

R.C. Reddy IAS Study Circle
CURRENT AFFAIRS TEST SERIES- CSE PRELIMS 2024
CURRENT AFFAIRS TEST-9 - (May - 2023)

Test Solutions

Q1 Ans: A

Exp:

1. Chief Justice of India (CJI) is the head of the Indian judiciary and the Supreme Court of India. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**
2. Under **Article 124 (2)** of the Constitution, the President of India appoints all Supreme Court judges, including the Chief Justice of India.
3. He is one of the highest-ranked persons in the order of precedence in our Country.
4. He is also often called the Master of the Roster. Hence **Statement 2 is correct**
5. The Indian Constitution makes **no mention of criteria** or procedures for appointing the CJI. Hence **Statement 3 is incorrect**

Q2 Ans: D

Exp:

1. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a part of the **e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project**. It was launched in 2015.
2. The **aim** is to track judicial performance across different courts in the country.
3. The NJDG is working as a National data warehouse for case data including the orders/judgments for Courts across the country. Hence **Option D is incorrect**
4. NJDG works as a **monitoring tool** to identify, manage & reduce pendency of cases.
5. It also helps to provide timely inputs for making **policy decisions** to **reduce delay** and arrears in the system, facilitate better **monitoring of court performance** and systemic bottlenecks, and, thus, facilitate better resource management.
6. NJDG has specifically helped India improve its ranking in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report.

Q3 Ans: C

Exp:

About PM CARES Fund

1. It was created as a **dedicated fund in March 2020** (and registered as a Public Charitable Trust), following the COVID-19 pandemic in India. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**
2. The stated purpose of the fund is for combating, containment and relief efforts **against the coronavirus outbreak and similar emergency or distress situations** in the future. Hence **Statement 2 is incorrect**
3. The fund is administered on an honorary basis by a **Joint Secretary (Administration)** in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as Secretary to the fund.

Constitution of the Trust

1. The **Prime Minister** is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund. Hence **Statement 3 is correct**
2. The **Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance** are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.
3. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (the Prime Minister) shall have the authority to appoint 3 trustees to the Board of Trustees.

Q4 Ans: B

Exp:

1. Syria is located on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea in southwestern Asia.
2. Its area includes territory in the Golan Heights that has been occupied by Israel since 1967.
3. Syria is bounded by Turkey to the north, by Iraq to the east and southeast, by Jordan to the south, and by Lebanon and Israel to the southwest. Hence Option B is correct
4. The **capital is Damascus (Dimashq)**, on the **Baradā River**, situated in an oasis at the foot of Mount Qāsiyūn.



Q5 Ans: D

Exp:

About Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT):

1. CSTT was established on October 01, 1961 in pursuance of a Presidential Order dated April 27, 1960 with the objective to evolve technical terminology in **all Indian Languages**. Hence **statement 3 is correct**
2. It was established under clause (4) of Article 344 of the Constitution of India. Hence **statement 1 is correct**
3. It is functioning under the **Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India** with its headquarters at New Delhi. Hence **statement 2 is correct**

4. Primary Function: Evolve standard terminology, propagate its use and distribute it widely.

Q6 Ans: B

Exp:

Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)

1. The program is **aimed at post-graduate and final-year undergraduate** students of physical sciences and technology. Hence Option B is correct
2. It will cover various domains of space science, including **Astronomy & Astrophysics, Heliophysics & Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy**.
3. It will be delivered by the scientists from Indian academia and ISRO centres.

Q7 Ans: B

Exp:

Tuberculosis (TB)

1. It is generally defined as a dangerous bacterial infectious disease **caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis**,
2. It most often affects the lungs and later might **spread to different parts of the body**. Hence **Option B is incorrect**
3. Tuberculosis is a contagious airborne disease, which can be acquired from close contact with an infected person.
4. Mycobacterium Tuberculosis is one of the main causes of this dreadful infectious disease.
5. Infants and aged people are at a greater risk of catching TB infections.
6. Individuals with a weak immune system due to HIV, diabetes are quickly exposed to this infectious disease.

Q8 Ans: A

Exp:

Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative

1. The Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative was conceptualised with the mission to spread awareness about cyber-crime and build capacities of Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT officials across all government departments. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**
2. It was launched by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in 2018** in cooperation with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and various industry partners in India. Hence **Statement 2 is incorrect**
3. The CISO training is the first-of-its-kind partnership between the Government and industry consortium under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Objectives of the initiative

1. To **educate and enable the chief information security officers (CISO)** and broader IT community to address the challenge of cyber security.
2. **Create awareness** on the emerging landscape of cyber threats.

3. Provide in-depth understanding on key activities, new initiatives, challenges and related solutions.

Q9 Ans: D

Exp:

About China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

1. It is the flagship project of the multi-billion dollar **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**
2. It is **aimed at enhancing Beijing's influence** around the world through China-funded infrastructure projects. Hence **Statement 2 is correct**
3. The **3,000 km-long China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** consists of highways, railways, and pipelines.
4. CPEC eventually aims at linking the **city of Gwadar** in South Western Pakistan to China's North Western region **Xinjiang** through a vast network of highways and railways. Hence **Statement 3 is correct**
5. The proposed project will be **financed by heavily-subsidised loans** that will be disbursed to the Government of Pakistan by Chinese banks.

Q10 Ans: B

Exp:

1. Chabahar is made of Persian words **Chahar meaning four**; and **bahar meaning spring**.
2. Location: Off the Gulf of Oman in Iran's southeastern **province of Sistan-Baluchistan** & is the only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean.
3. Chabahar Port consists of two separate ports called **Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti**.
4. Significance: Chabahar is important for its fishery sector and will act as an important trade center connecting South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East.
5. **Gateway to Central Asia and beyond**: The port gives access to the energy-rich Persian Gulf nations' southern coast & Central Asia and India can bypass Pakistan with the Chabahar port becoming functional.



Q11 Ans: B

Exp:

Graphene

1. It is a **single layer (monolayer) of carbon** atoms.
2. It is the **building-block of Graphite**.
3. It is the **strongest** known material.
4. Other Properties: (1) **High thermal stability**; (2) **High elasticity**; (3) **High electrical conductivity**; etc.
5. Uses: It can be used in **miniaturised electronics** to biomedical devices like computers, solar panels, etc.
6. Graphene is also known for **antibacterial properties**

Q12 Ans: B

Exp:

1. It is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**
2. It was founded in **1895**, its **headquarters is in New Delhi**.
3. It works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes. Hence **Statement 2 is incorrect**
4. **Initiatives by CII**: CII has embarked on smarter initiatives that enhance competitiveness of Indian industry by underlining the need for rapid up gradation on parameters like quality, corporate governance, knowledge management, energy efficiency and environment management.

Q13 Ans: C

Exp:

1. **Headline inflation** is the **raw inflation figure** reported through the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that is released **monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics**.
2. Headline inflation is not adjusted to remove highly volatile figures, including those that can shift regardless of economic conditions.
3. Headline inflation is often closely related to shifts in the cost of living, which provides useful information to consumers within the marketplace. Hence **Option C is correct**
4. The headline figure is not adjusted for seasonality or for the often-volatile elements of food and energy prices, which are removed in the core Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Q14 Ans: C

Exp:

About Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

1. It is an apex-level forum constituted by the Government of India in December 2010. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**

2. Status: FSDC is **not a statutory body**. **No funds are separately allocated** to the council for undertaking its activities. Hence **Statement 2 is incorrect**
3. **Objective:** Strengthening and institutionalising the mechanism for maintaining **financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination** and promoting financial sector development.

Composition:

1. It is **chaired by the Union Finance Minister** of India. Hence **Statement 3 is correct**
2. Its members include the **heads of financial sector Regulators** (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA & FMC) Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and Chief Economic Adviser.
3. The Council can invite experts to its meeting if required.

Q15 Ans: A

Exp:

About Rabindranath Tagore

1. He was a Bengali poet, writer, composer, philosopher, music composer and choreographer, founder of a unique educational institution **Visva Bharati** and a painter. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**
2. He reshaped Bengali literature and music, as well as Indian art with Contextual Modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
3. Popularly known as ‘Gurudev’, he was born in an affluent Family.
4. He was also called the ‘**Bard of Bengal**’. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**
5. He was knighted by the British government in 1915, but he later renounced it **protesting against the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**. Hence **Statement 3 is incorrect**
6. He was a widely travelled person and had been to over 30 countries in 5 different continents.

