

MAY 2019
MCQs based
on Current affairs
Mentors4ias
Breaking barriers to greatness

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1. Which of the following statements are true?

1. The 'Pariwartan' scheme is inspired by the Troubled Asset Relief Programme, or TARP, which was introduced in the US during the 2008 financial crisis.

2. The proposed plan Pariwartan aims to stem the rise in bad loans in the MSME.

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

2. The SAMADHAN scheme is associated with?

- a) Regeneration of Traditional Industries
- b) Promotion of Jan dhan Yojana
- c) Power Sector Non Performing Assets
- d) Scholarship to Minority Students

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Nansen Initiative is a state-led consultative process to build consensus on a protection agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change.

2. The Nansen Initiative does not seek to develop new legal standards, but rather to build consensus among states on the elements of a protection agenda.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Which of the following statements are true?

1. Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) is a planned space probe that will demonstrate the kinetic effects of crashing an impactor spacecraft into an asteroid moon for planetary defense purposes.

2. DART is a joint project between NASA and the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL),

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

5. AWSAR is associated with?

- a) Reduce brain drain
- b) Encourage science writing
- c) Improving SC/ST participation in research
- d) None of the above

6. Which of the following statements are true?

1. Swadhar Greh scheme envisions a supportive institutional framework for women victims of difficult circumstances so that they could lead their life with dignity and conviction.

2. The scheme envisions that the special needs of these women are properly taken care of and under no circumstances they should be left unattended or abandoned which could lead to their exploitation and desolation.

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

7. Socotra island is located at?

- (a) Arabian sea
- (b) Java sea
- (c) Andaman sea
- (d) None of the above

8. Delhi dialogue is associated with?

- (a) ASEAN
- (b) SAARC
- (c) BIMSTEC
- (d) BRICS

9. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Work related to the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) has been taken away from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and brought under the domain of the Finance Ministry

2. Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) is now functioning under the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Finance Ministry.

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

10. Global slavery index is published by?

- (a) Walk free foundation
- (b) Human Rights watch
- (c) Amnesty International
- (d) United Nations Development Programme

11. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India.

2. CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of The Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption

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

12. The Ain-i-Akbari or the "Administration of Akbar", is written by?

- (a) Abu'l Fazl
- (b) Tansen
- (c) Birbal
- (d) Faizi

13. Project SRIMAN is associated with?

- (a) To hire out to researchers all lab equipment that cost more than Rs. 10 lakh.
- (b) Impactful Policy Research in Social Science
- (c) providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions
- (d) Ensuring learning outcomes in Elementary Education

14. Which of the following statements are true:

1. ISRO has announced it would give funds to Made In Space's project- RAMA (Reconstituting Asteroids into Mechanical Automata), for finding ways to turn asteroids into giant, autonomous spacecrafts.

2. The project aims to enable asteroid rendezvous missions in which a set of technically simple robotic processes convert asteroid elements into very basic versions of spacecraft subsystems (GNC, Propulsion, Avionics).

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

15. SAFAR system is related to?

- (a) Chandrayan 2 mission
- (b) Air Quality Monitoring
- (c) Ever Green Revolution
- (d) Artifact Repository

16. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Sri Vedanta Desikan is one of the most brilliant stalwarts of Shaivism in the post-Ramanuja period.

2. His literary works include Sri Sthothra Nidhi, Sri Paduka Sahasram, Rahasya Granthams, Sri Desika Prabandham and Kavyams.

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

17. This animal is the state animal of Jammu & Kashmir. It is restricted to the Dachigam National Park. The IUCN's Red List has classified it as Critically Endangered and is similarly listed under the Species Recovery Programme of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). Which of the following animal do these statements describe of?

- (a) Hangul
- (b) Sangai
- (c) Shrew
- (d) Tahr

18. cVIGIL App is associated with?

- (a) Allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC)
- (b) To learn about the current and applicable GST rates
- (c) One-in-all app which provides over 100 services such as payment of utility bills
- (d) Ensuring learning outcomes in Elementary Education

19. Which of the following statements are true:
1. A bodhisattva is a Buddhist deity who has attained the highest level of enlightenment, but who delays their entry into Paradise in order to help the earthbound

2. The bodhisattva, known in Sanskrit as Avalokiteśvara, takes both male and female form and is associated with the qualities of mercy and compassion

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

20. The Moscow Declaration is related to?

- (a) Ending TB
- (b) Snow Leopard conservation
- (c) Reduction of PM 2.5
- (d) Ending Measles

21. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The International Telecommunication Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Geneva, Switzerland.

2. It is the oldest among all the 15 specialized agencies of UN.

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

22. Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index is published by?

- (a) UNDP
- (b) IMF
- (c) World Bank
- (d) SCO

23. Global Environment Outlook Report is published by?

- (a) IUCN
- (b) CITES
- (c) UN Environment
- (d) None of the above

24. Which of the following statements are true:

1. West Nile Virus (WNV) is a member of Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex, which can cause neurological disease and death in people.

2. WNV is maintained in nature in a cycle involving transmission between birds and mosquitoes, Humans, horses and other mammals can be infected.

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

25. Which of the following countries participate in the Joint field training Exercise AFINDEX?

- (a) USA
- (b) Japan
- (c) Australia
- (d) None of the above

26. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Aditya- L1 mission is India's first solar mission which will study the sun's outer most layers, the corona and the chromospheres and collect data about coronal mass ejection, which will also yield information for space weather prediction.

2. The data from Aditya mission will be immensely helpful in discriminating between different models for the origin of solar storms and also for constraining how the storms evolve and what path they take through the interplanetary space from the Sun to the Earth.

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

27. IMPRINT scheme is related to?

- (a) Research and Innovation
- (b) Green House Gas reduction
- (c) Payment Banks
- (d) Philately

28. O-Smart scheme is implemented by?

- (a) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- (b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (d) Ministry of Women and Child Development

29. Which of the following statements are true:

1. TReDS is an online electronic institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of MSMEs through multiple financiers.

2. The TReDS Platform will enable discounting of invoices/bills of exchange of MSME Sellers against large Corporates including Govt. Departments and PSUs, through an auction mechanism, to ensure prompt realization of trade receivables at competitive market rates.

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

30. All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey is conducted by?

- (a) NABARD
- (b) Ministry of Finance
- (c) Ministry of rural development
- (d) NITI Ayog

31. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Vaishnava saint of Assam, Shankaradeva introduced the Sattriya form of dance.

2. Sattriya derives its name from the Vaishnava Monastries Known as Sattras.

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

32. Tribangha posture is associated with?

- (a) Mohiniyattam
- (b) Odissi
- (c) Manipuri
- (d) Kathakali

33. The Human Rights upfront is an initiative by?

- (a) Amnesty International
- (b) UNICEF
- (c) United Nations
- (d) None of the above

34. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Buddha's presence in early Indian art is suggested by symbols like the Bodhi tree, the wheel of law, his foot prints etc.

2. Buddha is never represented in human form in Buddhist art before the Christian era.

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

35. Hitopadesha was written by ?

- (a) Vishnu Sharma
- (b) Bana
- (c) Narayan Pandit
- (d) Aswaghosha

36. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Polar mesospheric clouds (PMCs) form 50 miles above the poles during summer.

2. They're mostly made up of ice crystals and appear like faint lines in the sky.

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

37. SATAT initiative is related to?

- (a) E-vehicle charging Facilities
- (b) Green House Gas reduction
- (c) Methanol and Petrol blending
- (d) Compressed Bio-Gas Production

38. PISA assessment is related to?

- (a) Research in disaster risk reduction and management studies
- (b) Performance in mathematics, reading, science and innovative subjects
- (c) Quality check for providing international license for hospitals and medical Laboratories
- (d) None of the above

39. Which of the following statements are true:
1. The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) has jointly developed a mobile app called Jan Dhan Darshak as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiative.

