) Efforts made under Kayakalp and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan have been well recognised by the WHO as well, which mentions that nearly all (97%) DHs now have some or the other form of proper waste management.
- 2) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan along with Kayakalp has given thrust to the country's efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good health and well-being) and Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation) respectively.
- 3) As reported by the WHO, it is expected that Swachh Bharat Abhiyan will result in averting more than 3,00,000 deaths (diarrhoea and protein-energy malnutrition) between 2014 and October 2019. More than 14 million DALYs (Disability Adjusted Life Years) are estimated to be avoided (diarrhoea and protein-energy malnutrition) between 2014 and October 2019.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

47) Consider the following with reference to **water budgeting** :

- 1) Water budgeting involves understanding a household's overall water requirement based on the number of family members, major areas of consumption, and identifying areas for potential reuse for water
- 2) It is a simple yet effective tool that allows households to concretely appreciate utilisation of their resources.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

48) Consider the following **with reference to Green House Gases footprint** :

1) The anthropogenic activities such as burning fossil fuel, power generation, agriculture, industry, polluting water bodies, and urban activities are responsible for increasing GHG footprint of which 72% constitute CO₂ .

2) GHG footprint needs to be in balance with sequestration of carbon to sustain ecosystem functions. Forests are the major carbon sinks (about 45%) that aid in mitigating global warming.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

49) Consider the following with reference to **Carbon footprint** :

1) Carbon footprint is contributed by emissions from the energy sector (68%), agriculture (19.6%), industrial processes (6%), LU change (3.8%) and forestry (1.9%), respectively in India with CO₂ emissions of about 3.1 MGg (2017) and the per capita CO₂ emissions of 2.56 metric tonnes.

2) Carbon emissions from major metropolitan cities of India is about 1.3 MGg contributed by major cities such as Delhi (38633.20 Gg) Greater Mumbai (22783.08 Gg), Chennai (22090.55 Gg), Bengaluru (19796.6 Gg), Kolkata (14812.1 Gg), Hyderabad (13734.59 Gg), and Ahmedabad (6580.4 Gg) from energy, transportation, industrial sector, agriculture, livestock management and waste sectors per year

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

50) Consider the following with reference to **electronic goods/gadgets** are classified under three major heads:

- 1)White goods: Household appliances;
- 2)Brown goods: TVs, camcorders, cameras; and
- 3)Grey goods: Computers, printers, fax machines, scanners etc.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

51)Consider the following :

Waste from the white and brown goods is less toxic when compared to grey goods. Table shows the effect of grey goods on health.

<u>Metal</u>	<u>Used in</u>	<u>Health problem</u>
1)Lead	Acid battery,CRT	Kidney failure
2)Cadmium	Battery, CRT, housing	Bone disease
3)Mercury	Batteries,switches,housing	Brain,liver, nervous systems damage
4)Chromium	Decorative hardener,corrosion protection agents	DNA damage,lung cancer
5)Plastic	Computer mouldings,cablings	Generates dioxins and furans

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

52)Consider the following :

<u>Landscape</u>	<u>Corridor</u>	<u>State(s)</u>
1)Shivalik Hills & Gangetic Plains	Dudhwa-Kishanpur-Katerniaghat	Uttarakhand
2)Central India & Eastern Ghats	Kanha-Achanakmar	MP &Chattisgarh
3)North East	Buxa – Jaldapara	West Bengal

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

53) Consider the following :

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued following three (Standard Operating Procedures) SOPs to deal with man-animal conflict which are available in public domain:

- 1) To deal with emergency arising due to straying of tigers in human dominated landscapes
- 2) To deal with tiger depredation on livestock
- 3) For active management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at the landscape level.

4) The three SOPs inter alia include the issue of managing dispersing tigers, managing livestock kills so as to reduce conflict as well as relocating tigers from source areas to areas where density of tiger is low, so that conflict in rich source areas does not occur.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

54) Consider the following with reference to Planning Commission and NITI Aayog :

- 1) Planning Commission adopted a 'one-size-fits-all approach towards the Indian States.
- 2) NITI Aayog is guided by a 'States-first' approach.
- 3) NITI Aayog's founding principles include cooperative federalism (a collaboration between Central and State Governments) and competitive federalism (spurring healthy competition among States)
- 4) Instead of a straitjacket approach, NITI Aayog has adopted a decentralized and bottom-up strategy, to ensure that Central and State Governments work together as equal partners in Team India

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(d) None

Ans: c

55) Consider the following with reference to Sahyadri Range and Konkan :

- 1) Sahyadri Range is the defining geographical feature of Maharashtra
- 2) The Konkan, lying between the Arabian Sea and Sahyadri Range is narrow coastal lowland, barely 50 KMs wide.
- 3) Highly dissected and broken, the Konkan alternates between narrow valleys and low laterite plateau.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

56) Consider the following with reference to simultaneous elections :

Two seemingly relevant factors in favour of simultaneous elections as opposite to separate elections are :

- 1) Simultaneous elections reduce labour, time and expenditure in the conduct of elections
- 2) Instances of pause in governance are addressed if elections are conducted in one go instead of staggered elections.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

57) Consider the following with reference to **Vickrey-Clark-Groves(VCG) auction** :

- 1) In Spectrum auctions, bidders generally prefer combinations of complementary licenses, which is more complex than substitute products.
- 2) Phone-service providers often seek to cover large areas, and so they prefer licenses for adjacent geographical regions.
- 3) Given the efficiency focus, the eventual solution is to use the Vickrey-Clark-Groves (VCG) auction.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

58) Consider the following with reference to **Wolf Warrior Diplomacy** :

1) China's "wolf warrior diplomacy", an aggressive and often abrasive stance adopted by its diplomats since 2020, is simply "justified defence" against attacks by a West determined to contain it, one of Beijing's most outspoken ambassadors said.

2) "In the eyes of the Westerners, our diplomacy is on the offensive and aggressive, but the truth is, it is them who are on the offensive and aggressive," Lu Shaye, China's envoy to France, said in an interview with the Chinese government-aligned website Guancha.cn that was published recently.

3) Chinese officials tend to argue that their changed attitude is necessary to defend 'national honour and dignity' and 'refute all groundless slander' targeting China. Or as China's outgoing ambassador to the UK, Liu Xiaoming, argued last year: "Where there is a 'wolf', there should be a 'warrior'.

4) The term "wolf warrior diplomacy" came into vogue during the Covid-19 pandemic. The term drew from a jingoistic Chinese film franchise, "Wolf Warrior". The second film of the series came in 2017 with a tagline, "Though far away, anyone who affronts China will pay".

5) That "wolf warrior" diplomacy is part of China's state policy is confirmed from reports that Xi Jinping administration has more than doubled the budget for diplomacy and that the performance appraisals of the foreign office staffers are linked to "public relations" activities. The second is a big incentive for the government employees.

6) The fiercer they prove themselves as "wolf warrior" diplomat, the bigger would be their appraisal and higher the career growth. Zhao Lijian saw his career take a flight after he took on the American government over human rights abuse issue in 2019 -- from a counsellor in the Chinese embassy in Pakistan, where for about two years he prefixed "Muhammad" to his name to becoming one of the three formidable spokespersons in the Chinese foreign ministry.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(d) None

Ans: c

59) Consider the following :

A day after the Union government banned 59 Chinese applications, including popular ones such as TikTok, Shareit, Mi Video Call, Club Factory and Cam Scanner, citing threat to national security and sovereignty, an Information Technology Ministry official said the banned platforms would be given a chance to submit their clarifications.

This is in line with provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.

1) Following the ban, TikTok withdrew its app from Google Play Store and Apple App Store. In a statement, it said it had been invited to meet the authorities concerned and submit clarifications. The company's India head, said it had complied with all Indian laws related to data privacy and had not shared information of any Indian user with foreign governments, including the Chinese.

2) "The government has issued an interim order for the blocking of 59 apps, including TikTok, and we are in the process of complying with it."

3) Citing concerns to both data security and national sovereignty, the Indian government on June 29, 2020 announced it would block 59 widely used apps, most linked to Chinese companies.

4) These include the popular video-sharing social networking app TikTok, a mobile browser called UC Browser, and a file-sharing app called SHAREit. What is common to all three is their wide user base in India, with each claiming more than 100 million monthly active users, and their origins in China.

5) Explaining the ban, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology cited "the emergent nature of threats" posed by the apps and "information available" that they are engaged in activities "prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order".

6) The apps, according to the Ministry, had been reported for "stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users' data in an unauthorized manner to servers which have locations outside India", which "impinges upon the sovereignty and integrity of India".

7) From the perspective of data security and privacy, there is indeed a strong case to be made to more strictly regulate apps that handle vast amounts of user data. Such a move was surely long overdue.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

(d) None

Ans: c

60) Consider the following :

The government has allowed SARS-CoV-2 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing in many government and private laboratories.

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1) The boon and bane of PCR testing are in its capacity to amplify even one viral gene segment in the sample to generate a detectable signal — a positive test; it is a boon because it accurately detects the presence of virus but a bane because it is prone to false negative and false positive results

2) A false negative PCR means that a person with infection was missed by the test, but that is in the very nature of PCR. The viral load is lower in the throat than in the nasopharynx

3) Hence throat swabs are falsely negative in 60% of tests and nasopharyngeal swabs in 30%, according to published studies. An incorrectly taken nasal swab may miss the virus altogether and lead to a false negative test.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

61) Consider the following :

The Union government has extended the term of K.K. Venugopal as Attorney-General (A-G) for one year, Tushar Mehta as Solicitor-General (S-G) for three years, beginning July 1, 2020 appointed six new Additional Solicitors-General (ASGs) and extended the tenure of five ASGs.

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1) A-G was reappointed by President Ram Nath Kovind,

2) The other appointments were notified by the Law Ministry after the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister, cleared them

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

62) Consider the following :

1) The Ministry of External Affairs declined to comment on the issue, and the government has thus far issued no statement on Mr. Netanyahu's stated plans, that were part of his election promises, to pass a Cabinet vote enacting sovereignty rights over the Jordan Valley, 132 Israeli settlements and other areas totalling about 30% the West Bank.

2) The annexation is a part of US President Donald Trump's "peace plan" authored by his advisor and son-in-law Jared Kushner. Under an agreement amongst partners in Israel's ruling coalition, the enactment can proceed from July 1, 2020

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

63) Consider the following :

1) Nepal passed the new map in the Lower House of Parliament on June 13, 2020 and the Second Constitution Amendment, which gave constitutional guarantee to the map, completed the legislative process on June 18 with the authentication of the Bill by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

2) Indian Army chief General had said Nepal was working at the behest of a third country, hinting at Chinese support to Nepal's territorial assertion in the Limpiyadhura-Kalapani-Lipulekh region.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

64) Consider the following **ECLGS** :

1) The Finance Ministry said banks have sanctioned more than ₹1 lakh-crore loans under the ₹3-lakh crore **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** for the MSME sector reeling under COVID-19-induced economic slowdown.