Q16 Ans: C

Exp:

1. The G20 is an informal organization comprising **19 countries , European Union, and African Union** (latest member) as well as officials from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Hence **Statement 1 is Incorrect**
2. The G20 membership is made up of a mix of industrialised and emerging economies, representing over two-thirds of the worldwide population, 85% of global GDP, 80% of global investment, and over 75% of global commerce.

Works of G20

1. The G20's work is split into **two tracks**:
 - a. All talks involving **G20 finance ministers and central bank governors** and their deputies are part of the **finance track**. They meet numerous times a year to discuss monetary and fiscal concerns, as well as financial rules.
 - b. The **Sherpa track** focuses on broader topics like political engagement, anticorruption, development, and energy, among others. Hence **Statement 3 is incorrect**

2. Each G20 country is represented by a **Sherpa**, who plans, guides, implements, and so on behalf of the country's leader. **Hence Statement 2 is correct**

Q17 Ans: C

Exp:

1. It was registered as a society in 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**
2. It acted as the implementation arm of **National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)** which was constituted under the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986**.
3. NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from 2016 consequent to the constitution of **National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga** which is referred as National Ganga Council.
4. **Aim & Objective of NMCG -**
 - a. To ensure **effective abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of the river Ganga** by adopting a river basin approach to promote inter-sectoral coordination for comprehensive planning and management. Hence **Statement 2 is correct**
 - b. To maintain **minimum ecological flows** in the river Ganga with the aim of ensuring water quality and environmentally sustainable development.

Q18 Ans: B

Exp:

LIGO – India

1. LIGO-India will be an **advanced gravitational-wave observatory** to be located in India as part of a worldwide network. Hence **Option B is correct**
2. Two existing LIGO observatories in the United States detected gravitational waves for the first time in 2015.
3. Since then, two more similar detectors have come onboard, one in Italy and the other in Japan.
4. LIGO India would be the fifth node of this network, and possibly the last.

Q19 Ans: A

Exp:

1. The inaugural trial flight carried **10 units of whole blood samples from the GIMS and LHMC** in visual line of sight.
2. The project **'i-DRONE'(ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach for North East)** assessed the feasibility of using drones to deliver vaccines and medical supplies. Hence **Option A is correct**
3. This was carried out in **difficult geographical terrains** including land, island, foothills and across the hills.
4. The medical supplies delivered under i- Drone project included **COVID-19 vaccines, vaccines used in routine immunisation programs, antenatal care medicines, multivitamins, syringes and gloves**.

5. The drone delivery system focused on the **end-to-end ecosystem for drone-based logistic transportation** within the states and was the first successful example of delivering vaccines through drone from land to Island in South Asia.

Q20 Ans: C

Exp:

About Deep Ocean Mission

1. It was first proposed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in 2017. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**
2. Objective: To explore the deep ocean for resources and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources. Hence **Statement 3 is correct**
3. The estimated cost of the Mission will be Rs.4077 crore for a period of 5 years to be implemented in a phase-wise manner. The estimated cost for the first phase for the 3 years (2021-2024) would be Rs.2823.4 crore.
4. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be the nodal Ministry implementing this multi-institutional ambitious mission. Hence **Statement 2 is incorrect**

Six major components of the Deep Ocean Mission:

1. **Development of technologies** for deep sea mining, and manned submersible
2. Development of ocean **climate change advisory services**
3. Technological innovations for exploration and conservation of **deep-sea biodiversity**
4. **Deep ocean survey** and exploration
5. **Energy** and freshwater from the ocean
6. **Advanced marine station** for ocean biology

Q21 Ans: C

Exp:

1. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme was launched in the Union Budget 2015-16
2. The scheme was launched to **reduce the demand for physical gold**. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**
3. It **aims** to invest a part in physical gold bars and coins, which are purchased every year as a part of financial savings in the form of gold bonds. Hence **Statement 2 is correct**

Q22. Ans: C

Exp: :

1. The **Cham lama dance** is a form of dance that is performed by **Tibetan Buddhists during Buddhist festivals**, such as **Losar (the Tibetan New Year)**, and **Buddha Jayanti**. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**.
2. The Cham Lama dance is popular in Tibetan settlement areas of **Himachal Pradesh, such as Lahaul & Spiti, Ladakh and Kinnaur**. Hence **Statement 2 is Incorrect**
3. The performance involves monks in elaborate and **colorful masks, headgear and costumes** dancing slowly to the music played using traditional instruments such as **drums and cymbals** also performed by monks. Hence **Statement 3 is correct**.

Q23. Ans: C

Exp:

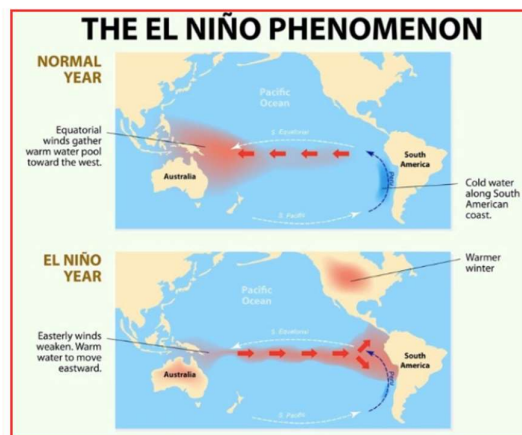
1. The Union Cabinet approved an attractive recruitment scheme for Indian youth to serve in the Armed Forces. The scheme is called **AGNIPATH** and the youth selected under this scheme will be known as **Agniveers**.
2. The policy, which comes into immediate effect, will hereafter govern the enrolment for the three services.
3. Under the AGNIPATH scheme, the Agniveers will be enrolled in the Forces under respective Service Acts for a period of **four years**.
4. They would form a **distinct rank in the Armed Forces**, different from any other existing ranks.
5. Enrolment will be based on '**All India All Class**' basis and the eligible age will be in range from **17.5 to 21 years**.

Q24. Ans: A

Exp:

1. **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** is a miniature version of the El Nino – La Nina phenomenon being enacted in the **Indian Ocean** from time to time. It has **negative and positive** phases. While **El Nino – La Nina** phenomena are related to **warming of Pacific ocean**. Hence **statement 1 is correct**
2. In the **negative case**, the sea surface warms up to the east of the Ocean basin relative to the west. This causes convection and precipitation to be confined to the East Indian Ocean, **robbing mainland India of its share and affecting rainfall**. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect**.
3. During a **positive IOD phase**, exactly the reverse happens; but a warmer west Indian Ocean has been found to fuel a concurrent Indian Monsoon.
4. Thus the event has a more direct and immediate impact on the monsoon than the El Nino-La Nina event.

El Nino – How Does it Occur?



Q25. Ans: A

Exp:

1. **Pokhran II** was a series of **five nuclear bomb test** explosions conducted at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in May 1998.

2. **National Technology Day is observed on May 11** each year to honour the accomplishments of Indian scientists and to recognise the Indian engineers, scientists, and technologists who contributed to the growth of India in the field of science and technology and helped make the Pokhran tests in May 1998 successful. Hence **statement 1 is correct**
3. **Operation Shakti** was the code name given to the Pokhran II nuclear tests in 1998. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect**

Q26. Ans: C

Exp:

1. **Mitochondrial replacement therapy (MRT)** is a form of **reproductive invitro fertilization (IVF)** which works on the **principle of replacing a women's mitochondrial DNA (mt-DNA)** with the donor's healthy one.
2. MRT include different techniques like **spindles transfer (ST)**, **pronuclear transfer (PNT)** or **polar body transfer (PBT)**.
3. Pronuclear transfer technique is a significant approach of MRT administered after fertilization, in which two zygotes are raised in vitro. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**.
4. Mitochondria are the organelle which contain **DNA in circular form**, and in animals it is the only organelle in addition to nucleus which contain DNA and gene.
5. The sperm contains very low number of mitochondria and mitochondrial gene. So, in the offspring the mitochondrial genes are inherited from the mother. Thus, a father with mitochondrial gene defect cannot transmit the disease to his offspring. Hence **Statement 2 is correct**.

Q27. Ans: C

Exp:

1. **Fair and Remunerative Price or FRP** is the price required to be paid by sugar mills and factories to sugarcane farmers. Hence **statement 1 is correct**
2. It was introduced in 2009 and replaced the concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP).
3. **State Advised Price or SAP** is the price announced by the state government, over and above the FRP.
4. Since sugar pricing comes under the **concurrent list**, the Supreme Court has held that both the centre and the state have the power to fix sugarcane prices. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect**.
5. **The Centre announces Fair and Remunerative Prices** which are determined on the recommendation of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** and are **announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, which is chaired by Prime Minister. Hence **statement 3 is correct**.