2. This app will act as a guide for the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country.

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

40. The terms Jhum, dahi,koman, Penda and Podu are related to ?

- (a) Shifting cultivation
- (b) Indigenous rain water harvesting techniques
- (c) Types of root bridges of Meghalaya
- (d) None of the above

41. Which of the following statements are true:

1. HySIS (Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite) is an Earth observation satellite which will provide hyperspectral imaging services

2. HysIS will be NASA's first full-scale working satellite with this capability.

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

42. Prithvi Missile is a?

- (a) Surface to Surface Missile
- (b) Surface to Air Missile
- (c) Air to Surface Missile
- (d) None of the above

43. Which of the following is not a NASA Mission?

- (a) Parker Solar Probe
- (b) InSight Mar Lander
- (c) Opportunity Rover
- (d) None of the above

44. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The neutrinos are second most abundant particles in the universe.

2. They carry no electrical charge and nearly massless.

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

45. B. N. Srikrishna committee is associated with?

- (a) Data Protection
- (b) LGBT Rights
- (c) Adultery Law
- (d) Prison Reforms

46. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The main stream of Ganga begins at the confluence of the Bhagirathi and Alaknanda rivers in the town of Devprayag in the Indian state of Uttarakhand.

2. River Godavari is also known as dakshin Ganga.

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

47. The Blue Flag beach standards were established by?

- (a) Beach Management Service (BeaMS)
- (b) Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)
- (c) Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)
- (d) None of the above

48. Composite Water Management Index is released by?

- (a) NITI Ayog
- (b) Central Pollution Control Board
- (c) Central Water Commission
- (d) None of the above

49. Which of the following statements are true:
1. Comprehensive Pollution Index is measured by Central Pollution Control Board for Monitoring Polluted Industrial Areas (PIAs).
2. It is a rational number between 0 and 100.

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

50. WAYU (wind augmentationpurifying unit) is developed by?

- (a) IIT Guwahati
- (b) IISc Bangalore
- (c) National Environmental Engineering Research Institute
- (d) The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research

51. Which of the following statements are true:
1. Hiuen-Tsang came to India in the reign of Chandragupta II.
2. Fa-Hien visited India during the reign of Harshavardhana.

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

52. Project Sashakt is related to?

- (a) Stressed assets in banking sector
- (b) Stressed assets in DISCOMs
- (c) Improving literacy rate
- (d) None of the above

53. The objective of the Niryat Bandhu Scheme is to?

- (a) Reach out to the new and potential exporters and mentor them
- (b) Empowerment of women through MSMEs
- (c) Provide technical help to farmers
- (d) Improve financial inclusion

54. Which of the following statements are true:
1. The Khajuraho Group of Monuments is a group of Hindu and Jain temples in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh.
2. It is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India.

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

55. Tholu Bommalata, the shadow puppet theatre tradition has originated from?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Maharashtra

56. Which of the following statements are true:
1. Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is a 2010 supplementary agreement to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
2. It is the second protocol to the CBD; the first is the 2000 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

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

57. Project Saksham is related to?

- (a) Indian Railways
- (b) Co-operative societies
- (c) Self Help Groups
- (d) Contract Farming

58. Which of the following can lead to value falling of rupee?

- (a) Pulling out of Foreign Portfolio Investors
- (b) Rising global crude prices
- (c) Fears of de-globalization
- (d) All of the above

59. Which of the following statements are true:

1. A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under Companies Act that provides financial services without meeting the legal definition of a bank.

2. They can only accept demand deposits and not time deposits.

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

60. BHARAT 22 is ?

- (a) Voluntary regulatory framework on bank capital adequacy
- (b) Safety norms for automobiles
- (c) An Exchange traded fund
- (d) None of the above

61. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The Bahmani Sultanate was a Muslim state of the Deccan in South India.

2. The last remnant of the Bahmani sultanate was defeated and destroyed in 1509 by Vijayanagara Empire.

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

62. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Ibn Battuta - Venice
- (b) Domingo Paes - Portugese
- (c) Abdul Razak -Morocco
- (d) Nicolo De Conti - Persia

63. Thevaram was written by?

- (a) Nayanmars
- (b) Alvars
- (c) Vira Shaivas
- (d) None of the above

64. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Nalanda was a Mahavihara, a large and revered Buddhist monastery, in the ancient kingdom of Magadha.

2. Vallabhi was a Hinayana university.

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

65. Global Environment Outlook is published by?

- (a) UN Environment
- (b) WWF
- (c) IUCN
- (d) Conservation International

66. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The East India Association was founded by Dadabhai Naoroji in 1866, in collaboration with Indians and retired British officials in London.

2. It superseded the London Indian Society and was a platform for discussing matters and ideas about India, and to provide representation for Indians to the Government.

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

67. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Indian League - Sisir Kumar Ghosh
- (b) Poona Sarvanajanik Sabha - Mahadev Govind Ranade
- (c) Madras Mahajan Sabha - Subramaniya Aiyar
- (d) All of the above

68. Services Trade Restrictiveness Index is released by?

- (a) Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- (b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- (c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (d) World Bank

69. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The World Conservation Strategy (link is external) of 1980 is the first international document on living resource conservation produced with inputs from governments, non-governmental organizations, and other experts.
2. It was prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

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

70. Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana is associated with?

- (a) Philately
- (b) Numismatics
- (c) Dendrology
- (d) None of the above

71. Which of the following statements are true:

1. First Round Table Conference was the first ever conference arranged between the British and the Indians as equals.
2. The Congress, the Muslim League, the Hindu Mahasabha, the Liberals and princes attended it.

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

72. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Silambam - Tamilnadu
- (b) Thoda - Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Gatka - Punjab
- (d) All of the above

73. Weekly paper Satya Prakash was published by?

- (a) Ram Mohan Roy
- (b) DK Karve
- (c) Karsondas Mulji
- (d) Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar

74. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Asiatic Lion is found in Gir Protected Area Network that includes Gir National Park, Gir Sanctuary, Pania Sanctuary, Mitiyala Sanctuary adjoining reserved forests, protected forests.
2. It is listed as "Endangered" in the IUCN red list of threatened species and in Schedule I in CITES Appendix.

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

75. Global Energy Architecture Performance Index is released by?

- (a) IMF
- (b) WEF
- (c) ADB
- (d) World Bank

76. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The focus of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's social reform was women and he spent his life's energies trying to ensure an end to the practice of child marriage and initiate widow remarriage.
2. He campaigned against polygamy.

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

77. Financial Stability Report is released by?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) RBI
- (c) ADB
- (d) NITI Ayog

78. Artemis Mission is associated with?

- (a) Moon
- (b) Jupiter
- (c) Ryugu Asteroid
- (d) Mars

79. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The persons can open Gold Saving Account in designated banks and anyone can deposit physical gold via BIS certified collection, purity testing centres (CPTCs).

2. The minimum amount of gold to be deposited is 30 gms, there is no upper limit.

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

80. Gorumara national park is located at?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Assam
- (c) Manipur
- (d) Nagaland

81. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), with an operational name of NAVIC is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system.

2. NAVIC will provide two levels of service, the "standard positioning service", which will be open for civilian use, and a "restricted service" for authorized users.