2) As much as ₹45,860 crore was disbursed under the 100% ECLGS for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) till June 26, it said.

3) The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' package announced by Finance Minister

4) The latest number on ECLGS, as released by the Finance Ministry, comprises all the 12 public sector banks (PSBs), 20 private sector banks and eight NBFCs.

"5) **Under the 100 per cent ECLGS backed by a government guarantee**, banks from public and private sectors have sanctioned loans worth over Rs 1 lakh crore as of June 26, 2020, of which more than Rs 45,000 crore has already been disbursed," the finance ministry said in a statement.

6) This would help more than 30 lakh MSME units and other businesses as they restart operations post the lockdown

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6
- (d) None

Ans: c

65) Consider the following :

PMFBY was launched in 2016 under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi and his vision to provide financial security to the farmers of India from vagaries of nature and secure their hard work. Till middle of 2020, the scheme has insured over 29.16 crore farmer applications (5.5 crore farmer applications on year-on-year basis). Over the period of 5 years, more than 8.3 crore farmer applications have benefited from the scheme. Moreover, Rs.95,000 crores claims have been paid as against Rs. 20,000 crore farmers share.

1) State governments and insurance companies have an important role in the implementation of PMFBY.

2) The result of their hard work is that in the last 4 years, premium amounting to Rs 17 thousand crores was deposited by the farmers, against which more than Rs 95 thousand crores have been provided to them as claims.

3) Still there is a need to expand the scheme in the country, so that its coverage can be increased and more farmers get benefits.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

66) Consider the following with reference to Digital India :

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said India has shown both passion for innovation and ability to adopt those innovations rapidly..

1) Digital India is the resolve of India. Digital India is the instrument for AatmaNirbhar Bharat. Digital India is a manifestation of a strong India that is emerging in the 21st Century.

2) The Prime Minister evoked his mantra of Minimum Government – Maximum Governance and explained how Digital India is empowering the common citizen by reducing the gap between government and people, system and facilities, problems and solutions.

3) He gave an example of how Digilocker helped millions of people especially during the pandemic. School certificates, medical documents and other important certificates were stored digitally across the nation.

4) He said the services like getting a driving license, birth certificate, paying electricity bill, paying water bill, filing income tax return, etc have become fast and convenient and, in villages, e Common Service Centres (CSCs) are helping the people.

5) It is through Digital India, initiatives like One Nation One Ration Card are realized. He commended the Supreme Court for asking all the states to implement the initiative in the respective states

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

67) Consider the following with reference to Citizenship :

1) Citizenship is a Central subject and the Home Ministry periodically delegates powers to States through gazette notification under Section 16 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

2) Indian citizenship can be acquired on eight grounds – based on registration made by a person of Indian origin, by a person married to an Indian, minor child, whose parents are registered as citizens of India, by a person whose either parent was a citizen of Independent India, overseas citizens of India, by naturalization and registration of a child at an Indian consulate.

3) The May 28, 2021 notification intends to benefit legal migrants (who entered on passport/visa) from the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who have already applied for Citizenship under Section 5 (by registration) and Section 6 (naturalisation) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

68) Consider the following with reference to Pag-asa islands :

1) The Pag-asa Islands is an integral part of the Philippines over which it has sovereignty and jurisdiction, the Ministry said in a statement.

2) Thitu, known as Pag-asa in the Philippines is 451 KM from the mainland and is the biggest of the eight reefs, shoals and islands it occupies in the Spratly archipelago.

3) China has built a mini-city with runways, hangars and surface-to-air missiles in the Subi Reef about 25 KM from Thitu.

4) An international tribunal that year invalidated China's expansive claim in the South China Sea, where about \$3 trillion worth of ship-borne trade passes annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have competing claims to various islands.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

69) Consider the following :

According to Section 304-B, to make out a case of dowry death, a woman should have died of burns or other bodily injuries or “otherwise than under normal circumstances” within seven years of her marriage. She should have suffered cruelty or harassment from her husband or in-laws “soon before her death” in connection with demand for dowry.

1) Dowry deaths accounted for 40% to 50% homicides in the country for almost a decade from 1999 to 2018..

2) The judgment pronounced by a Bench, led by Chief Justice of India called dowry harassment a “pestiferous” crime where women are subjected to cruelty by “covetous” husbands and in-laws

3) In 2019 alone, 7,115 cases of dowry death were registered under Section 304-B of the Indian Penal Code

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

70) Consider the following with reference to Hypoxemia (low oxygen levels in blood) :

According to WHO, **Hypoxemia (low oxygen levels in blood)** may eventually result in loss of life.

1) When oxygen levels become low because of a sickness such as COVID-19, the cells in the body don't get enough oxygen to perform their normal functions. If the level remains low for long, maybe due to lack of treatment, organs start to malfunction; in severe cases, it may cause death.

2) Warning signs of low oxygen level include difficulty in breathing, confusion, difficulty in waking up and bluish lips or face. Adults may develop chest pain that doesn't go away.

3) Children may experience flaring up of nostrils, grunting while breathing or inability to drink or eat.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

71) Consider the following with reference to YUVA :

1) **YUVA is a part of India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav)** to bring to the fore the perspectives of the **young generation of writers on themes** like Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, Unknown and Forgotten Places and their role in National Movement, and other related themes in an innovative and creative manner.

2) This scheme will thus help to develop a stream of writers who can write on a spectrum of subjects to promote Indian heritage, culture and knowledge system.

3) The launch of **YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors)** is in tune with PM's vision to encourage young writers to write about India's freedom struggle. It was during *Mann ki Baat* on 31 January 2021, Prime Minister called upon the young generation to write about freedom fighters, incidents associated with freedom, the saga of valour during the period of freedom struggle in their respective areas - as the best tribute to the heroes of India's freedom - as we celebrate 75 years of Indian Independence

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

72) Consider the following with reference to Sundarbans :

1) Over just the past three years, **the Sunderbans**, which is home to close to five million people, has been battered by **four tropical cyclones — Fani (May 2019), Bulbul (November 2019), Amphan (May 2020) and Yaas (May 2021)**. On each occasion, the region has suffered damage because of gale winds and breached embankments, leading to ingress of sea water.

2) **Ghoramara** is one of the islands that has been sinking due to rising sea levels, where a few dozen houses and acres of land go under water every year.

3) **Sagar Island**, the biggest island of the Sundarbans chain and site of the famous **Gangasagar Mela** during Makar Sankranti, has also suffered damage.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

73) Consider the following with reference to Covid-19 vaccines :

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1) According to a May 24, 2021 preprint, in the UK, the effectiveness of a single dose of AstraZeneca/Covishield was only 33.5% against the B.1.617.2 variant and 51.1% against the B.1.1.7 variant

2) After the second dose, the protection increased to 59.8% against the B.1.617.2 variant and 87.9% against the B.1.1.7 variant

3) With the B.1.617 and B.1.1.7 variants being the most prevalent in India should we not be reducing the gap between two doses especially since the protection against B.1.617 from the first dose is just 33.5%

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

74) Consider the following :

Rule 4(2) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 imposes an obligation on significant social media intermediaries providing a messaging function,

to ensure traceability of the originator of information on their

platforms. A failure to implement this obligation can lead to intermediaries being held responsible for illicit content on their platforms. These rules have recently come into effect.

The Government primarily relies on the argument that: privacy is not an absolute right, and that the traceability obligation is proportionate, and sufficiently restricted. Notably, the new Rules mandate traceability only in the case of significant social media intermediaries that provide messaging services (i.e. those that meet a **user threshold of 50 lakh users**, which WhatsApp does), subject to an order being passed by a court or government agency and only in the absence of any alternatives.

Under Rule 4 of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Ethics Code) Rules 2021 **a Resident Grievance Officer** is to be appointed.

1)“No Fundamental Right, including the Right to Privacy, is absolute and it is subject to reasonable restrictions.” A traceability order shall only come about, as Rule 4(2) states, “for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, or public order, or of incitement to an offence relating to the above or in relation with rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material, punishable with imprisonment for a term of not less than five years”.

2)The second legal argument is about the test of proportionality, the cornerstone of which, as the release says, “is whether a lesser effective alternative remedy exists”. The traceability measure will be a measure of “last resort”, according to the release, which cites the rule in this regard.

3)The rules further state that “in complying with an **order for identification of the first originator**, no significant social media intermediary shall be required to disclose the contents of any electronic message, any other information related to the first originator, or any information related to its other users”.

4)“The Central government under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 has the authority to issue directions for blocking access to information but that authority cannot be used in respect of ordering an intermediary to remove the label on content... If a user is not abiding by the terms of service, the intermediary even has the right to terminate the user account,”

5)MeitY pointed out that while Twitter has not shared the details of its **chief compliance officer, the resident grievance officer** and the **nodal contact person nominated by the company** are not employees of Twitter Inc. in India, as required under the rules. Further, the office address submitted for Twitter Inc. is that of a law firm in India.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

75)Consider the following :

Serology surveys take blood samples from participants and measure

antibodies to check past exposure to the virus. From about 10 days after infection, antibodies grow to sizeable numbers in most patients. As some studies show, they start to decline after five to six months.

- 1) Researchers are more interested in a class of antibodies called **Immunoglobulin G (IgG)**, that persist the longest and latch onto the coronavirus to prevent them from proliferating and so their longevity and numbers are proxies to immunity against future infection.
- 2) Because the SARS-CoV-2 virus is new, there is uncertainty on how long these antibodies actually last. Serology surveys are thus a crude measure of what proportion of a population is likely to be protected from a second infection; this can be used by planners to decide on future health-care capacity and opening up the economy.
- 3) The specific blood-analysis tests, called assays, can be used to check if antibodies produced by the body are targeting the **spike region** of the coronavirus or an inner envelope containing its genetic material called the **nucleocapsid**.
- 4) The antibodies against the spike are believed to be more relevant to preventing future infections and hence a better proxy for immunity. They can also thus provide inputs for improving vaccines.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

76) Consider the following :

Based on its study of possible natural origins, the Joint WHO-China study report identifies a SARS-related coronavirus in a (horseshoe) bat (SARSr-CoV; RaTG13) to which the SARS-CoV-2 virus has 96.2% genomic similarity. The novel coronavirus is less similar, by comparison, to the genome of viruses that have caused other epidemics such as SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome).

1) Again, the higher infectivity of SARS-CoV-2 is attributed to peculiarities that it contains in the form of unique insertion of four amino acids in its spike protein that makes it more efficient than the virus causing SARS, for instance.

2) It is concluded that natural selection on a human or human-like host appeared to facilitate optimal binding of the spike protein of the novel coronavirus with ACE2 receptors. "This is strong evidence that SARS-CoV-2 is not the product of purposeful manipulation," the authors wrote.