Q28. Ans: A

Exp:

1. The Constitution lays down only **two qualifications** for the appointment of a person as a governor. These are:
 - a. He should be a **citizen of India**.
 - b. He should have completed the **age of 35 years**.
2. Additionally, **two conventions** have also developed in this regard over the years.
 - a. First, he should be an outsider, that is, he should not belong to the state where he is appointed, so that he is free from the local politics. . Hence **Statement 1 is correct**
 - b. while appointing the governor, the president is required to consult the chief minister of the state concerned, so that the smooth functioning of the constitutional machinery in the state is ensured. However, both the conventions have been violated in some of the cases. Hence **Statement 2 is incorrect**
3. During his term of office, he is **immune from any criminal proceedings**, even in respect of his personal acts. Hence **Statement 3 is Correct**

Q29. Ans: B

Exp:

1. It is mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act and Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is not a statutory body. It is an agency under the Ministry of Finance.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** ED, unlike CBI, cannot register a case on its own. It is required by the agencies such as CBI or state police to register an offence based on which the ED Case Information Report is filed by the Enforcement Directorate.

Q30. Ans: C

Exp:

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act 2013

Highlights of the Bill:

1. The Bill defines sexual harassment at the workplace and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
2. It also provides safeguards against false or malicious charges. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.

Obligation:

1. Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
2. The District Officer is required to constitute a Local Complaints Committee at each district, and if required at the block level.

Complaint Committees:

1. The Complaints Committees have the powers of civil courts for gathering evidence.

2. The Complaints Committees are required to provide for conciliation before initiating an inquiry if requested by the complainant.

Q31. Ans: C

Exp:

1. Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code were introduced in the year **1861 by Thomas Babington Macaulay** who was a law member as per the Charter Act of 1833. Hence **statement 1 is correct.**
2. The IPC gives a substantive list of all crimes and provides the necessary punishment for each one of them. While CrPC is a procedural law, it lays down the ways or methods to be followed in a criminal case. So, if theft is committed, IPC would give the punishment for the said theft as directed under section 379.
3. The CrPC would concern itself with how the procedure of investigation is to be carried out, how the evidence is to be gathered, etc.
4. The Indian Penal Code (IPC) is the **official criminal code of India.** Hence **statement 3 is correct.**
5. The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) is the **primary legislation on the procedure** for the administration of criminal law in India. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect.**
6. Note - The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) has replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC) as the new penal code of India on December 25, 2023.

Q32. Ans: C

Exp:

1. It is one of the nine species of baobab and is **native to mainland Africa.** Hence **statement 1 is correct**
2. Baobabs are **deciduous trees** ranging in height from 5 to 20 meters. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect.**
3. It is characterized by grasses and small or dispersed trees that do not form a closed canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the ground. Hence **statement 3 is correct.**



Q33. Ans: D

Exp:

Alligator Gar

1. It is a ray-finned **euryhaline fish** and is one of the largest of all freshwater fishes.
2. Scientific Name: **Atractosteus spatula**
3. It is the largest species in the Gar family.
4. The **fossil record** traces its group's existence back to the **Early Cretaceous over 100 million years ago**.
5. Gars are often referred to as "**primitive fishes**", or "**living fossils**" because they have retained some morphological characteristics of their early ancestors.
6. Distribution: **Central and North America**. It is found in some parts of India such as Bhopal and Kerala.
7. IUCN: Least Concern

Q34. Ans: C

Exp:

1. It is a bank-led model which allows online interoperable financial inclusion transactions at Point of Sale (Micro ATM) through the Business correspondent (BC) (informal bank agent) of any bank using the Aadhaar authentication. Hence Statement 1 is correct
2. AEPS is developed by the National payment corporation of India (NPCI). It allows easy access to basic financial services through a micro ATM by just entering your Aadhaar pin and verifying it with your fingerprint. Hence Statement 2 is correct

Q35. Ans: A

Exp:

1. Fly ash, flue ash, coal ash, or pulverised fuel ash (in the UK): coal combustion residuals (CCRs) – is a coal combustion product that is composed of the particulates (fine particles of burned fuel) that are driven out of coal fired boilers together with the flue gases.
2. Ash that falls to the bottom of the boiler's combustion chamber (commonly called a firebox) is called bottom ash.
3. In modern coal-fired power plants, fly ash is generally captured by electrostatic precipitators or other particle filtration equipment before the flue gases reach the chimneys. Together with bottom ash removed from the bottom of the boiler, it is known as coal ash.
4. Components of fly ash vary considerably, but all fly ash includes substantial amounts of silicon dioxide (SiO₂) (both amorphous and crystalline), aluminium oxide (Al₂O₃) and calcium oxide (CaO), the main mineral compounds in coal-bearing rock strata.
5. The minor constituents of fly ash depend upon the specific coal bed composition but may include one or more of the following elements or compounds found in trace concentrations (up to hundreds ppm): gallium, arsenic, beryllium, boron, cadmium, chromium, hexavalent chromium, cobalt, lead, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, selenium, strontium, thallium, and vanadium, along with very small concentrations of dioxins and PAH compounds. It also has unburnt carbon.

Q36. Ans: B

Exp:

1. Storm Shadow Missile is a long-range cruise missile with stealth capabilities, jointly developed by the UK and France.
2. The missile is intended to strike high-valued stationary assets such as airbases, radar installations, communications hubs and port facilities.
3. Able to be operated in extreme conditions, the weapon offers operators a highly flexible, deep-strike capability based on a sophisticated mission planning system.
4. The Storm Shadow is also in service with the air forces of Egypt, India, Italy, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
5. It is typically launched from the air.
6. It carries a 450kg conventional warhead to a range of up to 200 miles (300km).
7. The missile weighs 1.3 tonnes and is just over 5m long.
8. It is equipped with fire-and-forget technology and fully autonomous guidance.
9. The missile is fitted with a passive imaging infrared seeker.

Q37. Ans: C

Exp:

1. CoWIN stands for "Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network".
2. It is a web portal for COVID-19 vaccination registration in India.
3. Indian Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare own and operate the platform.
4. It showcases booking slots of COVID-19 vaccine, that are available in nearby areas.
5. One can book the vaccination slot on the website.
6. It also provides vaccination certificates to the beneficiaries.
7. The vaccination certificates serve as "Vaccine Passports" during the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. Certificate can be stored in Digilocker.
9. CoWIN has also been integrated with the Aarogya Setu and UMANG Apps.

Q38. Ans: B

Exp:

1. The President is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area.
2. He can also increase or decrease its area, alter its boundary lines, rescind such designation or make fresh orders for such designation on an area in consultation with the governor of the state concerned. Hence, **statement 1 is NOT correct.**
3. The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
4. At present (2019), ten states of India have scheduled areas. - Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.
5. The Executive power of the Centre extends to giving directions to the states regarding the administration of scheduled areas.
6. A Tribal Advisory Council is to consist of 20 members, three-fourths of whom are to be the representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly.

Q39. Ans: A

Exp:

1. In September 1978, the International Conference on Primary Health Care was held in Alma-Ata, USSR (now Almaty, Kazakhstan).
2. The Declaration of Alma-Ata, co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), is a brief document that expresses "the need for urgent action by all governments, all health and development workers, and the world community to protect and promote the health of all the people of the world."
3. It was the first international declaration stating the importance of primary health care and outlining the world governments' role and responsibilities to the health of the world's citizens.

Q40. Ans: B

Exp:

Milkweed Butterflies:

1. They are any of a group of butterflies in the brush-footed butterfly family (Nymphalidae).
2. There are some 300 species in the group, including the iconic Monarch butterfly.

Distribution:

1. The majority of species are found in both Old and New World tropics (Old World refers to Europe, Africa, and Asia, while New World refers to North America, South America, and the Caribbean).
2. However, some well-known members of the group, such as the monarch butterfly and the queen butterfly, live in temperate regions.

Features:

1. The large, colourful adults have long, usually brownish or orange wings marked by black-and-white patterns.
2. They fly slowly, and some, such as the monarch butterfly, migrate great distances.
3. They feed chiefly on milkweed and sometimes on nightshade.
4. These plants contain acrid, milky juices that probably make the larva and its subsequent stages distasteful to predators. This, combined with a conspicuous colouration, protects them.