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

82. India development Report is released by?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) RBI
- (c) ADB
- (d) NITI Ayog

83. Which of the following is not a warm current?

- (a) Labrador
- (b) Canaries
- (c) Oyashio
- (d) Kuroshio

84. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Great Hornbill is the state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh

2. It is categorized as Near threatened– IUCN Red List.

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

85. Nahargarh national park is located at?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Assam
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Nagaland

86. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Malimath Committee is associated with criminal justice system.

2. The Mandal Commission is associated with the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.

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

87. Pakka Tiger Reserve is located at?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

88. Which of the following countries borders Black Sea?

- (a) Georgia
- (b) Azerbaijan
- (c) Kazakhstan
- (d) Iran

89. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the international legal instrument for "the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

2. As a party to the CBD, India strives to meet and honor its international obligations and commitments under the convention.

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

90. Elephanta Caves are located at?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Gujarat

91. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Vaccines stimulate our bodies to make antibodies against antigens of pathogens.

2. It also teaches the immune system to remember the antigens that cause infection, which leads to a faster response to the same disease in the future.

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

92. Global Talent Competitiveness Index is released by?

- (a) INSEAD
- (b) ILO
- (c) ADB
- (d) Lancet

93. ACROSS scheme is launched by?

- (a) The Ministry of Earth Sciences
- (b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (c) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (d) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

94. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

2. The authority aims to administer the Investor Education and Protection Fund with the objective of promoting Investor's Education, Awareness and Protection.

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

95. Rotterdam Convention is associated with?

- (a) Hazardous Chemicals
- (b) Persistent Organic Pollutants
- (c) Ozone depleting substance
- (d) None of the above

96. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Small Grants Program (SGP) is implemented by UNDP on behalf of the GEF (Global Environment Facility) partnership.

2. SGP provides financial and technical support to communities and Civil Society Organizations to meet the overall objective of global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions.

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

97. River Information System is implemented by?

- (a) Meteorological survey of India
- (b) Inland Waterways Authority
- (c) Ministry of Environment
- (d) ISRO

98. ASPIRE scheme is launched by?

- (a) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- (b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (c) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (d) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

99. Which of the following statements are true:

1. North Atlantic Treaty Organization or North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance

2. It constitutes a system of collective defense whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party.

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

100. Shark Bay is located at?

- (a) Maldives
- (b) Ecuador
- (c) Japan
- (d) None of the above

101. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The BrahMos (designated PJ-10) is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile

2. It is the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world.

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

102. Aber digital currency will be launched by?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) Venezuela
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Armenia

103. Zearalenone is a?

- (a) Fungal toxin
- (b) Carcinogen
- (c) Both a and b
- (d) None of the above

104. Which of the following statements are true:

1. 70% of tigers in the world are in India.

2. 25-35% of India's tigers now lived outside protected reserves.

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

105. St. Petersburg declaration is associated with?

- (a) Tiger conservation
- (b) Coral Reefs Protection
- (c) Wetland conservation
- (d) None of the above

106. Which of the following statements are true:

1. NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation.

2. NSIL's main objective is to scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes.

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

107. Gender parity Index is published by?

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) WEF
- (c) UNDP
- (d) ILO

108. Which of the following cities are part of UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) ?

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Mysore
- (c) Calcutta
- (d) Srinagar

109. Which of the following statements are true:

1. U20 seeks to develop a joint position and collective messages to inform and enrich the discussions of national leaders at the G20 Summit through unique urban perspectives.

2. Urban 20, or U20, aims to tackle global challenges by leveraging the potential of cities as hubs of diversity and innovation.

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

110. The Bengali News paper was founded by?

- (a) Girish Chandra Ghosh
- (b) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- (c) Sisir Kumar Ghosh
- (d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

111. Which of the following statements are true:

1. According to Article 83(2) of the Constitution, completion of five years from the first day of its meeting amounts to dissolution of the Lower House, In this case, an election is held to elect the new Members of Parliament.

2. Lok Sabha can also be dissolved if the President feels that no viable government can be formed after the resignation or fall of a regime.

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

112. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Bharavi - Kiratarjuniyam
- (b) Magha - Sishupalavadha
- (c) Bharata - Natyashastra
- (d) All of the above

113. Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve is located at?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Jammu and Kashmir
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Sikkim

114. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Open market operations is the sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by RBI or the central bank of the country.

2. When the RBI wants to increase the money supply in the economy, it purchases the government securities from the market and it sells government securities to suck out liquidity from the system.

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

115. CAS9 Protein is associated with ?

- (a) Genome engineering
- (b) Artificial leaf
- (c) Artificial reef
- (d) Herbicidal substance

116. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Kaladan project in Sittwe port project was jointly initiated by India and Myanmar.

2. Sittwe port is located at the mouth of the Kaladan river, which flows into Mizoram in north-eastern India.

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

117. Blue finned masher is found at?

- (a) Kaveri River
- (b) Chambal River
- (c) Saraswathy River
- (d) Subansiri River

118. West Nile fever is caused by?

- (a) Virus
- (b) Bacteria
- (c) Fungi
- (d) Plasmodium

119. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Bumphead parrotfish (*Bombometopon muricatum*), is an important component of coral reef ecosystem.
 2. It is categorized as 'endangered' in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

120. Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy. Which of the following countries participate in the exercise?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Russia
- (c) Nepal
- (d) Sri Lanka

121. Which of the following statements are true:

1. India accounts for about 1/4th of all patients suffering rare diseases worldwide.
 2. Orphan drugs are those that are used to treat rare diseases.
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

122. Which of the following countries participate in the exercise Al Nagah III?

- (a) Oman
- (b) Yemen
- (c) Djibouti
- (d) All of the above

123. National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) is funded by?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) ADB
- (c) SCO
- (d) New Development Bank

124. Which of the following statements are true:

1. International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is UNEP initiative which strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world.
 2. India is a member of ICRI
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

125. Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) Scheme is envisaged for?

- (a) Agricultural products
- (b) Minor Minerals
- (c) Minor Forest Produce
- (d) solar cell production

126. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Digambara sect of Jainism rejects the authority of the Jain Agama compiled by Sthulabhadra.
 2. The Swetambara (white-clad) is a term describing its ascetics' practice of wearing white clothes.
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

127. Phantom Lakes are located at?

- (a) Titan
- (b) Ryugu
- (c) Ceres
- (d) Bennu

128. Tamang Selo dance belongs to?

- (a) Sikkim
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Assam
- (d) Meghalaya

129. Which of the following statements are true:

1. The white shipping information refers to the exchange of prior information on the movement and identity of commercial non-military merchant vessels
 2. India and the U.S had signed the White Shipping Agreement (WSA) as it establishes an information network protocol that allows the navies of both countries to exchange information about ships in their oceanic territories
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

130. Kattaikuthu theatre belongs to?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamilnadu
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Maharashtra

131. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Student Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana (READY) scheme is being run in order to promote the participation of students in manufacturing sector.
 2. Under the scheme practical experience of manufacturing and entrepreneurship is provided to undergraduate students.
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

132. Mt Makalu is located at?

- (a) Border between Nepal and Tibet, China
- (b) Border between India and Tibet, China
- (c) Border between Bhutan and Tibet, China
- (d) Border between Myanmar and Tibet, China

133. (SALSA) is related to?