3) Their arguments are based, among other things, on genetic differences between the viruses: while the RaTG13 in bats is extremely similar to SARS-CoV-2, the receptor binding domain (RBD) of the spike — the RBD protein binds to the ACE2 receptor — actually is divergent for the two, with the former appearing less efficient. Again, some coronaviruses found in pangolins in China are similar to SARS-CoV-2 in the RBD, showing that the optimised spike protein for efficient binding with human-like ACE2 may have resulted from natural selection

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

77) Consider the following :

Lakshadweep, Union territory located about 200 km from the west coast of Kerala in the Arabian Sea, comprises 16 atolls and 32 islands. However, human presence is limited only to 11 islands.

The inhabited **islands** are Kavaratti, Agatti, Amini, Kadmat, Kiltan, Chetlat, Bitra, Andrott, Kalpeni and Minicoy. Bitra is the smallest of all having only a population of 271 persons (Census 2011). The uninhabited **island** Bangaram has been enumerated during 2011 census operation and has a population of 61 persons.

All the islands are northeast-southwest in orientation, and they are characterised by shallow lagoons on the west and steep reef slopes on the east. These peculiarities provide a perfect haven for several marine flora and fauna.

A paradise set in the Arabian Sea, the archipelago of Lakshadweep also gives India a vast and exclusive economic zone with three distinct ecosystems: land, lagoon and ocean. Fishery is a primary occupation here. The language, except in Minicoy, is Malayalam; in Minicoy, Mahl is spoken, a language akin to the 17th century Divehi of the Maldives.

The society in all islands is matriarchal. The religion is Islam of the pristine Shafi school of law. On the other hand, social conventions, dress and the position accorded to Thangals within the community all point to the Mappilas of Malabar as progenitors of present-day Islam in Lakshadweep

There is an estimated population of about 70,000 people on the islands — 36 in total with 10 being habitable and the others having vast lagoons spread over 4,200 sq km

The British system of having two separate collectorates — Malabar for the Laccadive group and Mangalore for the Amindivi group — continued till 1956 when it was all united to form the Union Territory. It was renamed Lakshadweep in 1973.

1) Meanwhile, tourism societies formed in all islands ensured that the UT, a notified Scheduled Tribes (ST) district with outsiders' entry limited by permits, conducted tourism in keeping with the ethos of the people and a ban on alcohol was fitting.

2) The islands' water bodies are accommodating rich seagrass beds and algal and coral communities. They provide a haven for various fish species, invertebrates, sea turtles, elasmobranchs and marine mammals.

3) The density of the human population in Lakshadweep, unlike other states and Union territories, is also significantly less than the national average.

4) But, in recent years, the fragile archipelago had faced significant climate change-related disasters. In 2017, Cyclone Ockhi had caused large-scale destruction.

5) Now, during every (southwest) monsoon, surging storms damage the islands. Large-scale coral bleaching events reported in 2013 and 2016 are another threat the islands face in the environmental sector.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

78) Consider the following with reference to benefits of mRNA vaccine technology :

An article published in Nature points out the benefits of mRNA vaccine technology compared to conventional vaccine technologies.

1) The key advantage of this technology is easy scalability in production. At present, the WHO has approved two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines produced by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, and those vaccines have proven to be more effective than other vaccines. Global cooperation is needed to create an environment where those companies interested in producing the mRNA vaccines get open licence from the innovators.

2) Scaling up production of existing vaccines and producing new vaccines is not easy. Unavailability of raw materials, complexities in the transfer of technology, and intellectual property barriers all hinder production. Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech have faced constraints in continuing production due to the lack of raw materials.

3) Intellectual property rights act as a major barrier in scaling up production. About 1,800 patents cover the single-use plastic reactors which are used in the production of some of the COVID-19 vaccines.

4) Similarly, other equipment and materials used in the production of vaccines are patent-protected and therefore supplied by only a few players.

5) India and South Africa had led an initiative at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the waiver of intellectual property rights over products required for treating COVID-19.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

79) Consider the following :

1) West African leaders were due to meet in Ghana to discuss a response to Mali's second coup in nine months, which has sparked warnings of fresh sanctions and deep concerns over stability in the volatile Sahel region.

2) Mali's new President Colonel Assimi Goita arrived in Accra for preliminary talks ahead of the extraordinary summit of regional bloc ECOWAS, which was due.

3) Presidents Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria, Alassane Ouattara of Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso's Marc Christian Kabore were among those attending the summit, which came as another deadly jihadist attack underscored Mali's chronic instability.

4) Col. Goita led the young Army officers who overthrew Mali's elected President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita last August over perceived corruption and his failure to quell a bloody jihadist insurgency.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

80) Consider the following :

China took another step towards completing the construction of its first space station by the end of next year following the launch and docking of a cargo spacecraft .

1) The Tianzhou-2 cargo spacecraft, described by China's state media as "the delivery guy for China's space station", was launched on a Long March-7 rocket from the island of Hainan, and docked eight hours later with the space station's first core module called Tianhe, or "heavenly harmony".

2) The launch was a third landmark for China's space programme in recent weeks. China landed a spacecraft in Mars on May 15 carrying its first Mars rover, Zhurong. The Tianhe module, which the cargo spacecraft docked with on Sunday, was launched on April 29.

3) The Tianzhou-2 spacecraft carried a range of supplies, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said, and will be followed by the launch of another cargo spacecraft, Tianzhou-3, and two manned missions, Shenzhou-12 and Shenzhou-13, this year, each carrying three astronauts who will spend several months in orbit. The Shenzhou-12 launch is slated for mid-June.

4) The six missions to follow this year, including for the space station's second and third modules, Wentian and Mengtian, will close to complete the construction of China's first space station, expected to be finished in 2022.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

81) Consider the following with reference to SDRF :

The SDRF is the primary fund available with the State governments as part of their response to notified disasters to meet expenditure on immediate relief to victims. The Centre contributes 75% of the allocation for general category States and Union Territories and 90% for special category States (northeastern, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and J&K).

1)“Normally, the first instalment is released in June as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission. However, in relaxation of the normal procedure, not only has the release of the SDRF been advanced, the amount has also been released without waiting for the utilisation certificate of the amount provided to the States in the last financial year. Up to 50% of the amount released, i.e., ₹4,436.8 crore can be used by the States for COVID-19 containment measures,”

2)The Centre has released the first instalment of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to the States, in the wake of the second wave of COVID-19 that has claimed thousands of lives since April.

3)The Union Home Ministry, in a statement, said ₹8,873.6 crore had been released, an annual exercise usually done in June.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

82)Consider the following with reference to Banni grassland :

1)Banni grassland is spread over 2,618 kilometre and account for almost 45 per cent of the pastures in Gujarat. It comprises 48 hamlets / villages organised into 19 panchayats, with a population of about 40,000.

2)Two ecosystems, wetlands and grasslands, are juxtaposed in Banni. The area is rich in flora and fauna, with 192 species of plants, 262 species of birds, several species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

3)Banni grasslands, traditionally, were managed following a system of rotational grazing. On May 11 1955, the court notified that the grassland will be a reserve forest.

4)The region's nomadic pastoralist community, the Maldharis, whose livelihoods are depend on this protected shrub-savanna, welcomed the move.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

83)Consider the following with reference to cyclones :

During April 2021, there was a high atmospheric pressure area over western Siberia, resulting in higher-than-normal temperatures over the region. This led to outbreaks of cold polar air westward from this high-pressure area and resulted in lower-than-normal temperatures in a large area from Iceland to the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Air temperatures were also below-average over eastern Siberia, China, and most of the tropical and subtropical part of the eastern Pacific Ocean.

In northern Pakistan and northern and central India, temperatures were about three- four degrees Celsius lower than average. "I expect that this temperature tendency will remain during the beginning of the monsoon. If so, it disorganises the onset of monsoon, alternating premature rainfall and dry spells and leading to a delayed monsoon onset over central India regions,"

Heavy showers and continuous drizzle since the afternoon of May 19, 2021 brought down the temperature of Delhi 16 degrees below normal to 23.8 degrees Celsius, one of the lowest in the century. The rains were brought in by the confluence of two weather systems over the north Indian plains that met after travelling thousands of kilometres from different directions, according to a press release from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

1)The first of these systems was a western disturbance that travelled from the Mediterranean region over Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan to reach Jammu and Kashmir. The second was a remnant depression of Cyclone Tauktae that travelled from the south-eastern Arabian Sea near the Lakshadweep area and lay as low pressure area over Agra in Uttar Pradesh in the morning of May 20.

2)The interaction of the two storm systems, along with moisture incursion from the Arabian Sea, caused widespread rainfall throughout northern, north-western and central India.

3)Apart from its long journey over ocean and land, cyclone Tauktae held many surprises. It was only the third May cyclone to make landfall in Gujarat. The first was in 1900 and the second in 1976. "It is likely that Cyclone Tauktae is the first Extremely Severe Cyclone (166-220 kilometres per hour) to reach very close to Mumbai in the last 130 years (according to IMD Cyclone eAtlas),

4)Cyclones are likely to become deadlier due to ocean surface warming — an impact of human-induced climate change. Recent research papers have found clinching evidence for the correlation between rapid intensification of cyclones, their increased intensity and warming ocean waters even in usually cooler waters like the Arabian Sea.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

84)Consider the following :

- 1)The north Indian Ocean region is exposed to six per cent of the world’s cyclones, according to a December 2020 pre-print paper submitted by Koll and Vineet Singh of IITM in Atmospheric and Oceanic Physics.
- 2)It found that sea surface temperatures (SST) prior to cyclones in the Arabian Sea are 1.2–1.4°C higher in the recent decades, compared to SSTs four decades ago. During Cyclone Amphan, which underwent rapid intensification, SSTs were around 32-33°C — one of the highest-ever recorded.
- 3)Circular ocean currents similar to whirlpools, known as eddies, also play a role in the intensification of cyclones, the paper observed. These eddies could be generated by winds or by density differences of ocean waters.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

85)Consider the following with reference to _____ :

The Supreme Court on _____ said “it is time to define the limits of sedition” even as it protected two Telugu channels from any coercive action by the Chief Minister-led Andhra Pradesh government for their reportage of the COVID-19 pandemic in the State.