Q41. Ans: C

Exp:

Prakash Singh v. Union of India case

1. Prakash Singh served as DGP of UP Police and Assam Police, besides other postings.
2. He filed a PIL in the Supreme Court post retirement, in 1996, seeking police reforms.
3. In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court in September 2006 had directed all states and UTs to bring in police reforms.
4. The ruling issued a series of measures that were to be undertaken by the governments.
5. These were in line with ensuring that the police could do their work without worrying about any political interference.

Q42. Ans: C

There are nine countries with a shoreline at the Baltic Sea: Denmark, Germany, Poland, Russia (at the Gulf of Finland, and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad Oblast), Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and Sweden.

1. Trick to remember is **RuDe Germany SELL Finland and Poland**: Ru-Russia, De-Denmark, Germany, S-Sweden, E-Estonia, L-Latvia, L-Lithuania



Q43. Ans: B

Exp:

Kawal Tiger Reserve

1. Location: It is located in North Eastern part of Telangana (Old Adilabad district), with the Godavari River on one side and the Maharashtra border on the other.
2. It forms part of the Deccan peninsula central highlands.
3. Rivers: The reserve is the catchment for the rivers Godavari and Kadam, which flow towards the south of the sanctuary.
4. Corridor: It has connectivity to the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra in the North and to the Indravati tiger reserve of Chhattisgarh towards its North-Eastern side.
5. It has diverse habitats comprising of dense forests, grasslands, open areas, rivers, streams and water bodies.
6. Vegetation: Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest.

Q44. Ans: C

Exp:

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

1. ONDC is an initiative aimed at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
2. It is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
3. Making a software or a process open source means that the code or the steps of that process is made available freely for others to use, redistribute and modify.
4. It is developed as a counter to the current duopoly in the Indian e-commerce market which is largely dictated by Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart.

5. ONDC is not an application, an intermediary, or software, but a set of specifications designed to foster open interchange and connections between shoppers, technology platforms, and retailers.
6. It should be noted that ONDC is not:
 - a. A government regulatory body
 - b. A super aggregator application or a platform
 - c. A central intermediary
 - d. A medium to help digitise business.

How will the ONDC Work?

1. The ONDC platform lies in the middle of the interfaces hosting the buyers and the sellers.
2. Basically, ONDC ensures transition from platform-centric model to network-centric model.

Q45. Ans: D

Exp:

1. DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of MeitY under 'Digital India' programme.
2. This is government's effort to create an electronic version of documents, which can be easily verified and stored in printable format.
3. The users can store their documents such as insurance, medical reports, PAN card, passport, marriage certificate, school certificate and other documents in the digital format.
4. The locker can be accessed by individuals, using their mobile number.
5. Technology companies such as Google and Dropbox offer storage space for users to store documents.
6. Apart from e-documents, DigiLocker can store a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) link of e-documents issued by various issuer departments.

Q46. Ans: C

Exp:

1. Article 45: Provides for early childhood care and education below the age of six years. Hence statement 1 is correct.
2. Under Schedule 11 of the constitution, the Panchayati raj institutions have allowed 29 subjects to work in their local areas. Education is one of them.
3. Similarly in Schedule 12 of the constitution provides for 18 subjects and education is included here also. Hence statement 2 is correct
4. The seventh schedule of the constitution deals with the distribution of powers among states and centre via three lists: State List, Center List and Concurrent List.
5. 42nd amendment Act 1976 shifted below mentioned five subjects from State list to Concurrent List: Education, Forests, Protection of wild animals and birds, Weights and measures and Administration of justice, constitution and organisation of all courts except the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Q47. Ans: C

Exp:

1. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) was launched by the Government of India in 2018.
2. It is funded and managed by the Defence Innovation Organization (DIO).
3. It primarily aims at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, startups among others.
4. It also provides grants/funding to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.

Q48. Ans: B

Exp:

1. Recently, The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released a report titled 'Global status report on the public health response to 'dementia'.
2. Dementia is a syndrome – usually of a chronic or progressive nature – that leads to deterioration in cognitive function (i.e. the ability to process thought) beyond what might be expected from the usual consequences of biological ageing. Hence Statement 1 is incorrect.
3. Dementia is currently the seventh leading cause of death among all diseases and one of the major causes of disability and dependency among older people worldwide. Hence Statement 2 is correct.

Q49. Ans: A

The Taiwan Strait, also known as the Formosa Strait, connects the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

1. The strait is 180 kilometers wide and separates the island of Taiwan from the southeastern coast of mainland China.

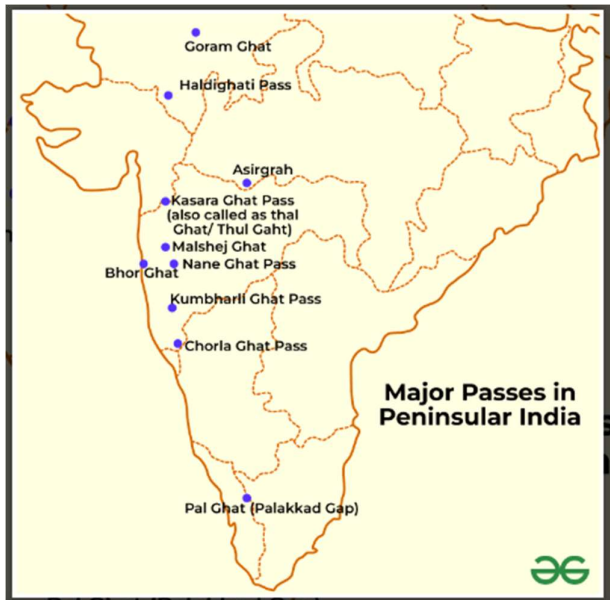


Q50. Ans: C

Exp:

1. Another name of western Ghats: Sahyadri in Maharashtra, Nilgiri hills in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Anaimalai hills and Cardamom hills in Kerala.

2. It is recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
3. The mountains of the Western Ghats are **Block Mountains**
4. The **Niligiri ranges** southeast of Mysore in Karnataka, meet the **Shevaroyes (Servarayan range)** and **Tirumala range** farther east, linking the Western Ghats to the Eastern Ghats.
5. The peak of Anamudi in Kerala is the highest peak in the Western Ghats
6. Gadgil Committee (2011): Also known as the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), it recommended that all of the Western Ghats be declared as the Ecological Sensitive Areas (ESA)
7. The Kasturirangan committee recommended that instead of the total area of Western Ghats, only 37% of the total area should be brought under ESA and a complete ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining be imposed in ESA.



Q51. Ans: B

Exp: :

Mahadayi or Mandovi or Mhadei river

1. originates in the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary located in the Belagavi district of Karnataka. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**
2. Mahadayi is a west-flowing river that enters Goa from Sattari taluk of the North Goa district and it finally joins the Arabian Sea at Panaji. Hence **Statement 2 is not correct**
3. The Mandovi river basin falls in the states of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
4. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary is located on the western tip of the Island of Chorão along the Mandovi River in Goa. Hence **Statement 3 is correct**



Q52. Ans: D

Exp:

1. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018 was brought to” provide for measures to deter fugitive economic offenders from evading the process of law in India by staying outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts, to preserve the sanctity of the rule of law in India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto”.
2. An FEO is defined by the act as “any individual against whom a warrant for arrest in relation to a scheduled offense has been issued by any court in India, who has left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution; or being abroad, refuses to return to India to face criminal prosecution”.
3. The individual should be involved in offenses of at least **100 crores**.Hence **Statement 1 is not correct**
4. To declare a person an FEO, an application has to be filed in a **Special Court (designated under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002)** containing details of the properties to be confiscated, and any information about the person’s whereabouts.
5. The Special Court will require the person to appear at a specified place at least six weeks from the issue of notice.
6. Proceedings of the **FEO court** will be terminated if the person appears. But he will have to face the due proceedings under other concerned laws. If person does not appear before the court he/she will be declared an FEO Hence **Statement 2 is not correct.**

Q53. Ans: C

Exp:

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

1. The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is an intergovernmental organisation set up for the promotion of free trade and economic integration to the benefit of its **four Member States – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland**– and the benefit of their trading partners around the globe. Hence **Statement 1 is correct.**
2. The EFTA is based on the **Stockholm Convention** signed by the seven nations and becoming operative in May 1960. Some of the member later left and few new members joined the group, consequently the number has reduced to present four. Hence **Statement 3 is Correct**
3. EFTA countries are not part of the European Union (EU). Hence **Statement 2 is Incorrect.**
4. It was founded as an **alternative for states** that did not wish to join the European Community.