- (a) Scientific study at Antarctica
- (b) Women empowerment Programme
- (c) Micro beads pollution
- (d) Rare earth element exploration

134. Which of the following statements are true:

1. Jet streams are relatively narrow bands of strong wind in the upper levels of the atmosphere.
 2. Jet streams follow the boundaries between hot and cold air and their paths typically have a meandering shape.
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

135. PM-KUSUM Scheme is related to?

- (a) Solar Power
- (b) Women Empowerment
- (c) Free legal aid
- (d) e- vehicles



ANSWERS:

1. Ans: a

Justification:

- The 'Pariwarta' scheme is inspired by the Troubled Asset Relief Programme, or TARP, which was introduced in the US during the 2008 financial crisis.
- The proposed plan aims to stem the rise in bad loans in the power sector.
- These stressed power projects will be housed under an asset management and rehabilitation company that will be owned by financial institutions. The plan is being driven by concerns that stressed projects have drawn bids for around Rs 1-2 crore per MW under the insolvency and bankruptcy code, a fraction of the Rs 5 crore per MW needed to build them.

2. Ans: c

Justification:

- The government as well as other related agencies have suggested various ways to deal with power sector NPAs.
- The government has come up with the Sashakt scheme which is likely to bring relief to banks.
- Banks can get rid of the NPAs from their books quickly while hoping for better recovery rates in the future.
- State Bank of India and Power Finance Corporation, with the highest exposure to the power sector, have suggested the Samadhan scheme.
- The Rural Electrification Corporation has suggested the Pariwarta scheme.

3. Solution: c

Justification:

- Nansen Initiative is a state-led consultative process to build consensus on a protection agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change
- The Nansen Initiative does not seek to develop new legal standards, but rather to build consensus among states on the elements of a protection agenda.
- The Nansen Initiative is a bottom-up, state-led consultative process with multi-stakeholder involvement.

4. Ans: c

Justification:

- Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) is a planned space probe that will demonstrate the kinetic effects of crashing an impactor spacecraft into an asteroid moon for planetary defense purposes. The mission is intended to test whether a spacecraft impact could successfully deflect an asteroid on a collision course with Earth.
- A demonstration of an asteroid deflection is a key test that NASA and other agencies wish to perform before the actual need of planetary protection is present. DART is a joint project between NASA and the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), and it is being developed under the auspices of NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office.

5. Ans: b

Justification:

- The scheme aims to encourage, empower and endow popular science writing through newspapers, magazines, blogs, social media, etc. by young PhD Scholars and Post-Doctoral Fellows during course of their studies and research pursuits.
- It also seeks to tap tremendous potential of young scientists to popularize & communicate science and also to inculcate scientific temperament in the masses.
- The scheme also carries monetary incentive to each of 100 best entries from PhD scholars in year along with Certificate of Appreciation besides getting the story published/projected in mass media.

6.Ans: c

Justification:

- The scheme envisions a supportive institutional framework for women victims of difficult circumstances so that they could lead their life with dignity and conviction. It envisages that shelter, food, clothing, and health as well as economic and social security are assured for such women. It also envisions that the special needs of these women are properly taken care of and under no circumstances they should be left unattended or abandoned which could lead to their exploitation and desolation.

7.Ans: a

Justification:

- The Indians who were stranded in Socotra island after cyclone Mekunu hit the area were evacuated by INS Sunayna in an operation "Nistar".
- The cyclone Mekunu had badly hit various parts of Oman and the Socotra Island.
- Socotra also called Soqotra is located between the Guardafui Channel and the Arabian Sea.
- It is the largest of four islands of the Socotra archipelago.
- The territory is located near major shipping routes and is officially part of Yemen, and had long been a subdivision of the Aden Governorate.

8.Ans: a

Justification:

- The Delhi Dialogue is a premier annual track 1.5 event to discuss politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and ASEAN.

9.Ans: c

Justification:

- Work related to the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) has been taken away from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and brought under the domain of the Finance Ministry
- It will now be under the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Finance Ministry
- Budget 2018 amended the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, and renamed the Central Road Fund the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund
- The objective of the amendment was to use proceeds of the road cess under CRIF to finance other infrastructure projects such as waterways, some portion of the railway infrastructure and even social infrastructure, including education institutions and medical colleges

10.Answer: a

Justification:

- The report of the Global slavery Index 2018 has been released. It is published by the Australia-based human rights group Walk Free Foundation.

- The estimation data were drawn from 54 surveys conducted in 48 countries which included a module on Modern Slavery, with a total sample of 71,158 individual interviews.

11. Ans: b

Justification:

- Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India. It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of The Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.
- CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies

12. Ans: a

Justification:

- The Ain-i-Akbari or the "Administration of Akbar", is a 16th-century detailed document recording the administration of the Mughal Empire under Emperor Akbar, written by his court historian, Abu'l Fazl.
- It forms Volume III and the final part of the much larger document, the Akbarnama (Account of Akbar), also by Abu'l-Fazl, and is itself in three volumes

13. Ans: a

Justification:

- The government has proposed a new policy "SRIMAN" that plans to hire out to researchers all lab equipment that cost more than Rs. 10 lakh.
- It is expected to transform scientific instruments in government labs into lucrative assets generating a steady rental income.
- It would also reduce the amount of time such expensive instruments remain idle.

14. Ans: b

Justification:

- NASA has announced it would give funds to Made In Space's project- RAMA (Reconstituting Asteroids into Mechanical Automata), for finding ways to turn asteroids into giant, autonomous spacecrafts, which could fly to outposts in space.
- Project RAMA, Reconstituting Asteroids into Mechanical Automata, has been designed to leverage the advancing trends of additive manufacturing (AM) and in-situ resource utilization (ISRU).
- The project aims to enable asteroid rendezvous missions in which a set of technically simple robotic processes convert asteroid elements into very basic versions of spacecraft subsystems (GNC, Propulsion, Avionics).
- Upon completion, the asteroid will be a programmed mechanical automata carrying out a given mission objective; such as relocation to an Earth-Moon liberation point for human rendezvous.

15. Answer: b

Justification:

- SAFAR stands for System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research

- It is a research program to build Air-Pollution mitigation strategies in consonance with nation's economic development
- It is launched in greater metropolitan cities of India to provide location specific information on air quality in near real time
- It has been combined with the early warning system on weather parameters

16.Ans: b

Justification:

- Sri Vedanta Desikan (1268–1369) was a Sri Vaishnava guru/philosopher and one of the most brilliant stalwarts of Sri Vaishnavism in the post-Ramanuja period.
- He was a poet, devotee, philosopher and master-teacher (desikan).
- He was the disciple of Kidambi Appullar, also known as Aathreya Ramanujachariar, who himself was of a master-disciple lineage that began with Ramanuja.
- He is considered to be avatar (incarnation) of the divine bell of Venkateswara of Tirumalai by the Vadakalai sect of Sri Vaishnavite.
- Literary works: Sri Sthothra Nidhi, Sri Paduka Sahasram, Rahasya Granthams, Sri Desika Prabandham, Kavyams.

17.Ans: a

Justification:

- Kashmir stag or Hangul is the state animal of Jammu & Kashmir.
- It is restricted to the Dachigam National Park some 15 km north-west of Jammu & Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar.
- It is placed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the J&K Wildlife Protection Act, 1978.
- The Hangul was once widely distributed in the mountains of Kashmir and parts of Chamba district in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh.
- The IUCN's Red List has classified it as Critically Endangered and is similarly listed under the Species Recovery Programme of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the Environmental Information System (ENVIS) of the MoEFCC.

18.Ans: a

Justification:

- "cVIGIL" is an Android application which will be operational only where elections are announced.
- "cVIGIL" will allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) that comes into effect from the date of announcement of elections and goes on till a day after the polls.
- By using this app, citizens can immediately report on incidents of misconduct within minutes of having witnessed them and without having to rush to the office of the returning officer to lodge a complaint.
- The identity of the complainant will be kept confidential.
- The app will receive complaints only about the Model Code of Conduct violations.

19.Ans: c

Justification:

- A bodhisattva is a Buddhist deity who has attained the highest level of enlightenment, but who delays their entry into Paradise in order to help the earthbound.

