

Civils Prelims 2022 (Scheduled on 5.6.2022)
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 the 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