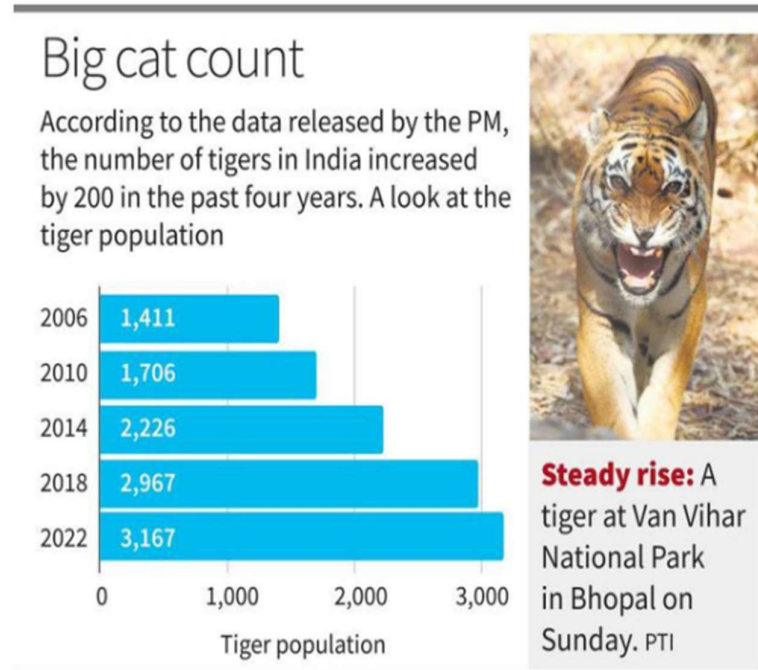
Q54. Ans: D

Exp:

Royal Bengal Tiger

1. Indian Tiger or Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is the sub species found in India.
2. **IUCN Red List: Endangered. Hence statement 1 is correct**
3. Wild life Protection Act: Schedule 1
4. CITES: Appendix 1
5. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (also known as the IUCN Red List or Red Data List), founded in 1964, is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of biological species (Animal, fungus and plant species).
6. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's main authority on the conservation status of species.
7. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's main authority on the conservation status of species.
8. Goals of IUCN: To provide scientific data on the status of species and subspecies at a global level.
9. India is home to 70% of tigers present globally.

10. Tiger Census data as follow



Q55. Ans: C

Exp: :

1. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**) defines '**Just Transition**' as the move towards an environmentally sustainable economy while contributing to the goals of decent work for all, social inclusion and the eradication of poverty.
2. A Just Transition refers to the greening of an economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind.

Q56. Ans: A

Exp:

1. Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) came into force by an act of Parliament. It was enacted on 29 December 1999. Hence statement 1 is correct
2. FEMA replaced an act called Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1973. This new Act is in consonance with the frameworks of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
3. The objective of FERA was conservation of Foreign Exchange whereas the objective of FEMA is Management of Foreign Exchange.
4. If there was a violation of FERA rules, then it was considered as Criminal offence wherein FEMA rules, it is considered as a civil offence. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

5. Similarly a person accused of FERA violation was not provided legal help unlike FERA where legal help will be provided.

Q57. Ans: B

Exp:

1. The Garos, who call themselves A'chiks, are the second largest tribe in Meghalaya.
2. The other two major tribes of Meghalaya are the Khasi People and the Jaintia tribe.
3. The Garo marriage is regulated by two important laws, Exogamy and A'Kim according to the belonging to the same clan. marriages are not allowed within the same clan.
4. According to the law of A'Kim, a man or a woman who has once contracted marriage will never be free to remarry person of another clan, even after the death of his/ her spouse.
5. The Garos are one of the few remaining matrilineal societies in the world.
6. The individuals take their clan titles from their mothers. Traditionally, the youngest daughter inherits the property from her mother.
7. Sons leave the parents' house at puberty, and are trained in the village bachelor dormitory (Nokpante).
8. After getting married, the man lives in his wife's house. Garos are only a matrilineal society, but not matriarchal.

Q58. Ans: D

Exp:

1. Wholesale Price Index is published by the Office of the Economic Advisor to the Government of India (Ministry of Finance).
2. WPI continues to constitute three major groups— Primary Articles, Fuel and Power, and Manufactured Products.
3. The new series of the WPI was released by the Government with the revised base year as 2011-12.
4. The prices used for compilation do not include indirect taxes in order to remove impact of fiscal policy.
5. A new Wholesale Food Price Index (WRFI) has been introduced—combining the Food Articles (belonging to the group Primary Articles) and Food Products (belonging to the group Manufactured Products).
6. Together with the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) released by Central Statistics Office.
7. Difference between WPI and Retail Inflation (CPI) - While the CPI-based retail inflation — the more widely tracked policy tool — looks at the price at which the consumer buys goods, the WPI tracks prices at the wholesale, or factory gate/mandi levels.

Q59. Ans: A

Exp:

1. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization that works to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration worldwide.
2. It was established in 1951 and became a United Nations-related organization in 2016.
3. The IOM's mandate includes providing services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, facilitating the management of migration, promoting international cooperation on migration issues, and supporting migrants in need, including those affected by crises and conflicts.
4. While the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) focuses on the protection of refugees and stateless persons, the IOM's scope extends to all aspects of migration, including migrants who are not classified as refugees.

Q60. Ans: D

Exp:

Blockchain Technology

1. Blockchain technology is a structure that stores transactional records, also known as the block, of the public in several databases, known as the "chain," in a network connected through peer-to-peer nodes.
2. Typically, this storage is referred to as a 'digital ledger.'
3. In simpler words, the digital ledger is like a Google spreadsheet shared among numerous computers in a network, in which, the transactional records are stored based on actual purchases.
4. The fascinating angle is that anybody can see the data, but they can't corrupt it. **Statement 1 is correct.**
5. Blockchain can be used for many purposes like Secure sharing of medical data, Music royalties tracking. **Statement 2 is incorrect.** It is an extreme statement also.
6. Applications that depend on basic features of the blockchain can thus be developed without asking anybody for permission or paying anyone. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Q61. Ans: D

Black Sea Grain initiative is an agreement between the United Nations, Türkiye, and Russia to allow exports via a safe maritime humanitarian corridor in the Black Sea

1. The mnemonic "**Tea & BURGeR**" can help you remember the countries that border the Black Sea:
 - T: Turkey
 - B: Bulgaria
 - U: Ukraine
 - R: Russia
 - G: Georgia

R: Romania



2. The countries around the Caspian Sea are TARIK:

T: Turkmenistan

A: Azerbaijan

R: Russia

I: Iran

K: Kazakhstan



Q62. Ans: C

Exp:

1. India has a pledge to phase out Single Use Plastics (SUPs) by 2022. Hence Statement 1 is incorrect
2. The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2022, provide for the classification of plastics into four categories. Hence Statement 2 is correct
 - a. Category 1: Rigid plastic packaging will be included under this category.
 - b. Category 2: Flexible plastic packaging of single layer or multilayer, plastic sheets and covers made of plastic sheet, carry bags, plastic sachet or pouches will be included under this category.
 - c. Category 3: Multi-layered plastic packaging (at least one layer of plastic and at least one layer of material other than plastic) will be included under this category.
 - d. Category 4: Plastic sheet or like used for packaging as well as carry bags made of compostable plastics fall under this category.
3. The term Extended Procedure Responsibility means the responsibility of a producer for the environmentally sound management of the product until the end of its life. Hence Statement 3 is correct

Q63 Ans: D

Explanation

1. Under the new PM-AASHA scheme, the existing Price Support Scheme (PSS) will continue for pulses and copra, with Central agencies — including the

NAFED and the Food Corporation of India — physically procuring the produce whenever the market rates fall below MSP, up to a maximum limit of 25% of the total harvest. 1 is incorrect.

2. The Centre currently fixes MSPs for 23 farm commodities based on the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommendations. 2 is incorrect.