- 1)A three-judge Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud flagged indiscriminate use of the sedition law against critics, journalists, social media users, activists and citizens for airing grievances about the governments’ COVID-19 management, or even for seeking help to gain medical access, equipment, drugs and oxygen cylinders.
- 2)“We are of the view that the ambit and parameters of the provisions of Sections 124A (sedition), 153A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code 1860 would require interpretation, particularly in the context of the right of the electronic and print media to communicate news, information and the rights, even those that may be critical of the prevailing regime in any part of the nation,” the court noted in its order.
- 3)“This is muzzling the media,” Justice L. Nageswara Rao, another judge on the Bench along with Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, said about the manner in which A.P. had tried to “silence” channels TV5 and ABN.
- 4)“It is time to define the limits of sedition,” Justice Chandrachud said.
- 5)The court issued notice to the A.P. government and directed that “there shall be a stay on the State adopting coercive proceedings against the two channels”.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

86)Consider the following with reference to _____ Sedition _____ :

- 1)The Supreme Court quashed a sedition case registered against senior journalist and Padma Shri awardee Vinod Dua for his critical remarks against the Prime Minister and the Union government in a YouTube telecast, underscoring its 59-year-old verdict that “strong words” of disapproval about the ruling regime did not amount to sedition.
- 2)The time is long past when the mere criticism of governments was sufficient to constitute sedition. The right to utter honest and reasonable criticism is a source of strength to a community rather than a weakness, the judgment said.
- 3)It upheld the spirit and intent of the 1962 Kedar Nath Singh verdict, which said, “Commenting in strong terms upon the measures or acts of government, or its agencies, so as to ameliorate the condition of the people or to secure the cancellation or alteration of those acts or measures by lawful means, that is to say, without exciting those feelings of enmity and disloyalty which imply excitement to public disorder or the use of violence is not sedition”.
- 4)It is declared, “Every journalist is entitled to protection under the Kedar Nath Singh judgment.”
- 5)The 1962 judgment said Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (sedition) was intended only to punish subversion of a lawfully established government through violent means.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5
- (d) None

Ans: c

87)Consider the following with reference to National Income Estimates :

- 1)India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted by 7.3% in 2020-21, as per provisional National Income estimates released by the National Statistical Office, marginally better than the 8% contraction in the economy projected earlier. GDP growth in 2019-20, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, was 4%.
- 2)The Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy shrank 6.2% in 2020-21, compared to a 4.1% rise in the previous year. Only two sectors bucked the trend of negative GVA growth — agriculture, forestry and fishing, which rose 3.6%, and electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services (up 1.9%).
- 3)Though this is the bleakest performance on record for the economy, the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2020-21 helped moderate the damage, with a higher-than-expected growth of 1.6% in GDP. This marked the second quarter of positive growth after the country entered a technical recession in the first half of the year.
- 4)GDP had contracted 24.4% in April-June 2020, followed by a 7.4% shrinkage in the second quarter. It had returned to positive territory in the September to December quarter with a marginal 0.5% growth. GVA for trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting-related services saw the sharpest decline of 18.2%, followed by construction (-8.6%), mining and quarrying (-8.5%) and manufacturing (-7.2%).
- 5)Economists said these numbers would moderate growth prospects for 2021-22 through the base effect, even as the scourge of the virus is hurting activity again.

6)“With a lower contraction in GDP as well as GVA in 2020-21, the sharp recovery projected for 2021-22 by a number of agencies like the IMF at 12.5% and the RBI at 10.5% may have to be moderated,” . “The combination of the second wave and the revised base effect may imply a lower GDP growth for the Indian economy for 2021-22, may be in the range of 9-9.5%,”

7)“Whether growth will be in double digits or single digits, there is uncertainty. Some of the scientists are talking about the possibility of a third wave too. It would be speculative to tell you exact numbers,” said, stressing that vaccination was important for the health of the people and economy.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7
- (d) None

Ans: c

88)Consider the following with reference to Israel and Palestine :

Britain renounced its Mandate over Palestine in 1948, paving the way for the United Nations to divide Palestine between the Jews and Arabs, giving them about 55% and 45% of the land, respectively. The Jews, meanwhile, had declared the establishment of the state of Israel for which they had been working for long. The Palestinians, who lacked the resources to conceive of a state, failed to form a state of their own in the land allotted to them. Instead, a coalition of Arab countries invaded the nascent state of Israel to nip it in the bud. Israel not only defeated the Arab armies, but also unleashed what the Palestinians call Nakba, an Arabic word which means holocaust. Israel destroyed about 600 Palestinian villages and expelled about 80% of Arabs from its territory.

In 1967, in the Six-Day War, Israel captured not just more Palestinian land but also Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula and Syria’s Golan Heights. During the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the Arabs came to realise that Israel is here to stay. But the Arab states, while washing their hands off Palestine, failed to impress the same realisation upon their Palestinian brethren, a sizeable number of whom remain committed to seeking a solution through counter-violence. Non-Arab Muslim countries, while being of no help to the Palestinians have been the greatest cheerleaders of the violent section of the struggle.

1)This vicious cycle of violence is not going to end unless there is realism on both sides. The Hamas should know that Israel will not give up on holding on to land it has held for years, and Israel should understand that total subjugation, expulsion or even decimation of Palestinians will not make it any safer. Both the sides will have to seek a solution through non-violence. A solution based on the common humanity of all stakeholders, one that is not riven by racial and religious schisms, needs to be explored. Secularisation of the discourse is an inescapable prerequisite for any workable solution. This is especially more applicable for the weaker side

2)The Indian model of democracy and secularism, which accommodates religious, ethnic, linguistic and other diversities, could be a viable model for the peaceful coexistence of formerly antagonistic groups.

3)The European model of the annihilation of natives in the Americas and Australia, last tried on the Jews in Nazi Germany, is not a solution which we can morally countenance and practically resort to. India, on the other hand, evolved a unique model of accommodating the victors and the vanquished, without ever resorting to the latter's decimation.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

89)Consider the following with reference to liquid oxygen for industrial purposes :

- 1)The government would take a decision to lift restrictions on use of liquid oxygen for industrial purposes "as soon as possible",
- 2)"We are talking to State governments to find out what their needs for medical oxygen are. After confirmation from them as well as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, whatever needs to be done to revive the continuous process industries we will do as soon as possible," said , Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, who is the convener of the Empowered Group 4 that oversees the country's demand for medical oxygen and its logistics.
- 3)The current demand for medical oxygen was down to 5,200 metric tonnes (MT) a day from a peak of 8,900 MT . This was expected to drop further to 3,000 MT in one week.
The government issued an order banning the supply of liquid oxygen to industry in view of increased demand for medical oxygen.
- 4)The Empowered Group was consulting medical professionals to assess the demand for medical oxygen for the next wave.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

90)Consider the following with reference to NHRC :

- 1)Former Supreme Court Justice Arun Kumar Mishra is likely to be the new Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) after a high-powered recommendation committee proposed his name
- 2)The selection panel consisted of Prime Minister Narendra Modi; Home Minister Amit Shah; Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh; Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla; and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

91) Consider the following :

1) In a bid to extend relief to the Maratha community in the State, the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra extended the benefits of reservation for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) to the Socially and Economically Backward Class (SEBC).

2) Previously, the government had decided that the Maratha community could not take advantage of the 10% EWS category as Maratha reservation was in force in the State. The Supreme Court, however, scrapped the SEBC reservation in jobs and education, making it possible for the State government to extend the benefit of the EWS quota to the Marathas.

3) As per the government resolution, a person fulfilling the criterion for EWS would be eligible for 10% reservation in educational institutes, barring minority institutes.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

92) Consider the following :

1) A dynamite blast led to the flooding of a coal mine in East Jaintia Hills district in Meghalaya, trapping five labourers

2) In Meghalaya, rat-hole coal mining is existing

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

- (c) 1, 2
 - (d) None
- Ans: c

93) Consider the following (as per old data) :

1) At the current pace of vaccination, it could be eight months before every adult Indian gets at least one shot of vaccine, back-of-the-envelope calculations from the government's portal CoWin suggest.

2) The Centre expects to inoculate 94.4 crore adults, according to a note last week by R.S. Sharma, Chairman of the technical committee that oversees the portal. Several Cabinet Ministers and policy advisers, spearheading India's COVID vaccination campaign, have claimed that India will inoculate "all eligible" by December. These statements do not specify if that refers to just all adults, or the number of doses administered.

3) The recommended vaccination protocol is to administer two doses at least four to 16 weeks apart depending on the vaccine administered. Given that only 4.4 crore second doses have been administered and the daily pace of second doses — for most of last month — has been about 10% of that of the first dose (on May 29, 27 lakh first doses were administered to 3 lakh second doses), it could theoretically be years before all those over 18 get their second doses.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

94) Consider the following with reference to China Population :

The census recorded 264 million in the age group of 60 and over, up 5.44% since 2010 and accounting for 18.70% of the population. Those in the 15-59 age group were 894 million persons, down by 6.79% since 2010 and accounting for 63.35% of the population. China's workforce in the 15-59 age bracket peaked at 925 million in 2011, according to the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security said previously. That number was down to 894 million in this census and would drop to 700 million by 2050.

1) China will for the first time allow couples to have a third child, the country's government said on Monday, in a further relaxation of family planning rules five years after a "two-child policy" largely failed to boost birth rates. The announcement followed a meeting of the 25-member Politburo, chaired by China's President and Communist Party of China General Secretary Xi Jinping, "to hear reports on major policy measures to actively address the ageing of population during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025)", State media said.

2) The change comes less than three weeks after the release of China's once-in-a-decade population census that painted an alarming picture of declining births. The National Bureau of Statistics said on May 11 that 12 million babies were born last year, the lowest number since 1961, a time when Mao's China was in the midst of a four-year famine, and down from 17.86 million in 2016.

3) The census said China's population was 1.41 billion in 2020, an increase of 72 million since the last census in 2010, reflecting a 5.38% growth in this period and a 0.53% annual growth. Forecasts say the population could peak in the next couple of years and most likely by 2025, when India will become the world's most populous country

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

95) Consider the following with reference to universal basic income (UBI) programme :

1) Many consider a universal basic income (UBI) programme to be a solution that could mitigate the looming crisis caused by dwindling job opportunities. UBI is also deliberated as an effective poverty-eradication tool. Supporters of this scheme include Economics Nobel Laureates Peter Diamond and Christopher Pissarides, and tech leaders Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk.

2) UBI in its true sense would entail the provision of an unconditional fixed amount to every citizen in a country. Nevertheless, countries across the world, including Kenya, Brazil, Finland, and Switzerland, have bought into this concept and have begun controlled UBI pilots to supplement their population.

3) India's huge capacity and infrastructure-building requirements will support plenty of hands in the foreseeable future. Nonetheless, even before the pandemic, India was struggling to find enough opportunities for more than a million job aspirants who were entering the job market each month

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

96) Consider the following :

1) In the 68 days since the nationwide lockdown was imposed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union Home Ministry on an average, issued 1.3 orders a day.

2)The orders were issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, invoked for the first time in the country since the legislation was drafted after the tsunami in 2004.

3)The Act also, for the first time, introduced a legal framework for disaster management in the country, with the Ministry being the nodal Ministry. Under the Act, the States and district authorities can frame their own rules on the basis of broad guidelines issued by the Ministry.

4)The lockdown first imposed on March 24 was extended four times. The fifth phase has been renamed Unlock 1.0 to open up economic activities even as more than 1.75 lakh cases and around 4,900 deaths.

5)The Ministry had also started three control rooms to monitor the complaints received from States and to resolve the migrant crisis. As all modes of public transport were suspended, thousands of migrants have been walking back several hundred kilometres to reach home.

6)A senior Ministry official said the helplines in the control room had been getting around 600 calls daily in the initial days but gradually the number had come down. After over 50 days into the extended lockdown, the Railways started running Shramik Special trains for the migrant workers.