- The bodhisattva, known in Sanskrit as Avalokiteśvara, takes both male and female form and is associated with the qualities of mercy and compassion
- The Archaeological department has recently excavated a Bodhisattva sculpture from Telangana.

20. Answer: a

Justification:

- Over 120 national delegations participated in the Conference adopted the “Moscow Declaration to End TB.”

21. Ans: c

Justification:

- The International Telecommunication Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is the oldest among all the 15 specialized agencies of UN.
- ITU is responsible for issues that concern information and communication technologies.
- The role of ITU are as follows
- It coordinates the shared global use of the radio spectrum.
- It promotes international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits.
- It works to improve telecommunication infrastructure in the developing world.
- It assists in the development and coordination of worldwide technical standards.

22. Ans: a

Justification:

- Global MPI 2018 Report is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
- MPI is the product of the following factors
- Poverty rate as a percentage of the population.
- Intensity as the average share of deprivations that poor people experience.

23. Ans: b

Justification:

- The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) report is often referred as UN Environment’s flagship environmental assessment.
- The first publication was in 1997 and was originally requested by Member States.
- The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is a consultative and participatory process to prepare an independent assessment of the state of the environment, the effectiveness of the policy response to address these environmental challenges and the possible pathways to be achieve various internationally agreed environmental goals.

24. Ans: c

Justification:

- West Nile Virus (WNV) is a member of Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex, which can cause neurological disease and death in people.
- WNV is commonly found in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia.
- WNV is maintained in nature in a cycle involving transmission between birds and mosquitoes, Humans, horses and other mammals can be infected.
- Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, which circulate the virus in their blood for a few days.

- Human infection is most often the result of bites from infected mosquitoes.
- Horses, just like humans, are “dead-end” hosts, meaning that while they become infected, they do not spread the infection.
- Infection with WNV is either asymptomatic (no symptoms) in around 80% of infected people, or can lead to West Nile fever or severe West Nile disease.
- People who become infected with WNV will develop West Nile fever.
- Symptoms include fever, headache, tiredness, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, occasionally with a skin rash (on the trunk of the body) and swollen lymph glands.
- For West Nile Virus no vaccine is available for humans.

25. Answer: d

Justification:

- AFINDEX It is a Joint Field Training Exercise between the Indian Army and 16 African nations.
- AFINDEX aims to train the participating contingents in Humanitarian Mine Assistance (HMA) and Peace Keeping Operations (PKO) under the United Nations Charter through practical and comprehensive discussions and tactical exercises.
- The joint exercise focus on achieving interoperability, learning each other’s methodologies and tactics through synchronized operational level planning and tactical level training.

26. Ans: c

Justification:

- The Indian Space Research Organization is planning to launch Aditya- L1 mission to study the sun early in 2020.
- Aditya- L1 mission is India’s first solar mission which will study the sun’s outer most layers, the corona and the chromospheres and collect data about coronal mass ejection, which will also yield information for space weather prediction.
- The data from Aditya mission will be immensely helpful in discriminating between different models for the origin of solar storms and also for constraining how the storms evolve and what path they take through the interplanetary space from the Sun to the Earth.
- Aditya- L1 satellite will be placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the sun-earth system.

Breaking barriers to greatness

27. Ans: a

Justification:

- IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT) launched on November 5, 2015 from the Rashtrapati Bhavan. IMPRINT India was a multi-stakeholder mission programme aimed at bridging the gap between scientific knowledgebase created through fundamental and applied research and fruitful translation of the same through engineering invention and technological innovation for the betterment of society.

28. Ans: a

Justification:

- O-SMART scheme encompasses 16 sub-projects related to ocean development activities and science for implementation during 2017-18 and 2019-20.
- The important deliverables envisaged in the next two years include strengthening of ocean observations, modelling, ocean services for fishermen, setting up marine coastal observatories for

tracking marine pollution in 2018, setting up Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant (OTEC) in Kavaratti in Lakshadweep.

- The services rendered will provide economic benefits to a number of user communities in the coastal and ocean sectors, namely, fisheries, offshore industry, coastal states, Defence, Shipping, Ports etc.
- The scheme also includes the acquisition of two coastal research vessels, the continuation of ocean survey and exploration of minerals and living resources, technology development for deep ocean mining- and setting up six desalination Plants in Lakshadweep
- It will help in reducing the search time for fishermen resulting in savings in the fuel cost.

29. Ans: c

Justification:

- A seller has to upload the invoice on the platform. It then goes to the buyer for acceptance. Once the buyer accepts, the invoice becomes a factoring unit. The factoring unit then goes to auction. The financiers then enter their discounting (finance) rate. The seller or buyer, whoever is bearing the interest (financing) cost, gets to accept the final bid. TReDs then settle the trade by debiting the financier and paying the seller. The amount gets credited the next working day into the seller's designated bank account through an electronic payment mode. The second leg of the settlement is when the financier makes the repayment and the amount is repaid to the financier.

30. Answer: a

Justification:

- NABARD has released the results of the All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey.
- Definition - Agricultural households were defined as those where at least one member was self-employed in agriculture in the past year, and which derived at least Rs 5,000 from agricultural produce.
- It found that the average annual income of an agricultural household was Rs 107,172 versus Rs 87,228 for non-agricultural households.
- Sources of income - Only about 48% of all rural households are agricultural and only 23% of rural income comes from agriculture.
- This reveals that rural India is no longer predominantly agricultural.
- Diversification – 88% of agricultural households diversified their sources of income.
- The most important among them was wage labour, including public works, which accounted for more than a third of the income of agricultural households.
- It provides an important source of supplementary income to farmers, especially when they consider cultivation as risky and unremunerative.

31. Ans: c

Justification:

- In the 15th century AD, Vaishnava saint of Assam, Shankaradeva introduced the Sattriya form of dance.
- Sattriya derives its name from the Vaishnava Monastries Known as Sattras.
- It focuses more on the devotional aspect of dance, It narrates the mythological stories of Vishnu.
- The dance form is performed in a group by male monks known as Bhokots as part of their daily rituals.

32. Ans: b

Justification:

- The three bent form of dance called Tribangha posture is an important feature of Odissi.
- Odissi dance performs Natya combined with an element of dancing and acting. It is a unique representation of gracefulness, beauty, and sensuality.
- Geometrical shapes and patterns are created with dancers body. Hence it is called 'Mobile Sculpture'.

33. Ans: c

Justification:

- Human Rights up Front (HRuF) is a Secretary-General's initiative to strengthen prevention of serious problems that cut across the UN's three pillars of peace and security, development and human rights pillars, and most especially problems issues with serious human rights consequences.

34. Ans: c

Justification:

- Buddha is never represented in human form in Buddhist art before the Christian era, as his spirituality was considered too abstract for the purpose. The adherents of the Buddhist faith followed the Hinayana path as a means of attaining salvation.
- Buddha's presence in early Indian art is, therefore, suggested by symbols like the Bodhi tree under which he attained enlightenment, the wheel of law, his foot prints, the royal umbrella, the stupa and an empty throne, etc.
- The relief-medallion from the fragment of a railing pillar of the stupa at Bharhut datable to the 2nd Century B.C., shows the worship of the Bodhi tree by four figures. Buddha had attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya. Here the tree symbolizes the presence of Buddha.

35. Answer: c

Justification:

- The didactic fable Panchatantra (five chapters), dealing with politics and practical wisdom, which was written by Vishnu Sharma, and the Hitopadesha, the bird, animal-human and non-human stories of advice for the benefit of the listeners, which was written by Narayan Pandit, are literary masterpieces which cross the borders of the sub-continent and became popular in foreign lands. These books of fables also indicate that the whole of Sanskrit literature was just not religious or elitist. These popular fables are obviously a retelling of folklore.