Q64. Ans: B

Exp:

1. Initially, it was launched in 2020 by Ministry of Electronics and IT.
2. Government has announced an outlay of INR 1.97 Lakh Crores for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes across 14 key sectors,
3. It aims to :
 - a. Create national manufacturing champions
 - b. to Create 60 lakh new jobs,
 - c. Create an additional production of 30 lakh crore during next 5 years.
4. In addition to the three sectors announced earlier in March 2020, GoI has further expanded the scheme to more sectors later.
5. Initially targeted three industries:
 - a. Mobile and allied Component Manufacturing
 - b. Electrical Component Manufacturing
 - c. Medical Devices

Q65. Ans: A

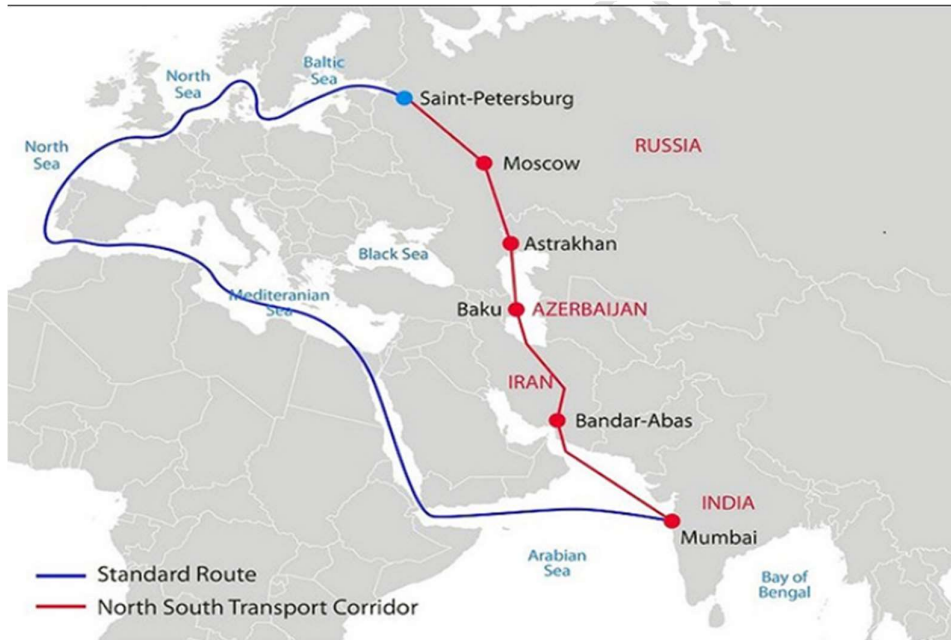
Exp:

Rasht-Astara railway

1. The Rasht-Astara railway is seen as an important link in the international North– South Transport Corridor, intended to connect India, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan and other countries via railways and sea - a route that Russia says can rival the Suez Canal as a major global trade route.
2. The 162 km (100 mile) railway along the Caspian Sea coast would help to connect Russian ports on the Baltic Sea with Iranian ports in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf.



The route of the Rasht–Astara Railway in Gilan Province of Iran (Source: Xalq Gazeti)



Q66. Ans: C
Exp:

1. The function of the committee is to examine case involving breach of privilege of the House or of the members of any committee referred to it by the House or by the Speaker and to make suitable recommendations in its report.
2. The Lok Sabha committee and the Rajya Sabha committee consist of 15 and 10 members respectively

Q67. Ans: C

Exp:

1. A scheme to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India under two components namely, Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) at a total estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crore.
2. The Scheme will be implemented during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.
3. The PMMSY will be implemented as an umbrella scheme with two separate Components namely (a) Central Sector Scheme (CS) and (b) Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
4. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Component is further segregated into Non-beneficiary oriented and Beneficiary orientated subcomponents/activities under the following three broad heads - Enhancement of Production and Productivity; Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Management, and Fisheries Management and Regulatory Framework.
5. It aims to augment fish production and productivity at a sustained average annual growth rate of about 9% to achieve a target of 22 million metric tons by 2024-25 through sustainable and responsible fishing practices

Q68. Ans: C

Exp:

1. A carbon border adjustment tax is a duty on imports based on the amount of carbon emissions resulting from the production of the product in question.
2. As a price on carbon, it discourages emissions.
3. The carbon border tax involves imposing an import duty on a product manufactured in a country with more lax climate rules than the one buying it.

Q69. Ans: B

Exp:

Kiru Hydro-Electric Power Project

1. Location: It is being developed over the Chenab River near the villages of Patharnakki and Kiru in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
2. It is located between Kirthai II hydroelectric project to its upstream and Kwar hydroelectric project to its downstream.

Q70. Ans: C

Exp: :

Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme 2010

1. Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme (NBS) allows the manufacturers, marketers, and importers to fix the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of the Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers at reasonable levels.
2. The domestic and international cost of P&K fertilisers is considered along with the country's inventory levels and the currency exchange rate in order to decide the MRP.
3. Under this scheme, farmers receive fertilizers at discounted rates based on the nutrients (N, P, K, and S) that these fertilizers contain.
4. Additional Subsidies are provided for fertilizers which contain secondary and micronutrients like zinc and Molybdenum.
5. The scheme is administered by the Department of Fertilizers under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
6. The aims of the NBS scheme are the following
7. The scheme aims at ensuring that a sufficient quantity of P&K is at the farmer's disposal at statutory controlled prices so that agricultural growth can be sustained and balanced nutrient application to the soil can be ensured.
8. It aims at ensuring the balanced use of fertilizers, improving agricultural productivity, promoting the growth of the indigenous fertilizer industry, and also reducing the burden of subsidy.
9. The goal of the NBS policy is to boost the consumption of P&K fertilizers to reach the ideal balance (N:P: K= 4:2:1) of NPK fertilization.
10. There are three basic fertilizers used in India- Urea, Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), and Muriate of Potash (MOP).

Q71. Ans: C

Exp:

1. Jallikattu is a traditional sport that is popular in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
2. The sport involves releasing a wild bull into a crowd of people, and the participants attempt to grab the bull's hump and ride it for as long as possible, or attempt to bring it under control.
3. It is celebrated in the month of January, during the Tamil harvest festival, Pongal.

Q72. Ans: B

Exp:

1. Green deposits, although similar to regular deposits accepted by banks, have a notable distinction.
2. Banks commit to allocating the funds obtained from green deposits specifically for environmentally friendly initiatives.
3. This could involve utilizing the funds to finance **renewable energy projects** aimed at combatting climate change.
4. Green deposits represent a single offering among various financial products, including green bonds, designed to enable investors to contribute funds to promote ecological sustainability.

Q73. Ans: A

Exp:

1. **Greenwashing** is the practice in which firms and governments mark all kinds of activities as climate-friendly, as something that would lead to emissions reduction, or avoidance of emissions.
2. Many of these claims are unverifiable, misleading, or dubious.

Q74. Ans: D

Exp:

Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR):

1. The Palamau Tiger Reserve is in the western side of Latehar district on the Chhota Nagpur plateau
2. This tiger reserve is surrounded by the **Auranga River** in the North.
3. It is the first reserve in the world in which a tiger census was carried out as a pugmark count, as early as 1932 under the supervision of J.W. Nicholson
4. This Tiger reserve zone is the watershed area for 3 important rivers Koel, Burha, and Auranga.
5. Many aquifers locally called 'Chuan' are also present inside the reserve.
6. A sulfur hot spring 'Tatha' is present near Barwadih.
7. Flora: The project area is constituted mainly of Sal forests, mixed deciduous forests, and bamboo groves.
8. Fauna: The keystone species are Tigers, Elephants, Leopards, Grey Wolf, Gaur, Sloth Bear, etc.

Q75. Ans: A

Exp:

Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests - Climatic Conditions

1. Annual rainfall 100 to 200 cm.
2. Mean annual temperature of about 27°C
3. The average annual relative humidity of 60 to 75 per cent.
4. Spring (between winter and summer) and summer are dry.

Characteristics

1. The trees drop their leaves during the spring and early summer when sufficient moisture is not available.
2. The general appearance is bare in extreme summers (April-May).
3. Tropical moist deciduous forests present irregular top storey [25 to 60 m].
4. Heavily buttressed trees and fairly complete undergrowth.
5. These forests occupy a much larger area than the evergreen forests but large tracts under these forests have been cleared for cultivation.

Q76. Ans: A

Exp:

About Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure

1. It is a significant step towards trying to fill a key gap in the fight against climate change: standardised, real-time tracking of greenhouse gasses.
2. The new platform will integrate space-based and surface-based observing systems, and seek to clarify uncertainties about where greenhouse gas emissions end up.
3. It should result in much faster and sharper data on how the planet's atmosphere is changing.
4. The three major greenhouses gases are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.
5. Of those, CO₂ accounts for around 66% of the warming effect on the climate.
6. The increase in CO₂ levels from 2020 to 2021 was higher than the average growth rate over the past decade, and methane saw the biggest year-on-year jump.
7. It seeks to build on WMO's experience in coordination international collaboration in weather prediction and climate analysis and on long-standing activities in greenhouse gas monitoring, research and provision of related services under the auspices of the Global Atmosphere Watch established in 1989 and its Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System (IG3IS).