7)Meanwhile, the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) are yet to receive orders from the Ministry on what comprises swadeshi or indigenous products. On May 13, Union Home Minister had announced that CAPF canteens would sell only swadeshi goods from June 1,2020

8)A government official said the Commerce Ministry was yet to issue the guidelines defining swadeshi products, though the scheme is to be implemented from June 1. The canteens sell many daily-use products at a subsidised rate to around 10 lakh personnel, their families and those retired.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8
- (d) None

Ans: c

97)Consider the following with reference to migrant workers :

1)There is a wealth of theoretical and empirical literature on the reasons behind short-term seasonal and circular migratory flows in India. For a majority of migrant labourers, migration is either a livelihood accumulation strategy or survival risk reducing strategy whichever way we define the nature of migration.

2)The migration studies also confirm that the migrant labourers are the most exploited and also disenfranchised invisible citizens of contemporary India. It's shocking that those who build fantasy cities not only can't own a home of their own but also can't vote in elections and treated like almost 'as second-class citizens'. This double tragedy of migrant life is ironically further exploited by sons of soil politicians in various States of India.

3)According to the Census of India, 2011, more than 450 million Indians (37%) are internal migrants who change their residence within a country's national borders.

- 4) About 30% of the migrants are youth aged 15-29 years and another 15 million are children.
- 5) Women migrants are less represented in regular jobs and more likely to be self-employed than non-migrant women.
- 6) Domestic work has emerged as an important occupation for migrant women and girls.
- 7) Facing relentless bouts of gender discrimination at home, and on the farms as wage workers, these migrant women are forced into various forms of servitude in the domestic spaces of affluent city dwellers.
- 8) The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 is largely a regulatory law failing to incorporate welfare rights of the migrant labourers

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7,8
- (d) None

Ans: c

98) Consider the following :

U.S. President Donald Trump said in June, 2020 that he would postpone a Group of Seven summit he had hoped to hold next month until September or later and expand the list of invitees to include Australia, Russia, South Korea and India.

1) Russia was expelled from what was then the G8 in 2014 when Mr. Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, was U.S. President, after Moscow annexed the Crimea region from Ukraine. Russia still holds the territory, and various G7 governments have rebuffed previous calls from Mr. Trump to readmit Moscow

2) Dismissing the current configuration of the "Group of Seven" or G-7 of the world's most developed nations as "outdated", U.S. President Donald Trump announced over the weekend that he would like to expand it to a G-11, by adding India, Russia, South Korea and Australia.

3) Despite its border tensions with Beijing, India must also consider its objectives in attending a grouping that appears aimed at fuelling a new Cold War between the U.S. and China. Finally, an evaluation of the G-7's effectiveness as a multilateral forum thus far is needed, given deep member differences on issues including climate change, security contributions, Iran, etc. In France, last year, the grouping was unable to issue a joint communiqué due to these differences — a first in its 45-year-old history.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(d) None

Ans: c

99) Consider the following :

However, 700 km from Mumbai, a nascent cyclone is brewing in the Arabian Sea and is likely to hit north Maharashtra as well as the Gujarat coast by June 3, 2020.

1) "Its track is northward but will recurve into Harihareshwar and Daman. However, more details on the potential damage would be available once it begins to form. Right now, it's a depression in the South East Arabian Sea and is about 690 km away from Mumbai," Director-General, IMD, said at a press conference.

2) The IMD's latest cyclone update expects it to balloon into a "severe cyclone" by the middle of the week

3) The presence of a cyclone near land during the monsoon onset could delay the progress of the monsoon and put it into a "hiatus,"

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

100) Consider the following :

China, being Africa's largest trading partner, was quick to signal its intent to help Africa cope with the pandemic.

1) It despatched medical protective equipment, testing kits, ventilators, and medical masks to several African countries. The primary motive of such donations has been to raise Beijing's profile as a leading provider of humanitarian assistance and "public goods" in the global public health sector.

2) China's billionaire philanthropy was also in full display when tech founder Jack Ma donated three rounds of anti-coronavirus supplies. These consignments were transported mostly by Ethiopian aircraft

3) Chinese embassies across Africa have taken the lead by coordinating both public and private donations to local stakeholders and have also embarked on a donation blitz of cash even as the

sub-optimal quality of China's medical supplies and its deputing of medical experts have been a major cause for concern

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

FOR SI & CONSTABLE PRELIMINARY WRITTEN TEST 2022
GROUP I (PRELIMS) SCHEDULED ON 16.10.2022
Model Questions (for GS Paper)
Set No. 10 {Prepared on 28 .5.2022 }

For Study purpose

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1)With reference to **USA strategy** , consider the following :

- 1) **Gulf of Tonkin** : Vietnam (1964)
- 2) U.S.'s exit from Afghanistan (2021)
- 3) U.S. withdrew from the Vietnam war in 1973

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

2)With reference to **Pardoning Powers** , consider the following :

- 1) "Section 433A of the (IPC) Code cannot and does not in any way affect the constitutional power conferred on the President/Governor to grant pardon under Articles 72 or 161 of the Constitution... If the prisoner has not undergone 14 years or more of actual imprisonment, the Governor has a power to grant pardon... de hors the restrictions imposed under Section 433A... Such power is in exercise of the power of the sovereign, though the Governor is bound to act on the aid and advice of the State Government," the court observed.
- 2) The Supreme Court on 3.8.2021 held that the Governor of a State can pardon prisoners, including those on death row, even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence.
- 3) the sovereign power of a Governor to pardon a prisoner under Article 161 is actually exercised by the State government and not the Governor on his own.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

3) With reference to **Labour market in India** , consider the following :

- 1) The pandemic has devastated the labour market, denting the employment scenario and threatening the survival of millions of workers and their families.” The panel, which is chaired by Bhartruhari Mahtab, called on the government to improve social security measures for workers.
- 2) Citing the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the report said 90% of workers were in the informal sector, which is 419 million of the 465 million workers. The PLFS quarterly bulletin for April-June 2020 showed the unemployment rate in urban areas for those above 15 years at 20.8%, an increase from 9.1% in January-March 2020.
- 3) Direct transfer of money into bank accounts of informal workers and an urban employment guarantee scheme were among the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

4) With reference to **Assam – Mizoram border** , consider the following :

- 1) Though Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Mizoram counterpart Zoramthanga have sought to ease the tension along the **146.6-km border** through discussions, locals are reportedly preventing truckers to carry essentials on NH 306 to Mizoram.
- 2) Locals in southern Assam’s **Barak Valley** have indefinitely blocked the roads leading to Mizoram

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(c) 1, 2

(d) None

Ans: c

5) With reference to Dams , consider the following :

1) Ranjit Sagar dam in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir

2) Nagarjuna Sagar Dam : Telanganan

3) Mettur Dam : Tamil Nadu

4) Mullaperiyar Dam : Tamil Nadu

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

7) With reference to Dindigul, Tamilnadu , consider the following :

1) The district, with seven forest ranges — Sirumalai, Kanniwadi, Batlagundu, Natham, Oddanchatram, Alagar and Ayyalur — has 74,495.51 hectares of forest land, the largest in the State.

2) "If water is provided sufficiently, the animal conflicts being experienced in villages situated close to the reserve forest ranges could be avoided,"

3) Wildlife crime has not been brought under control

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

8) Consider the following :

From the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day, the Prime Minister declared that the government is considering raising the legal age of marriage for girls, which is currently 18 years. We have formed a committee to ensure that daughters are no longer suffering from malnutrition

and they are married off at the right age. As soon as the report is submitted, appropriate decisions will be taken about the age of marriage of daughters

1) The task force is meant to produce a rationale for raising the minimum age of marriage for women to 21, thus bringing it on a par with that for men.

2) The States with high mean ages at marriage of 25 years are erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Goa.

3) Even Kerala (22 years) and Delhi (23 years) have significantly lower mean ages at marriage.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

9) With reference to Tribes in Kerala, consider the following :

1) Irula

2) Kurumba

3) Madhuka

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

10) With reference to Vaccines, consider the following :

1) Sputnik V: Russia

2) Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the 'approval' of Russian COVID-19 vaccine, Sputnik V, dubbed after the Soviet spacecraft of the 1950s.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2

(d) None

Ans: c

11)With reference to Swachh Survekshan 2020 , consider the following :

1) For the fourth year in a row, Indore has been ranked the cleanest city in the country, according to a Swachh Survekshan 2020 report

2) The mission was launched in 2014, waste processing was 18%. Now it had increased to 66%

3) The goal of the second phase would be take targets further, than making cities open defecation-free, to also include 100% sludge management and zero dumping of waste in the open.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

12)With reference to NSFE , consider the following :

1) National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE): 2020-2025 document released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in August, 2020 has recommended a '5 C' approach for dissemination of financial education in the country.

2) NSFE, has been prepared by the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) in consultation with all the Financial Sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA), DFS and other Ministries of Govt. of India and other stakeholders (DFIs, SROs, IBA, NPCI) under the aegis of the Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy under the Chairmanship of Deputy Governor, RBI.

3) 5C approach include emphasis on development of relevant content in curriculum in schools, colleges and training establishments, developing capacity among intermediaries involved in providing financial services, leveraging the positive effect of community-led model for financial literacy through appropriate communication strategy, and, enhancing collaboration among various stakeholders.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

13)With reference to 'Criticism of Government' , consider the following :

1) Judgment of 1962 on how "in a democratic setup a citizen is entitled to criticise the government with a view to change it

2) The Kedar Nath judgment, which said "a citizen has a right to say or write whatever he likes about the Government, or its measures, by way of criticism or comment, so long as he does not incite people to violence against the Government established by law or with the intention of creating public disorder". The word "citizen" would also mean a member of the Press

3) Criticism of public measures or a comment on government action, however strongly worded, would be within reasonable limits. Such comments made would be consistent with the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression. In short, fair criticism is not sedition

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

14)With reference to 'Rat-hole coal mining' , consider the following :

1) The NGT had in April 2014 banned hazardous rat-hole coal mining in Meghalaya and set a time limit for transporting the coal already mined till that time

2) . Rat-hole is a term used for constricting tunnels that allow an adult to virtually crawl and scrape coal from the seams underneath.

3) NGT also found the appetite of the cement plants for coal had sustained illegal rat-hole mining the State.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

15) With reference to Istanbul museum, consider the following :

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in August, 2020 ordered another ancient Orthodox church that became a mosque and then a popular Istanbul museum to be turned back into a place of Muslim worship.

1) The decision to transform the Kariye Museum into a mosque came just a month after a similarly controversial conversion for the UNESCO World Heritage-recognised Hagia Sophia.

2) The 1,000-year-old building's history closely mirrors that of the Hagia Sophia — its bigger neighbour on the historic western bank of the Golden Horn estuary on the European side of Istanbul.

3) The Holy Saviour in Chora was a medieval Byzantine church decorated with 14th-century frescoes of the Last Judgment that remain treasured in the Christian world.

It was originally converted into the Kariye Mosque half a century after the 1453 conquest of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks.

It became the Kariye Museum after Second World War as Turkey pushed ahead with the creation of a more secular new republic out of the ashes of the Ottoman Empire.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

16) With reference to Basel III Bonds, consider the following :

1) SBI in August, 2020 said its board had approved a proposal to raise ₹8,931 crore by issuing Basel III-compliant bonds to investors.