36. Ans: c

Justification:

- Polar mesospheric clouds (PMCs) form 50 miles above the poles during summer. They're mostly made up of ice crystals and appear like faint lines in the sky. The clouds are only visible during twilight, when the angle of the sun reflects off them and causes them to shine a bright electric blue or white colour.
- These clouds are affected by what is known as atmospheric gravity waves – caused by the convecting and uplifting of air masses, such as when air is pushed up by mountain ranges.
- The waves play major roles in transferring energy from the lower atmosphere to the mesosphere.

37. Ans: d

Justification:

- The initiative is aimed at providing a Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) as a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.
- Compressed Bio-Gas plants are proposed to be set up mainly through independent entrepreneurs. CBG produced at these plants will be transported through cascades of cylinders to the fuel station networks of OMCs for marketing as a green transport fuel alternative.
- The entrepreneurs would be able to separately market the other by-products from these plants, including bio-manure, carbon-dioxide, etc., to enhance returns on investment.

38.Ans: b

Justification:

- PISA is assessment test for 15-year-olds, organised every three years by Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD), Paris, France.
- It was started in 2000 with about 43 states participating, and its latest edition in 2015 saw participation from 73 countries including China and Vietnam.
- PISA measures student performance in mathematics, reading, and science and even innovative subjects like collaborative problem-solving and money literacy.
- The test is designed by education experts around the world.
- It assess how students apply what they have learnt to real-world problems.
- PISA test results give insight into education systems around the world.

39.Ans: c

Justification:

- The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) has jointly developed a mobile app called Jan Dhan Darshak as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiative. As the name suggests, this app will act as a guide for the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country.

40.Answer: a

Justification:

- In tribal India shifting cultivation is widely prevalent, though it is known by different names.
- The Naga call it Jhum Cultivation;
- The Bhuiya distinguish two forms of it, dahi and koman;
- The Maria of Bastar calls it penda;
- The Khond refer to it as podu;
- And the Baiga call it bewar.

41.Ans: a

Justification:

- HysIS, the country's first hyperspectral imaging satellite for advanced Earth observation, is slated for the launch. About 30 small satellites of foreign customers will be its co-passengers on the PSLV launcher, numbered C-43.
- The primary goal of HysIS is to study the Earth's surface in visible, near-infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- HysIS will be ISRO's first full-scale working satellite with this capability. While the technology has been around, not many space agencies have working satellites with hyperspectral imaging cameras as yet.

42. Ans: a

Justification:

- Prithvi is a tactical surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) developed by DRDO of India under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP). It is deployed by India's Strategic Forces Command.

43. Ans: d

Justification:

- Parker Solar Probe: It is first to fly direct into the Sun's atmosphere known as corona. The Sun's unstable corona produces: solar winds, flares, magnetic and plasma explosions.
- InSight — Studying the 'Inner Space' of Mars. InSight, short for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport, is a Mars lander designed to give the Red Planet its first thorough checkup since it formed 4.5 billion years ago.
- Opportunity, also known as MER-B or MER-1, and nicknamed "Oppy", is a robotic rover that was active on Mars from 2004 to late 2018.

44. Ans: c

Justification:

The neutrinos are second most abundant particles in the universe. They interact very little with anything and pass through everything that's why it's hard to detect them. They carry no electrical charge and nearly massless. It occurs in 3 different types/flavors, separated based on mass (electron-neutrino, muon-neutrino, tau-neutrino). It is produced in the core of the sun & millions of them roam around in the solar system.

45. Answer: a

Justification:

- B. N. Srikrishna committee submitted its report on a Data Protection Framework and also a draft bill on data protection. Sec 43 A of Information technology act 2000 protects user data from misuse but it is applicable to only corporate entities and not on government agency. Also the rules are restricted to sensitive personal data only — medical history, biometric information among other things. Other acts like consumer protection Act 2015, copyrights act 1957 among others also attempt to protect the personal information.

46. Ans: c

Justification:

- Godavari - It originates near Trimbak in Nashik District of Maharashtra state and flows east across the Deccan Plateau into the Bay of Bengal near Narasapuram in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The river is also known as Dakshin Ganga and Gautami. The Manjra and Indravati rivers are its major tributaries.

47. Ans: c

Justification:

- The Blue Flag beach standards were established by Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985 in France.
- The Blue Flag is an environmental award for beaches, sustainable boating tourism operators, and marinas.
- Only local authorities or private beach operators can apply for a Blue Flag for beaches.

48. Ans: a

Justification:

- Recently, NITI Aayog released Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) to assess and improve the performance of states/UTs in efficient management of water resources

49. Ans: c

Justification:

- It is measured by Central Pollution Control Board for Monitoring Polluted Industrial Areas (PIAs). It is a rational number between 0 and 100.
- CEPI score of 70 or above is considered as critically polluted cluster tag. Categorization of industrial sectors based on CEPI score:
 - Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 60 and above - Red category
 - Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 41 to 59 – Orange category
 - Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 21 to 40– Green category
 - Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score incl. & upto 20- White category (newly introduced)

50. Answer: c

Justification:

- It is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) as a part of Technology Development Project being funded by Department of Science and Technology.
- The device works on two principles mainly Wind generation for dilution of air pollutants and Active Pollutants removal.

51. Ans: d

Justification:

- Fa-Hien came to India in the reign of Chandragupta II Vikramaditya. Visited the birth place of Buddha, Lumbini. His Travelogue “Records of Buddhist Kingdoms”. Wrote Fo-Kyo-Ki.
- Hiuen-Tsang visited India during the reign of Harshavardhana. Came through Tashkent and Swat Valley. Book is “Si-Yu-Ki or the records of western world”.

52. Ans: a

Justification:

- The government announced a comprehensive plan Project Sashakt for the resolution of stressed assets in banking sector.

53. Ans: a

Justification:

- The objective of the Niryat Bandhu Scheme is to reach out to the new and potential exporters and mentor them through orientation programmes, counselling sessions, individual facilitation, etc., for being able to get into international trade and boost exports from India.

54. Ans: c

Justification:

• It was built between 950-1050 AD by the Chandela Dynasty and famous for their nagara-style architectural symbolism and their erotic sculptures (only 10% of all sculptures). The erotic expression is given equal importance in human experience as spiritual pursuit, and it is seen as part of a larger cosmic whole. It is built of buff sandstone.

55. Answer: c

Justification:

- Tholu Bommalata, the shadow puppet theatre tradition of Andhra Pradesh, has been declining.

56. Ans: c

Justification:

- The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is a 2010 supplementary agreement to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Its aim is the implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- The protocol was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, and entered into force on 12 October 2014. It has been ratified by 114 parties, which includes 113 UN member states and the European Union. It is the second protocol to the CBD; the first is the 2000 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

57. Ans: a

Justification:

- The Indian Railways has initiated 'Project Saksham' to train its employees and upgrade their skills and knowledge.

58. Ans: d

Justification:

Reasons for falling rupee:

- Pulling out of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) who were expecting US interest rates to go up, making US treasury bonds more attractive.
- Trade war between China & US, leading to greater number of import restrictions with high tariffs also caused \$ to appreciate.
- Rising global crude prices due to concerns around US sanctions on Iran & crisis in Venezuela.
- Fears of de-globalization have also soured the global risk sentiment & dampened the outlook for emerging market assets.