Q77. Ans: C



Q78. Ans: A

Exp:

Bulk Drug Parks Scheme

1. The scheme is expected to reduce manufacturing cost of bulk drugs in the country and dependency on other countries for bulk drugs. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
2. The scheme will be implemented by State Implementing Agencies (SIA) to be set up by the respective State Governments. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

Q79. Ans: D

Exp:

Liberalised Remittance Scheme:

1. This is the scheme of the Reserve Bank of India, introduced in the year 2004. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
2. Under the scheme, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April – March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.
3. The Scheme is not available to corporations, partnership firms, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), Trusts etc. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
4. Though there are no restrictions on the frequency of remittances under LRS, once a remittance is made for an amount up to USD 2,50,000 during the financial year, a resident individual would not be eligible to make any further remittances under this scheme.
5. Remitted Money can be used for expenses related to travelling (private or for business), medical treatment, study, gifts and donations, maintenance of close relatives and so on.
6. Investment in shares, debt instruments, and buy immovable properties in the overseas market.
7. Individuals can also open, maintain and hold foreign currency accounts with banks outside India for carrying out transactions permitted under the scheme.
8. Any purpose specifically prohibited under Schedule-I (like the purchase of lottery tickets, proscribed magazines, etc.) or any item restricted under Schedule II of Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000. Trading in foreign exchange abroad. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
9. Capital account remittances, directly or indirectly, to countries identified by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as “non- cooperative countries and territories”, from time to time.
10. Remittances directly or indirectly to those individuals and entities identified as posing a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism as advised separately by the Reserve Bank to the banks.
11. It is mandatory for the resident individual to provide his/her Permanent Account Number (PAN) for all transactions under LRS made through Authorized Persons.

Q80. Ans: C

Exp:

1. As per the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) criteria, heat wave need not be considered till the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at-least 30°C for Hilly regions. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
2. If the normal maximum temperature of a station is less than or equal to 40°C, then an increase of 5°C to 6°C from the normal temperature is considered to be heat wave condition. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
3. Further, an increase of 7°C or more from the normal temperature is considered a severe heat wave condition.
4. If the normal maximum temperature of a station is more than 40°C, then an increase of 4°C to 5°C from the normal temperature is considered to be heat wave condition.

5. Further, an increase of 6°C or more is considered a severe heat wave condition.
6. Additionally, if the actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more irrespective of normal maximum temperature, a heat wave is declared.

Q81. Ans: B

Exp:

India's Status on Various International Treaties about Nuclear Weapons:

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) 1968:

1. India is not a signatory; it declined to accede to the NPT, citing concerns about the treaty's perceived discriminatory nature and lack of reciprocal obligations from nuclear weapons states. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):

1. India has not signed the CTBT as it is a strong advocate for a time-bound disarmament commitment from nuclear weapon states (NWS) and may use the lack of a commitment as a reason to refrain from signing the CTBT. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW):

1. It entered into force on 22 January 2021 and India is not a member of this treaty.

Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG):

1. India is not a member of the NSG. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Wassenaar Arrangement:

1. India joined the arrangement on December 2017 as its 42nd participating state.

Q82. Ans: C

Exp:

1. The Himalayan Chandra Telescope is a 2.01-meter (6.5 feet) diameter optical infrared telescope named after India-born Nobel laureate Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar.
2. It was installed at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO), Mt. Saraswati, Digparatsa Ri, Hanle, Ladakh at an altitude of 4500 m (15000 ft) above mean sea level (msl) by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bangalore, in August 2000.
3. Its primary goal is to study electromagnetic counterparts to gravitational wave sources, young supernovae and near-earth asteroids.
4. It contains a modified Ritchey-Chretien system with a primary mirror made of ULE ceramic which is designed to withstand low temperatures it experiences.
5. The telescope is mounted with 3 science instruments called - Himalaya Faint Object Spectrograph (HFOSC), Near-IR imager and Optical CCD imager.
6. The telescope is remotely operated via an INSAT-3B satellite link which allows operation even in sub-zero temperatures in winter.
7. This dedicated link is provided by the Centre for Research & Education in Science & Technology (CREST), Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore.
8. It is the country's first robotic telescope and the first one designed to observe dynamic or transient events in the universe.

Q83. Ans: C

Exp:

1. IREDA, a mini ratna (Category-1) company under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) was set up in 1987 to work as a specialised non-banking finance agency for the Renewable Energy (RE) sector.
2. IREDA with more than 34 years of techno-commercial expertise, plays a catalytic role in the RE project financing which gives confidence to the FIs/banks to lend in the sector.

Q84. Ans: C



Q85. Ans: C

Exp:

1. **Statement 1 and 3 are correct.** MEIDP is a 2,000-km-long energy corridor
2. It aims to connect the Gulf & Middle East regions to India for the transportation of Natural Gas.
3. The pipeline will allow options to import gas from Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkmenistan and Qatar.
4. **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The pipeline has been proposed by South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE)

Q86. Ans: B

Exp:

1. **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Artificial sweeteners provide a sweet taste with very little to no calories.
2. **Statement 2 is correct.** Artificial sweeteners have been linked to an increased risk of Type-2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and mortality in the long run
3. WHO has said that artificial sweeteners should not be used as a means of achieving weight control or reducing the risk of non-communicable diseases.
4. Due to the use of artificial sweeteners, there could be some weight loss and reduction in Body Mass Index in the short term but in the long run, they have been linked to weight gain.

Q87. Ans: D

Exp:

Statement 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

1. Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill 2023 has proposed to set up a Rajasthan Platform-Based Gig Workers Social Security and Welfare Fund.
2. Platform-based Gig Workers Welfare Board will be chaired by the state Labour minister, and will have representatives from gig workers' unions, aggregators, and members of civil society.
3. All platform-based workers in the state would be automatically registered with the Board regardless of their employment period with the respective platform

Q88. Ans: B

Exp: –

1. **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The Bharathapuzha River flows through the Palghat Gap.
2. **Statements 2 and 3 are correct.** The Palghat Gap is classified as dry evergreen forest.
3. The Gap is a geological shear zone that runs from east to west.
4. Palghat Gap is often called a significant discontinuity in the Western Ghats.
5. The Gap is about 40 km wide, with the steep Nilgiris and Anamalai hills, both rising above 2,000 meters on either side.

Q89 Ans: D

Exp:

Cape Town Convention

1. It is an international treaty intended to standardize transactions involving movable property.
2. India is a signatory of this convention
3. The Cape Town Convention (CTC) is a global treaty that guarantees the rights of lessors to repossess leased high-value equipment such as aircraft, engines, and helicopters in case of payment defaults.
4. It was adopted at a conference in Cape Town in November 2001 under the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).

Q90. Ans: A

The Bering Strait is a strait that connects the Arctic Ocean with the Bering Sea.

1. It's about 98 to 164 feet (30 to 50 meters) deep and at its narrowest is about 53 miles (85 km) wide.
2. The Bering Strait also separates Russia and Alaska at their closest point, which is about 53 miles.
3. In the body of water between Alaska and Russia, there are two small islands known as Big Diomedede and Little Diomedede.
4. Some of the Bering Sea water passes into the Arctic Ocean through the strait, but most of it returns to the Pacific



Q91. Ans: C

Exp:

1. **Statement 1 and 3 are correct.** Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rule 2022 is notified for promoting generation, purchase and consumption of green energy including the energy from Waste-to-Energy plants.
2. Under the rules, consumers are entitled to demand supply of Green Power from Discoms.
3. **Statement 2 is incorrect.** According to these rules, tariff for supply of renewable power by discoms are to be set separately

Q92. Ans: B

Exp: -

1. It is an indigenously designed and developed Light Tank.

2. Developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro Limited.

Features

1. It is designed to operate in varying terrain from high altitude areas and marginal terrains to island territories.
2. It will be highly transportable for rapid deployment to meet any operational situation.
3. It will be equipped with all the modern technologies such as Artificial Intelligence,
4. Drone Integration, a high degree of situational awareness, and amphibious operation capability.
5. It will weigh less than 25 tonnes with a high power-to-weight ratio as well as superior firepower and protection.