2) The bonds in the nature of debentures, qualifying as tier-2 capital of the bank, have a face value of ₹10 lakh, bearing a coupon of 6.8% payable annually for a tenor of 15 years.

3) SBI said the bonds come with a call option after 10 years or any anniversary date thereafter to bond subscribers. Call option means the issuer of the bonds can call back the bonds before the maturity date by paying back the principal amount to investors

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

17) With reference to India - Nepal border , consider the following :

The Nepali side has upset the apple cart by taking a series of unilateral actions. A relatively minor dispute involving about 35 square kilometres of territory around the Kalapani springs, was expanded to claim a large wedge of Indian territory towards the east, measuring nearly 400 square kilometres. The expanded claim was incorporated into Nepal through a constitutional amendment and a revised official map

1) The Treaty of Sugauli of 1816 sets the Kali river as the boundary between the two countries in the western sector. There was no map attached to the treaty. Nepal is now claiming that the main tributary of the Kalapani river rises east of the Lipu Lekh pass from the Limpiyadhura ridgeline and hence should serve as the border

2) The inconvenient fact is that the Chinese, at least since 1954, have accepted Lipu Lekh Pass as being in Indian territory.

3) In the Nepal-China boundary agreement of 1960, the starting point of the boundary is clearly designated at a point just west of the Tinker Pass.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

18) With reference to **SOFI report** , consider the following :

Data from the latest edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report show that India retains the dubious distinction of being the country with the largest population of food insecure people. Estimates presented in the report which was released by several United Nations organisations show that the prevalence of food insecurity increased by 3.8 percentage points in India between 2014 and 2019.. By 2019, 6.2 crore more people were living with food insecurity than the number in 2014.

1) The SOFI report, which is published annually, presents the most authoritative evaluation of hunger and food insecurity in the world.

2) Since 2017, SOFI presents two key measures of food insecurity: the conventional measure called the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) and a new measure called the Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Food Insecurity (PMSFI).

3) The estimates show that while 27.8% of India's population suffered from moderate or severe food insecurity in 2014-16, the proportion rose to 31.6% in 2017-19. The number of food insecure people grew from 42.65 crore in 2014-16 to 48.86 crore in 2017-19

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

19) With reference to **MSI estimates** , consider the following :

The scale of the impact on women's lives is only now being recognised, as global reports of inability to access contraceptives and abortion services during the long lockdown warn of dire consequences, including unwanted pregnancies, increase in domestic violence, and maternal mortality.

1) A recent estimate by Marie Stopes International (MSI) said about two million women missed out on services between January and June (2020) ; 1.3 million were in India alone.

2) According to WHO, a recent survey of responses from 103 countries found that 67% reported disruption in family planning and contraception services.

3) UNFPA projections indicate that 47 million women in 114 low- and middle-income countries would be unable to use modern contraceptives if the average lockdown continued for 6 months with major disruptions to services, and an additional 7 million unintended pregnancies are expected to occur.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

20) With reference to **DNA Bill** , consider the following :

1) The Bill that proposes DNA sampling and profiling of citizens accused of crime or reported missing and storing their unique genetic information for administrative purposes has some

alarming provisions that could be misused for caste or community-based profiling, a draft report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology has flagged.

2) The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019, has been in the works for 15 years now. Nearly 60 countries have enacted similar legislation, with the U.S. bringing in a law as far back as in 1994.

3) The Bill proposes to store DNA profiles of suspects, undertrials, victims and their relatives for future investigations.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

21) With reference to **Fiscal Council**, consider the following :

1) A Fiscal Council is an independent fiscal institution (IFI) with a mandate to promote stable and sustainable public finances.

2) Robert Hagemann ("How Can Fiscal Councils Strengthen Fiscal Performance?". OECD Journal: Economic Studies, Vol. 1, 2011; p.76) defines a fiscal council as, "...a publicly funded entity staffed by non-elected professionals mandated to provide nonpartisan oversight of fiscal performance and/or advice and guidance — from either a positive or normative perspective — on key aspects of fiscal policy".

3) These institutions assist in calibrating sustainable fiscal policy by making an objective and scientific analysis. Fiscal Council will help in improving comprehensiveness, transparency and accountability.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

22) With reference to Defence Production, consider the following :

The announcement followed the 101 items on the negative import list issued by the Defence Ministry on August 9, 2020 which have to be domestically procured in a phased manner. This was part of a series of measures announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May to

promote domestic defence manufacturing as part of the “Atmanirbhar Bharat” initiative. These include the negative import list, separate budgetary allocation for domestic procurements, indigenisation of spares and components and raising the FDI cap in defence through automatic route from 49% to 74%.

1) A list of 108 military subsystems and components has been identified for development by the Indian industry and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will provide support for the process,

2) The DRDO has been partnering with industry for many years, including the development of full systems like the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) and Pinaka rocket launchers, among others.

3) The DRDO already offers its technologies to industry for manufacture at a nominal cost and has been providing free access to its patents.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

23) consider the following :

Odisha is home to 62 tribal communities — the largest diverse groups of tribal population in India. Thirteen of them are PVTGs. Tribal populations are found in the entire seven districts of Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Malkanagiri and Rayagada, and in parts of six other districts. There are around 20 blocks where 13 PVTGs have sizeable populations. None of the blocks have been spared by the pandemic.

1) Bondas, a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG), live in settlements comprising small hutments in the hills of the Khairaput block. Their population is around 7,000.

2) in Lanjigarh block of Kalahandi district, the Dongrias live

3) Gajapati's Guma block, is home to the Lanjiasaura community,

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

24) consider the following :

- 1) India's 'longest' passenger ropeway across a river was unveiled in **Guwahati** in August, 2020, almost a year after it was completed.
- 2) The 1.82-km bi-cable jig-back ropeway connects a forest campus near the Kamrup (Metro) Deputy Commissioner's office in the city on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra and a hillock behind the DouL Govinda temple in north Guwahati on the other.
- 3) The ropeway passes over the mid-river **Peacock Island** that houses Umananda, a medieval Shiva temple.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

25) consider the following :

Decommissioned aircraft carrier **Viraat**, which has been lying at the Naval dockyard in Mumbai, is set to be scrapped at a ship breaking yard at Alang in Gujarat (August, 2020). It has been sold to the Shree Ram Green Ship Recycling Industries of Gujarat in an e-auction by the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited (MSTC),

- 1) Viraat, a Centaur class aircraft carrier weighing 27,800 tonnes, served in the British Navy as HMS Hermes for 25 years from November 1959 to April 1984.
- 2) It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in May 1987 after refurbishment and had operated Harrier fighter jets.
- 3) It was decommissioned from in March 2017, and the the Navy had been incurring expenditure since then on its upkeep, such as the provision of electricity and water, and repairs. It was also taking up space in the crowded Naval dockyard.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

26) consider the following :

1) The Supreme court had declared the former royals as the **manager or shebait** of the properties of **Sree Padmanabha**, the chief deity of the famed temple in Thiruvananthapuram.

2) The court clarified that if the Thiruvananthapuram District Judge is of another faith, the seniormost Additional District Judge in the district could be appointed as the chairperson of the temple administrative committee. The July verdict says the administrators should be Hindus.

3) The court had in July accepted the royals' submission that the **Padmanabha Swamy** temple was a "public temple." It however issued a slew of directions for its transparent administration in the future.(August 2020)

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

27)With reference to Mullaperiyar dam , consider the following :

The Supreme court was hearing a plea by a resident of Idukki district in Kerala to lower the water level to 130 feet, saying there is a danger of earthquakes and floods in the area as the monsoon progresses in the State.(August,2020)

1) Mr. Venugopal, for the Central Water Commission, said the water is only 1.85 feet more than 130 feet. He said the water level has, on an average, been 123.21 feet for the past 10 years.

2) It is informed the Supreme Court on Tuesday that the level of water in Mullaperiyar dam is 131.85 feet now and apprehensions of danger are unsubstantiated.

3) Six districts in the State were under the threat of floods and earthquakes, it is submitted.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

28)With reference to **e-NAM** , consider the following :

1) In 2016, the electronic national agricultural market (e-NAM) was launched with a lot of fanfare.

2) The e-NAM was intended to be a market-based mechanism for efficient price discovery by the farmers. In the first phase, 585 markets across 16 States and 2 Union Territories were covered.

3) States needed to amend their respective Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Acts to put in place three prerequisites for the success of this programme — a single licence across the State; a single-point levy of the market fee; and electronic auctioning in all the markets. Several States could not or did not carry out these amendments and the e-NAM proved to be far less effective than desired.

4) E-NAM has been scaled up to cover 415 more markets, farmers have been allowed to sell and transport directly from registered warehouses and Farmer Produce Organisations (FPOs) and app-based transport services have been devised

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4

(d) None

Ans: c

29) With reference to **PM-AASHA** , consider the following :

1) Launched as an ambitious programme, PM-AASHA, in September 2018

2) The main objective of this programme was to provide an assured price to farmers that ensured a return of at least 50% more than the cost of cultivation. The programme was confined to pulses and oilseeds to limit the fiscal costs, although many other crops, which did not receive the benefits of the MSP-procurement system, also needed this coverage

3) In addition to the PM-AASHA programme, two Model Acts were formulated by the Central government in 2017 and 2018 to promote agricultural marketing and contract farming in States.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

30) With reference to **PM-Kisan** , consider the following :

1) PM-KISAN, a direct cash transfer programme, in the interim Budget of 2019-2020 (February 2019).

2) This programme involved a fixed payment of ₹6,000 per annum to each farm household with a budgetary outlay of ₹75,000 crore..

3) This programme has worked reasonably well so far with many States topping up the amount at their end

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

31) With reference to **draft Health Data Management Policy** , consider the following :

1) The National Health Authority (NHA) has released the draft Health Data Management Policy of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) in the public domain.

2) "The draft is the maiden step in realising the NDHM's guiding principle of 'Security and Privacy by Design' for the protection of individuals' data privacy. It encompasses various aspects pertaining to health data such as data privacy, consent management, data sharing and protection etc."

3) One of the main objectives of the draft policy is to provide adequate guidance and to set out a framework for the secure processing of personal and sensitive personal data of individuals who are a part of the national digital health ecosystem. This will be in compliance with all applicable laws and international standards that define the set of frameworks of consent for the collection and processing of health data by healthcare practitioners and other entities, and other relevant standards related to data interoperability and data sharing,

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

32) With reference to **Heavy rains in J&K** , consider the following :

1) A man was killed in a **landslip** triggered by heavy rain in parts of Jammu and Kashmir

2) killed after he came under a landslip, triggered by torrential rain,

3) Kashmir's main Jhelum river witnessed a sudden rise in the water level due to the rains.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

33) With reference to Articles 15 and 16, consider the following :

- 1) The amendments made to Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution entailed both “empowerment” and “employment” to the backward classes. Empowerment of backward classes was a different concept from mere employment. Indira Sawhney preceded these amendments.
- 2) The 50% cap on reservation declared by a nine-judge Bench of the court in 1992.
- 3) “Article 15(4) and Article 16(4) have not been interpreted in the context of Indira Sawhney [judgment]...