59. Ans: a

Justification:

- A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under Companies Act that provides financial services without meeting the legal definition of a bank.
- It can engage in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government or local authority or other marketable securities, leasing, hire-purchase, insurance business, chit business etc.
- NBFCs are different from banks as: They can only accept time deposits and not demand deposits
- NBFCs do not form part of the payment & settlement system & cannot issue cheques to its customers

60. Answer: c

Justification:

- The second tranche of Bharat 22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) was launched by the government to raise Rs. 8400 crores from the markets.
- Bharat 22 is an ETF that will comprise of bluechip stocks of 16 public sector enterprises, 3 public sector banks and three private companies (L&T, ITC & Axis Bank) where Specified Undertakings of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI) has stakes.

61. Ans: c

Justification:

- The Bahmani Sultanate was a Muslim state of the Deccan in South India and one of the major medieval Indian kingdoms.
- Bahmanid Sultanate was the first independent Muslim kingdom in South India.
- The Kingdom later split into five offshoots that were collectively known as the Deccan sultanates. The last remnant of the Bahmani sultanate was defeated and destroyed in 1509 by Vijayanagara Empire.

62. Ans: b

Justification:

- Ibn Battuta - Morocco
- Domingo Paes - Portuguese
- Abdul Razak - Persia
- Nicolo De Conti – Venice
- All are foreign travelers visited Vijayanagar Empire.



63. Ans: a

Justification:

Reasons for falling rupee:

- Thirumurai is a twelve volume compendium of songs or hymns in praise of Shiva in the Tamil language from the 6th to the 11th century by various poets in South India. Nambi Andar Nambi compiled the first seven volumes by Appar, Sampanthar and Sundarar as Tevaram during the 12th century (All are Nayanmars). During the course of time, a strong necessity was felt by scholars to compile Saiva literature to accommodate other works.

64. Ans: c

Justification:

- Nalanda was a Mahavihara, a large and revered Buddhist monastery, in the ancient kingdom of Magadha (modern-day Bihar) in India. The site is located near the city of Bihar Sharif, and was a centre of learning from the fifth century CE to c. 1200 CE. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. All students at Nalanda studied Mahayana as well as the texts of the eighteen (Hinayana) sects of Buddhism. Their curriculum also included other subjects such as the Vedas, logic, Sanskrit grammar, medicine and Samkhya.
- The University of Valabhi was an important centre of Buddhist learning and championed the cause of Hinayana Buddhism between 600 CE and 1200 CE. Valabhi was the capital of the Maitraka empire during the period 480-775 CE.

65. Answer: a

Justification:

- The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) flagship environmental assessment. The first publication was in 1997 and was originally requested by the Member States. The Global Environment Outlook Report 2019 is the sixth edition.

66. Ans: c

Justification:

- Dadabhai Naoroji started the East India Association in London in 1866.
- The association's main goal was to make the people of UK aware about the conditions in India and generate a popular support among British People for Indian Welfare.
- This association is also called the predecessor to the Indian National Congress.
- In 1866, the Ethnological Society of London, tried to prove Asian's were inferior to the Europeans. The East India Association's work also targeted to challenge this notion.
- The association had opened Branches in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta in 1869

67. Ans: d

Justification:

- a) In 1875, noted journalist Sisir Kumar Ghosh had started the Indian League in Calcutta.
- Its main aim was to develop the feeling of nationalism among the common people.
- b) It was started in 1870 by Mahadev Govind Ranade and his associates in Pune.
- They aimed to be a connecting link between the Government and the common people.
- It also worked for the legal rights of the peasants.
- Many prominent leaders of Freedom struggle like, Lokmanya Tilak were member of this organisation.
- C) It was formed in 1884 in Madras by B. Subramaniya Aiyar, P. Ananda-Charlu and M. Viraraghavachari.
- The organisation took moderate stance on opposing govt policies in the beginning.

68. Ans: a

Justification:

Reasons for falling rupee:

- STRI is released by Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
- It was launched in 2014 and it ranks countries (both OECD and non-OECD) based on their services trade policies.
- The index is now available for 2018 for a total of 45 economies and 22 sectors.
- It has placed Indian service sector as highly restrictive in areas such as FDI.

69. Ans: c

Justification:

- The World Conservation Strategy (link is external) of 1980 is the first international document on living resource conservation produced with inputs from governments, non-governmental organizations, and other experts.
- The report influenced "Our Common Future," also known as the "Brundtland Report" (1987) and laid the foundations for defining the principle of sustainable development.

• Prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), it contains inputs from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

70. Answer: a

Justification:

- SPARSH stands for Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby.
- It is a pan India scholarship program for school children to increase the reach of Philately.
- Under the scheme, annual scholarships will be awarded to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as hobby through competitive selection process in all postal circles.
- Government will award 920 scholarships to students pursuing Philately as hobby.
- Philately is hobby of collection and study of Postage stamps.
- It also entails collection, appreciation and research activities on stamps and other related philatelic products.

71. Ans: a

Justification:

- This was the first ever conference arranged between the British and the Indians as equals.
- While the Congress and most business leaders boycotted the First RTC, the Muslim League, the Hindu Mahasabha, the Liberals and princes attended it.
- Virtually every delegate reiterated that a constitutional discussion to which the Congress was not a party was meaningless.
- Ambedkar demanded separate electorates for (SC/ST)

72. Ans: d

Justification:

- Kalari is a Malayalam word which means School/gymnasium/training hall where Martial arts are practiced or taught. Kalaripayattu was introduced as martial art by a legend, sage Parasurama, who built temples.
- Silambam is promoted in Tamil Nadu by the rulers Pandya, Chola and Chera and the reference to the sale of Silambam staves, pearls, swords and armours can be seen in a Tamil literature 'Silapaddigaram'.
- Thang Ta art was created by the Meitei people of Manipur
- Thoda Himachal Pradesh: name is derived from the round wooden piece attached to the head of an arrow to minimise its lethal potential.
- Gatka is a weapon based martial art form performed by Sikhs of Punjab.
- Lathi is one of the oldest weapon used in martial arts. (Bengal)
- Inbuan Wrestling: Mizoram
- Mushti yudha: Vaaranasi
- Pari-Khanda: Bihar

73. Ans: c

Justification:

- Karsandas Mulji (25 July 1832 – 28 August 1875) was an Indian journalist, writer and social reformer from Gujarat. Born to a family belonging to the Bhatias, a trading caste of western India, he was repudiated by his family because of his views on widow remarriage.
- He became a vernacular schoolmaster and started a weekly paper in Gujarati called Satya Prakash, in which he attacked what he perceived to be the immoralities of the Maharajas or hereditary high priests of the Pushtimarg Vaishnavism, to which the Bhatias belonged.
- In a libel suit, the Maharaj Libel Case, brought against him in the High Court at Bombay in 1862, he won a victory on the main issue.

74. Ans: c

Justification:

- CSIR has recently sequenced the entire genome of Asiatic lion for the first time.
- The genome sequencing has already been done for big cats like Royal Bengal tiger, African Cheetah and Jaguar.
- With the complete genome of Asiatic lion, a comparative study of all these cats would be possible.
- It would also help to better understand the evolution of Asiatic lion.
- Asiatic Lion that once ranged from Persia (Iran) to Palamau in Eastern India were almost driven to extinction by hunting and habitat loss.
- According to 2015 census, it is found in Gir Protected Area Network that includes Gir National Park, Gir Sanctuary, Pania Sanctuary, Mitiyala Sanctuary adjoining reserved forests, protected forests.
- It is listed as “Endangered” in the IUCN red list of threatened species and in Schedule I in CITES Appendix.