Zorawar was a military general

1. Zorawar Singh Kahluria, and had served under Jammu's Raja Gulab Singh in the 19th Century.
2. He is honored for his conquests in the Himalayas including Ladakh, Tibet, Baltistan and Skardu.

Q93. Ans: D

Exp: -

1. The G7 emerged as a restricted club of the rich democracies in the early 1970s.
2. The quadrupling of oil prices just after the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, when members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) imposed an embargo against Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, and the United States, shocked their economies.
3. The then French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing invited the Finance Ministers of five of the most developed members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United States, Germany, Japan, Italy, and the United Kingdom, for an informal discussion on global issues.
4. This transformed into a G7 Summit of the heads of government from the following year, with the inclusion of Canada (1976), and the European Commission/Community (later Union) attending as a non-enumerated member, a year later.
5. On the initiative of U.S. President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the G7 became the G8, with the Russian Federation joining the club in 1998.
6. This ended with Russia's expulsion following the annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Q94. Ans: A

Exp:

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),

1. a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity has been in force since 1993. It has 3 main objectives -
 - a. The **conservation** of biological diversity;
 - b. The **sustainable use** of the components of biological diversity, and;
 - c. The **fair and equitable** sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

2. Nearly all countries have ratified it (notably, the US has signed but not ratified).
3. The CBD Secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada and it operates under the United Nations Environment Programme.
4. The Parties (Countries) under Convention of Biodiversity (CBD), meet at regular interval and these meetings are called Conference of Parties (COP).

Q95. Ans: A

Exp: -

1. Sendai Framework is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action.
2. It is a voluntary and non-binding agreement which recognises that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

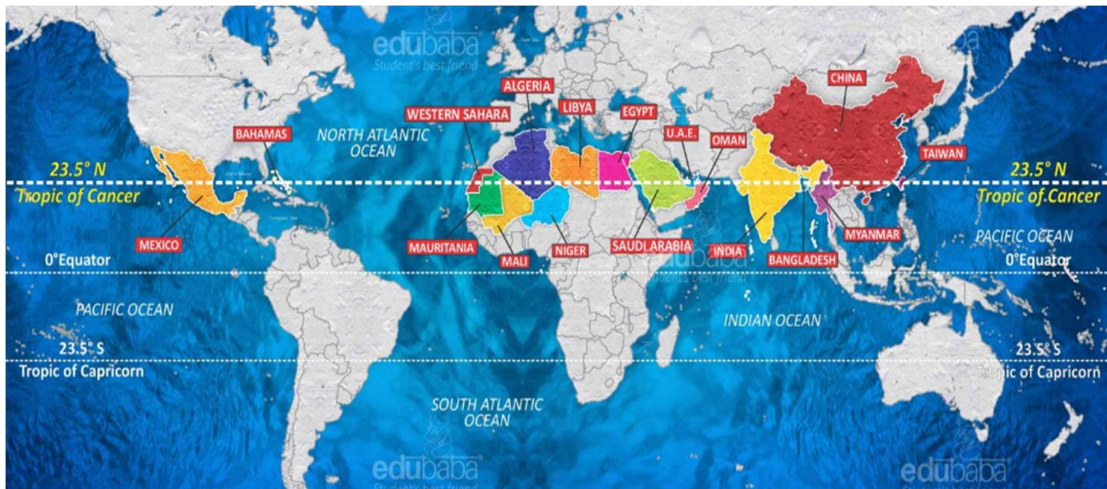
Q96. Ans: B

Exp: -

1. STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
2. The project covers 6 States namely Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.
3. The identified States will be supported for various interventions for improving the quality of education.
4. The STARS project seeks to support the states in developing, implementing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes and school to work transition strategies for improved labour market outcomes.
5. The overall focus and components of the STARS project are aligned with the objectives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 of Quality Based Learning Outcomes.
6. The Project envisions improving the overall monitoring and measurement activities in the Indian School Education System through interventions in selected states.
7. The project shifts focus from the provision of inputs and maintaining of outputs to actual outcomes by linking the receipt and disbursement of funds to these outcomes.

Q97. Ans: B

Countries through which Tropic of Cancer passes



Q98. Ans: C

Exp:

1. India is the largest manufacturer of generic medicines globally (valued at US\$50bn currently and expected to reach US\$130 Bn by 2030)
2. Indian Pharma ranks third in pharmaceutical production by volume. India is often referred to as the 'pharmacy of the world'
3. India is the largest vaccine supplier in the world by volume (over 50% of all vaccines manufactured in the world)
4. Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI): It is responsible for approving licenses for specified categories of drugs, setting standards for manufacturing, sales, import, and distribution of drugs in India, and heads the department of CDSCO.

Q99. Ans: C

Exp:

1. A ruling by the Supreme Court is final and binding.
2. The SC rarely entertains reviews of its rulings. However, Article 137 of the Constitution grants the SC the power to review its judgments or orders.
3. When a review takes place, the law is that it is allowed not to take fresh stock of the case but to correct grave errors that have resulted in the miscarriage of justice.
4. A review petition must be filed within 30 days of pronouncement of the judgment.
5. As per the Civil Procedure Code and the Supreme Court Rules, any person aggrieved by a ruling can seek a review.
6. In a 1975 ruling, Justice Krishna Iyer said a review can be accepted only where a glaring omission or patent mistake or like grave error has crept in earlier by judicial fallibility.
7. In a 2013 ruling, the Supreme Court itself laid down three grounds for seeking a review of a verdict it has delivered
8. the discovery of new and important matter or evidence which, after the exercise of due diligence, was not within the knowledge of the petitioner or could not be produced by him; • mistake or error apparent on the face of the record; or any other sufficient reason.
9. In subsequent rulings, the court specified that "any sufficient reason" means a reason that is analogous to the other two grounds.

10. In another 2013 ruling (*Union of India v. Sandur Manganese & Iron Ores Ltd*), the court laid down nine principles on when a review is maintainable.
11. Procedure followed while hearing the review cases — Except in cases of death penalty, review petitions are heard through circulation by judges in their chambers, and not in an open court.
12. Lawyers make their case through written submissions and not oral arguments.
13. The judges who passed the verdict decide on the review petition as well.

Q100. Ans: A

Exp:

1. A systematic and modern population census, in its present form was conducted non synchronously between 1865 and 1872 (during Lord Mayo's time) in different parts of the country.
2. This effort culminating in 1872 has been popularly labeled as the first population census of India. However, the first synchronous census in India was held in 1881 (during Lord Mayo's time). Since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years.
3. The last caste-based census was conducted by the British in 1931.

Q101. Ans: A

Exp:

1. The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat by signing a Host Country agreement between the Government of India and the World Health Organisation (WHO).
2. The WHO GCTM will be established in Jamnagar under the Ministry of AYUSH.
3. This would be the first and only global outposted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.

Q102. Ans: A

Exp:

1. Bond prices and yields move in opposite directions.
2. Bond prices and yields act like a seesaw: When bond yields go up, prices go down, and when bond yields go down, prices go up.
3. In other words, an upward change in the 10-year Treasury bond's yield from 2.2% to 2.6% is a negative condition for the bond market, because the bond's interest rate moves up when the bond market trends down.
4. This happens largely because the bond market is driven by the supply and demand for investment money.
5. If investors are unwilling to spend money buying bonds, the price of them goes down and this makes interest rates rise. When rates rise, that can attract those bond buyers back to the market, driving prices back up and rates back down. So conversely, a downward move in the bond's interest rate from 2.6% down to 2.2% actually indicates positive market performance.

Q103. Ans: A

Exp: -

1. Government of India has announced the launch of the pilot phase of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) in five cities in April 2022 with an aim to "democratise" the country's fast growing digital e-commerce space that is currently dominated by the two U.S.- headquartered firms — Amazon and Walmart.
2. As per the strategy paper on ONDC, it is a not-for-profit organisation that will offer a network to enable local digital commerce stores across industries to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled applications.
3. It is neither an aggregator application nor a hosting platform, and all existing digital commerce applications and platforms can voluntarily choose to adopt and be a part of the ONDC network.
4. The ONDC aims to enable buying of products from all participating e-commerce platforms by consumers through a single platform.
5. Currently, a buyer needs to go to Amazon, for example, to buy a product from a seller on Amazon.
6. Under ONDC, it is envisaged that a buyer registered on one participating e-commerce site (for example, Amazon) may purchase goods from a seller on another participating e-commerce site (for example, Flipkart)