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

34) consider the following :

- 1) Chinese construction started on Johnson South Reef in the disputed Spratly Islands.
- 2) China claims 90% of the potentially energy-rich South China Sea
- 3) But Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also lay claim to parts of an area through which about \$3 trillion of trade passes each year.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

35)With reference to Turkey , consider the following :

- 1) Turkey is determined to do whatever is necessary to obtain its rights in the Black Sea, Aegean and Mediterranean,
- 2) Turkey and Greece, NATO allies, disagree over claims to hydrocarbon resources in the area based on conflicting views on the extent of their continental shelves in waters dotted with mostly Greek islands. Greece and Turkey, both members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, have been locked in a dispute over control of **eastern Mediterranean waters**,
- 3) 11th century military victory by Seljuk Turks over the Byzantine empire at Malazgirt, was commemorated.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

36)With reference to Tribes in Andamans , consider the following :

- 1) The Great Andamanese, who number just 74, speak Jeru among themselves. The five PVTGS residing in Andamans are Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese.
- 2) The Shompen and North Sentinelese, who live in isolation, are difficult to reach out to and contact.
- 3) Shifted the Jarawas to the the west coast of the Jarawa Tribal Reserve

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

37) consider the following :

- 1) China has been conducting military exercises simultaneously in four seas — **the Bohai Sea in the north, the Yellow Sea, East China Sea, and the South China Sea**

2) The missiles were fired into waters between Hainan province and the Paracel Islands in an area that China had previously notified would be off-limits because of planned drills, also expected to include missile tests.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

38) With reference to **IBC**, consider the following :

1) The finance ministry has asked public sector banks (PSBs) to monitor cases where insolvency proceedings could be initiated against individuals who are guarantors of corporate debtors that have defaulted on loans.

2) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) provides for a time-bound and market-linked resolution of stressed assets. The Code also provides for initiation of insolvency proceedings against personal guarantors of corporate debtors, even though the provision has not been used much by lenders to recover dues.

3) In an advisory, the Department of Financial Services has asked PSBs to consider putting in place a mechanism for monitoring the cases which may require initiation of individual insolvency process before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) against personal guarantors to corporate debtors.

4) "Banks may also consider setting up IT system to collate data regarding personal guarantors to corporate debtors in all such cases for the requisite follow up and consequential action," it said.

5) The rule governing initiation of insolvency process against the personal guarantor to corporate borrowers came into effect from December, 2020. It empowers creditors to file insolvency applications against personal guarantors under the IBC.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3, 4, 5
- (d) None

Ans: c

39) With reference to **Palar basin**, consider the following :

1) The water was released for the second ayacut of the Palar basin in Parambikulam-Aliyar Project

2) A total of 8,700 mcft water from Thirumoorthy dam was released in four-and-a-half rounds for the benefit of 94,201 acres of agricultural land

3) Release of water is the agricultural lands in Tiruppur and Coimbatore districts.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

40) With reference to **Pettimudi**, consider the following :

“Extremely heavy rains of 30 cm or more can trigger landslips.

“Two factors contribute to landslides: static ones like the slope of a hill or its shape and triggering factors which include anthropogenic activities like deforestation, construction or land use. In the case of Pettimudi, the flat-topped hill would have caused all the rainwater to collect in a ravine before bursting through the topsoil. The sensitivity of the soil and the pattern of rock formation in the Munnar region came into focus following widening works on the Kochi-Dhanushkodi National Highway along the gap road stretch, where over 20 major landslips have been reported since 2018.

The Pettimudi slide is a repeat of what happened in Puthumala. It is understood that the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel led by Madhav Gadgil had designated the Pettimudi locality as a region of highest ecological sensitivity,”

1) It had been raining incessantly in the lush green Rajamala hills of Munnar in Kerala's Idukki district since August 1, 2020. The downpour was especially heavy on August 6. But the tea plantation workers of the layams (labour lines) of the Kanan Devan Hills in Pettimudi, a small idyllic valley, did not find any reason to be worried.

2) **Pettimudi** conjoins the rolling slopes some 11 km from where the Eravikulam National Park ends for tourists

3) Pettimudi is where the blacktopped road from Rajamala in the Eravikulam National Park to the Munnar Forest Division, a part of the Western Ghats bordering Tamil Nadu, ends.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

41) consider the following :

On August 6, 2019, Parliament read down Article 370 of the Constitution revoking the special status of J&K and bifurcated and downgraded the State into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, with the former having a Legislative Assembly.

J&K has been without a Chief Minister since June 2018. According to the requirements of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, fresh elections will be held after the delimitation exercise is completed 2021..

1) The Union Home Ministry in August 2020 notified new rules for administration in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) that specify the **functions of the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) and the Council of Ministers.**

2) The Council of Ministers, led by the Chief Minister, will decide service matters of non-All India Services officers, proposal to impose new tax, land revenue, sale grant or lease of government property, reconstituting departments or offices and draft legislation.

3) However, in case of difference of opinion between the L-G and a Minister, when no agreement could be reached even after a month, the “decision of the Lieutenant Governor shall be deemed to have been accepted by the Council of Ministers”, the rules note.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

42) consider the following :

1) The Lakshadweep Administration had embarked on the ‘Pilot project on Biological Control of Rodents (Rats) by Using Barn Owls (Tyto alba) in Kavaratti Island’ after studies revealed the shocking extent of damage caused by rats to the island's coconut yield and economy.

2) The islands have no other natural predators of rodents. Using chemical agents is impossible since Lakshadweep practises organic agriculture.

3) Coconut trees on the islands are so closely planted that their fronds overlap, allowing rats to practically live atop the trees, which is the primary reason why the administration hit upon the idea of barn owls.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

43) consider the following :

- 1) In a departure from the past, the annual migration of butterflies from the hill ranges of the Eastern Ghats towards the Western Ghats is an early phenomenon in 2020
- 2) Usually, butterfly migration in south India begins in October-November, with the onset of the northeast monsoon, from the plains to the Ghats, and in April-June, just before the advent of the southwest monsoon, from the Ghats to the plains.
- 3) The Eastern Ghats complex of the Yercaud hills (Shevaroy hills), Pachamalai, Kolli hills, Kalvarayan hills are the major originating places for the migrating species

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

44) consider the following :

- 1) The Char Dham Project (CP) is an ambitious attempt by the Modi government to widen nearly 900 km of hill road to improve access to pilgrimage spots in Uttarakhand
- 2). The High Powered Committee (HPC), as it is called, was chaired by Mr. Chopra, former director of the People's Science Institute and the court directed it to submit a report by December 30, 2019, which was extended to June 30, 2020
- 3). However, what emerged from the exercise were two reports — one by Mr. Chopra and three other members (called the 'Main report'), and another by 16 members of the 19-member core committee. The key difference is that the 'Main report' recommends a narrower road width than the majority group.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

45) consider the following :

- 1) **COVID-19 and trade tensions between China and the United States threatening supply chains or actually causing bottlenecks.**
- 2) **Japan has mooted the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) as a trilateral approach to trade, with India and Australia as the other two partners.**
- 3) **The initiative is at the strategy stage and has some way to go before participants can realise trade benefits.**

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

46) consider the following :

- 1) A year after the famed organic turmeric of Odisha's Kandhamal district received the geographical indication (GI) tag, thousands of farmers who hoped to make a profit out of the crop are cursing themselves.
- 2) With more than 60% of the geographical area covered with hills and forest, Kandhamal offers ideal conditions for cultivation of various spices including turmeric, ginger, mustard and tamarind.
- 3) 'Kandhamal Haladi' for which GI tag has been received is a pure organic product. Tribals grow the tuber without applying fertiliser or pesticide. The aromatic value and golden yellow colour of 'Kandhamal Haladi' make it stand out from the rest.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

(d) None

Ans: c

47) consider the following (news August, 2020):

1) Hoshangabad, MP : Narmada River

2) Heavy rain triggered by back-to-back low pressure area over Bay of Bengal had caused flooding in 20 districts. The situation is fast improving in areas falling under Subarnrekha, Burhabalanga, Baitarani and Brahmani river systems,”

3) In Gujarat, torrential rainfall in August created a flood-like situation in many areas including Bharuch, where over 2,000 people from inundated areas along the Narmada river were evacuated following release of water from the Sardar Sarovar dam.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

48) consider the following :

1) the global toy industry is of more than ₹7 lakh crore.

2) Called upon start-ups and entrepreneurs to “team up for toys”, pointing out that India’s share in the ₹7 lakh crore global toy market is minuscule

3) Asking start-ups to be “vocal for local”, Mr. Modi urged them to develop computer games in and based on India. Stakeholders in Channapatana (Ramanagaram district of Karnataka), which has earned the sobriquet of a ‘toy city’ or ‘Gombbegala Ooru’. The concerns are real as the number of skilled artisans is dwindling and the new generation is loath to enter the business owing to inadequate returns.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None

Ans: c

49) With reference to Article 342A , consider the following :

1) the Constitution has been amended in 2018

2) It is to introduce Article 342A under which the President notifies, in consultation with the States, the list of Backward Classes, with a caveat similar to the ones in respect of Scheduled Castes (Article 341) and Scheduled Tribes (Article 342) that Parliament can make inclusions or exclusions in this list, and that once such a change is notified

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

50) With reference to , consider the following :

If everything aligns, India could see a third consecutive year of surplus rainfall. The IMD has said that monsoon rains will likely be 101% of the Long Period Average (LPA) of 88 cm. In 2020, it was 109% of the LPA and in 2019, 110%. While the forecast 101% LPA is short of the rainfall received in these years and still within the range of what the IMD considers 'normal' rainfall, it is positive news because the current forecast is 'above normal' rainfall in the core agricultural zone.

1) This core agriculture zone includes States where agriculture is significantly rain-fed including Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal. The IMD's estimate of the distribution of this rainfall also suggests that except for the Northeast, where rainfall is expected to be 'below normal', other regions are expected to get above normal rainfall.

2) A general pattern of the monsoon is that weakened rains over Northeastern India — which has a higher base rainfall than other parts of India — translate into stronger rainfall in Central India. Propitious rain this year is premised on forecasts from Indian and global climate models, veering towards no excess sea-surface temperatures at the Equatorial Pacific conditions.

3) There are also 'negative' IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole) conditions over the Indian Ocean during the monsoon season, meaning warmer water and greater precipitation in the eastern Indian Ocean. Put together, they mean that these larger climate factors are, as of now, unlikely to have a significant influence over the prevailing monsoon.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

51)With reference to 10 ASEAN countries , consider the following :

China is hosting Foreign Ministers from the 10 ASEAN countries, with Beijing pushing for closer economic cooperation and aligning COVID-19 recovery efforts even as it looks to push back against the recent regional outreach of the Quad grouping.

1)Chinese officials have in recent weeks stepped up criticism of the Quad — the informal India, Australia, Japan and the United States grouping — and of Washington in particular. During recent visits to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, China’s Defence Minister called on both countries to reject “military alliances” — a term that some Beijing are using to describe the Quad, but a label that the group rejects.

2)China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in a statement the China-ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting, in the city of Chongqing, would mark the 30-year anniversary of relations and also “focus on combating COVID-19, promoting economic recovery, [and] better dovetail[ing] strategic plans.” A vaccine passport connecting China and ASEAN countries is also being discussed.

3)China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi will hold bilateral meetings with all the visiting Ministers, and also chair a meeting of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

52)With reference to ASEAN and Quad , consider the following :

Deepening economic cooperation, particularly following the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal, would be China’s focus, analysts in Beijing said, even as it grapples with disputes over the South China Sea. Recently, China and the Philippines have clashed over the presence of Chinese vessels near a disputed reef, while Malaysia alleged the intrusion of 16 Chinese aircraft into its airspace.

1)The Communist Party-run Global Times blamed the U.S. for those tensions rather than China’s moves that prompted the protests from the Philippines and Malaysia. Countries “see clearly that quarrels on South China Sea are not the biggest threat to regional stability; it is the U.S., whose warships frequently sail through the sensitive waters and try to force ASEAN countries take sides to confront China,”

2)After the first Quad leaders’ summit held in March and the announcement of a regional vaccine initiative, many Chinese analysts framed ASEAN as a key space where Chinese and Quad initiatives may rub up against each other.

3)China “cannot rule out the possibilities that Quad members will further rope in ASEAN members to counter China as Southeast Asia is of great significance to the U.S.’ Indo-Pacific Strategy,” wrote Yuan Zheng, senior fellow of the Institute of American Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. “Yet ASEAN will not easily take sides.”

4)The framing of the Quad as “an Asian NATO” by Beijing has been criticised by the group’s members. India’s External Affairs Minister in April described the using of words such as “Asian NATO” as “a mind game which people are playing

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

53)With reference to UN General Assembly , consider the following :

In a first for the Maldives, Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid was elected the President of the UN General Assembly for 2021-22, winning 143 votes or nearly three-fourths of the 191 countries that voted in the annual election, while his rival, former Afghanistan Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul, won 48.

Mr. Shahid’s win was welcomed in particular in New Delhi, where Indian diplomats had been active behind the scenes in helping the Maldives canvass for him, after Maldives announced its candidate for the 76th General Assembly Presidency a year ago. Sources confirmed that given the close cooperation between both countries, Maldives is in discussions with the Indian mission for India’s deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Nagaraj Naidu to officiate as Mr. Shahid’s Chef de Cabinet.

1)The election of Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid as the President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, that begins in September for 2021-22, is a major boost for the island-nation’s international profile.

2)The election marks the first time a Maldivian will hold the post in the UN’s history, and his margin of victory, 143 to his challenger’s 48, indicating support from nearly three fourths of all countries at the UN, is significant.

3)Maldives also sees it as a win for the **52-member Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**, which are battling climate change vulnerability and other developmental challenges.

4)In addition, in a year when events in Afghanistan will draw attention as U.S. forces begin to pullout, Mr. Shahid’s victory over his surprise opponent, former Afghanistan Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul, is remarkable.

5)For India too, that helped Maldives canvass support, the outcome is welcome, not only because of its close ties with Male but also the high regard for Mr. Shahid, a key member of the Solih government.

6) In a break from the norm of not announcing one's choice for an election by secret ballot, Foreign Secretary had announced India's support for the Maldives in November 2020, South Block's explanation being that Afghanistan had not yet announced Mr. Rassoul's candidature — which it did in January 2021.

7) The UN General Assembly (UNGA) is the main policy-making organ of the Organization. Comprising all Member States, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations. Each of the 193 Member States of the United Nations has an equal vote. The UNGA also makes key decisions for the UN, including: appointing the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Security Council ; electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council ; approving the UN budget

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5,6,7
- (d) None

Ans: c

54) With reference to Delta variant (B.1.617.2) , consider the following :

1) Though the procedural steps such as setting up the Indian SARS-CoV2 Genomic Consortia, or INSACOG have been taken, the sequencing has remained at a very low level of a few thousand cases only.

2) It is no surprise that we understand the Delta variant (B.1.617.2, the original lineage B.1.617 was first reported from Maharashtra, India in October 2020) far less than the Alpha variant (B.1.1.7, first reported from Kent, England in September 2020) reported just a month before Delta.

3) The challenge of insufficient genomic sequencing is further compounded by the pace at which data is being shared, especially when the emergence of strains is so vital in tracking and responding to a pandemic.

4) Reportedly, the government took two weeks, from early March — when research scientists submitted information on new variants — to issue a public announcement on the variants on March 24, 2021

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

55) Consider the following with reference to **Cost* of production 2021-22 (Rs/quintal)**

(* Refers to comprehensive cost which includes all paid on costs such as those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour machine labour, rent paid for leased in land, expenses incurred on use of material inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges, depreciation on implements and farm buildings, interest on working capital, diesel/electricity for operation of pump sets etc., miscellaneous expenses and imputed value of family labour.

Note: Cost data are not separately compiled for Paddy (Grade A), Jowar (Maldandi) and Cotton (Long staple)

1) The increase in MSP for Kharif Crops for marketing season 2021-22 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production (CoP), aiming at reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers. The expected returns to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be highest in case of Bajra (85%) followed by urad (65%) and tur (62%). For rest of the crops, return to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be at least 50%.

2) Concerted efforts were made over the last few years to realign the MSPs in favour of oilseeds, pulses and coarse cereals to encourage farmers shift to larger area under these crops and adopt best technologies and farm practices, to correct demand - supply imbalance. The added focus on nutri-rich nutri-cereals is to incentivize its production in the areas where rice-wheat cannot be grown without long term adverse implications for groundwater table.

3) Besides, the Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanraks Han Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA) announced by the government in 2018 will aid in providing remunerative return to farmers for their produce. The Umbrella Scheme consists of three sub-schemes i.e. Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) and Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS) on a pilot basis.

4) With an aim to attain self-sufficiency in the production of pulses, a special Kharif strategy has been prepared for implementation in the ensuing Kharif 2021 season. A detailed plan for both area expansion and productivity enhancement for Tur, Moong, and Urad has been formulated.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

56) Consider the following :

1) Under the strategy, all the available high-yielding varieties (HYVs) of seeds will be distributed free of cost to increase area through intercropping and sole crop.

2) Similarly, for Oilseeds, the Government of India has approved an ambitious plan for the free distribution of high-yielding varieties of seeds to the farmers for the Kharif season 2021 in the form of mini-kits.

3) The special Kharif program will bring an additional 6.37 lakh hectare area under oilseeds and is likely to produce 120.26 lakh quintals of oilseeds and edible oil amounting to 24.36 lakh quintals.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

57) Consider the following with reference to PDRD :

The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance released the 3rd monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs. 9,871 crore for the year 2021-22 to 17 States.

With the release of 3rd installment, a total amount of Rs. 29, 613 crore has been released in the first three months of the current financial year as Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant to the states. State-wise details of the grant released and total amount of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant released to the States in 2021-22

1) The Centre provides the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant to the States under Article 275 of the Constitution. The grants are released as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission in monthly installments to meet the gap in Revenue Accounts of the States post devolution. The 15th Finance Commission has recommended Post Devolution Release Deficit grants to 17 States.

2) The States recommended for Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

3) The eligibility of States to receive this grant and the quantum of grant was decided by the Commission based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the State.

4) Assessed devolution for the financial year 2021-22 was also taken into account by the Commission.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

58) Consider the following :

1) The 15th Finance Commission has recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs. 1,18,452 crore to 17 States in the financial year 2021-22.

2)The grant is released to the States in 12 monthly installments.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

59)Consider the following with reference to groundnut exports :

1)Traditionally, Gujarat and Rajasthan have a major share in groundnut exports. The groundnut exports from West Bengal would boost exports potential of the crop from the eastern region.

2)India exported 6.38 lakh tonnes (worth of Rs 5381 crore) of groundnuts during 2020-21. The groundnuts are exported to mostly countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Russia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Nepal.

3)Gujarat is the largest producer of groundnuts in the country, which is followed by Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

4)The crop is grown in both Kharif and Rabi seasons. The Kharif season has a share of more than 75% of the total production.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a)1 only
- (b)1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3,4
- (d) None

Ans: c

60)Consider the following :

1)In India, warehouses are spread over different undertakings and authorities at 20,433 locations.

2)They Include Railway Goodsheds-7400, PMC Principal & sub-marketyard- 7320, FCI-545, CWC-422, SWC's 2245, NSC, NAFED, NCCF-73, CONCOR-60+, cooperatives- 2000+, Warehouses with State Govt. HAFED-100+, Highway Logistics Park (under process) -35, Inland Waterways Complex-8, Ports-200+ Airports(cargo)-25, where warehousing infrastructure of required type & size can be developed, upgraded or modified converted for safe storage of essential commodities.

3)It is informed that EOI has been called for development of Cold chain facility for perishable commodities, including onions through Private Entity.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

61) Consider the following with reference to Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana :

- 1) Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana is facilitating supply of free food grains to the beneficiaries amidst ongoing COVID pandemic and thus providing food security to the beneficiaries.
- 2) The Government of India announced Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to ameliorate the hardship faced by the poor due to economic disruption caused by Corona virus.
- 3) Under the scheme, free food grains @ 5 kg per person per month is being distributed to beneficiaries covered under NFSA.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

Ans: c

62) Consider the following :

- 1) A top Biden administration official has said the Quad group of countries — India, Australia, the U.S. and Japan — are on track to meet their goal of producing at least 1 billion vaccines for the Asia region by the end of 2022, despite the massive COVID-19 wave that has hit India in recent weeks.
- 2) The Quad vaccine partnership was announced at a summit level meeting in March, before the pandemic situation in India deteriorated significantly.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2
- (d) None

Ans: c

63) Consider the following with reference to vaccination :

- 1) The Finance Ministry has made a strong pitch to vaccinate 70 crore people with at least the first dose by September to achieve herd immunity against COVID-19 and regain the momentum of economic recovery.
- 2) As this would require 93 lakh doses to be delivered every day from now, the ministry has suggested making vaccination a 24/7 activity, particularly in August and September when vaccine supplies may improve.

3)“In the early days about 19.2 crore have got the first dose while 4.7 crore have been fully vaccinated. If 70 crore must be vaccinated by September, it is estimated about 113 crore doses are needed.”

4)The ministry suggested aligning supplies with the September target and a system whereby ‘people already having antibodies (are) vaccinated later while people who have not been exposed (are) given priority.’

5)“Use of technology to ease the administration of the vaccine, increased shifts at vaccination centres and integration of mass vaccination sites like shopping areas, drive-ins, with schools and primary health care centres will enhance faster coverage under vaccination,” suggested the ministry in its monthly economic report for May issued by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

(a)1 only

(b)1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3,4,5

(d) None

Ans: c