75. Answer: b

Justification:

- Global Energy Architecture Performance Index (EAPI) is released as part of report of Geneva- based World Economic Forum (WEF).
- EAPI is a composite index developed by WEF in collaboration with Accenture Strategy. It focuses on tracking specific indicators to measure the energy system performance of the countries.

76. Ans: c

Justification:

- The focus of his social reform was women — and he spent his life’s energies trying to ensure an end to the practice of child marriage and initiate widow remarriage. He argued, on the basis of scriptures and old commentaries, in favour of the remarriage of widows in the same way as Roy did for the abolition of Sati.
- He launched a powerful attack on the practice of marrying off girls aged 10 or even younger, pointing to social, ethical, and hygiene issues, and rejecting the validity of the Dharma Shastras that advocated it. He showed that there was no prohibition on widows remarrying in the entire body of ‘Smriti’ literature (the Sutras and the Shastras).
- He campaigned against polygamy.
- On October 14, 1855, Vidyasagar presented a petition to the Government of India praying for early passing a law to remove all obstacles to the marriage of Hindu widows and to declare the issue of all such marriages to be legitimate.
- On July 16, 1856, The Hindu Widows’ Remarriage Act, known as Act XV, was passed.

77. Ans: b

Justification:

- The Reserve Bank of India released the eighteenth issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR). The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability, as also the resilience of the financial system.

78.Ans: a

Justification:

- NASA's next mission to the Moon will be called Artemis.
- The mission was named Artemis after the Greek mythological goddess of the Moon and twin sister to Apollo, namesake of the program that sent 12 American astronauts to the Moon between 1969 and 1972.

79.Ans: c

Justification:

- The persons can open Gold Saving Account in designated banks and anyone can deposit physical gold via BIS certified collection, purity testing centres (CPTCs). The minimum amount of gold thus deposited is 30 gms, no upper limit.
- The gold is deposited for short term (1-3 years), medium term (5-7 years) and long term (12-15 years).
- The gold thus collected is sent to refineries and banks have tripartite / bipartite agreements with refineries and CPTCs.
- On maturity, one can get back the cash / physical gold for short term deposits and cash only for long term deposits.
- The scheme allows banks' customers to deposit their idle gold holdings for a fixed period in return for interest in the range of 2.25 per cent to 2.50 per cent.

80.Answer: a

Justification:

- Gorumara National Park is a National Park in northern West Bengal, India. Located in the Doars region of the Himalayan foothills, it is a medium-sized park with grasslands and forests.

81.Ans: c

Justification:

- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), with an operational name of NAVIC ("sailor" or "navigator" in Sanskrit, Hindi and many other Indian languages and also standing for NAVigation with Indian Constellation), is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system that provides accurate real-time positioning and timing services.
- It covers India and a region extending 1,500 km (930 mi) around it, with plans for further extension. The system at present consists of a constellation of seven satellites, with two additional satellites on ground as stand-by.

82.Ans: a

Justification:

- With economic reforms gaining momentum, India's long-term growth prospects remain bright, says the World Bank's India Development Update, a biannual analysis of the Indian economy.

83.Ans: d

Justification:

- The North Equatorial Current turns northward and flows along the Philippines Islands, Taiwan, and Japan to form the warm Kuro Shio or Kuro Siwo current.
- Later, a cold current called Oya Shio or Oya Siwo which flows along the eastern coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula merges with the Kuro Shio Current (Okhotsk Current is a cold current which merges with the Oya Shio before its confluence with Kuro Shio).
- A cold current from the Arctic Ocean called Labrador Current, which flows along the eastern coast of Canada, meets the warm Gulf Stream near the north-east corner of U.S.A.
- The North Atlantic Drift bifurcates into two branches on reaching the eastern part of the ocean.
- The northern branch continues as North Atlantic Drift; reaches the British Isles from where it flows along the coast of Norway as the warm Norwegian Current and enters the Arctic Ocean.
- The southern branch flows between Spain and Azores Island as the cold Canaries Current.
- The Canaries Current finally joins the North Equatorial Current.

84.Ans: c

Justification:

- Near threatened– IUCN Red List
- State bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh
- Local names — homrai(Nepal), banrao, Vezhaambal
- Long-lived, living for nearly 50 years in captivity
- Found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia
- Predominantly frugivorous, but is an opportunist and will prey on small mammals, reptiles and birds.
- Appendix I of CITES

85. Answer: c

Justification:

- Rajasthan's first lion safari has been inaugurated at Nahargarh Biological Park.
- The park is located on Delhi-Jaipur National Highway in the Aravalli foothills, nearly 12 kilometers from state capital Jaipur.
- Lions in this park were brought from Junagarh, Gujarat under an exchange programme.
- The park will serve for breeding lions and also centre of attraction for tourists. It will provide new habitat to lions and also add tourism venue to the Pink City.

86.Ans: c

Justification:

- The Mandal Commission, or the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission, was established in India on 1 January 1979 by the Janata Party government under Prime Minister Morarji Desai with a mandate to "identify the socially or educationally backward classes" of India.
- The Committee, headed by Justice V.S. Malimath, former Chief Justice of the Karnataka and Kerala High Courts. It began its work in 2000, when it was constituted by the Home Ministry, and submitted its report to Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani, who was also in charge of the Home portfolio, in 2003.
- Task of examining the fundamental principles of criminal law so as to restore confidence in the criminal justice system.

- This involved reviewing the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860.

87.Ans: a

Justification:

- Pakke Tiger Reserve, also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve, is a Project Tiger reserve in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh in northeastern India.

88.Ans: a

Justification:

- The Black Sea is an inland sea located between far-southeastern Europe and the far-western edges of the continent of Asia and the country of Turkey. It's bordered by Turkey, and by Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia and Georgia (Remember as (U R BeauTiful and Gorgeous))

89.Ans: c

Justification:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the international legal instrument for "the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources".
- The CBD has been ratified by 196 nations, since its entry into force, the CBD has been implemented through the vision and leadership displayed by countries, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, the scientific community and individuals alike.
- As a party to the CBD, India strives to meet and honor its international obligations and commitments under the convention

90.Answer: b

Justification:

- Elephanta Caves are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a collection of cave temples predominantly dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. They are located on Elephanta Island, or Gharapuri in Mumbai Harbour, 10 kilometres to the east of the city of Mumbai in the Indian state of Mahārāshtra.

91.Ans: c

Justification:

- Our immune system is composed of various types of cells. These cells defend us against invaders and remove the harmful pathogens. However, for that our immune system needs to recognise that an invader is dangerous. Vaccination works by teaching our immune system how to recognise new diseases. Vaccines stimulate our bodies to make antibodies against antigens of pathogens. It also teaches the immune system to remember the antigens that cause infection, which leads to a faster response to the same disease in the future.
- In simple terms, vaccines work by exposing you to a safer version of a disease. While the body responds to the vaccine, it builds an adaptive immune system, which helps the body to fight off the actual infection in the future.

92.Ans: a

Justification:

- GTCI, launched in 2013, is an annual benchmarking report that measures the ability of countries to compete for talent.
- It is released by INSEAD business school in partnership with Tata Communications and Adecco Group.
- The report measures levels of Global Talent Competitiveness by looking at 68 variables such as ease of hiring, gender earnings gap, and prevalence of training in firms.

93.Ans: a

Justification:

- ACROSS scheme pertains to the atmospheric science programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- It addresses different aspects of weather and climate services, which includes warnings for cyclone, storm surges, heat waves, thunderstorms etc.
- Each of these aspects is incorporated as nine sub-schemes under the umbrella scheme “ACROSS” and is implemented in an integrated.
- The ACROSS scheme consists of nine sub-programmes which are multi disciplinary and multi institutional in nature and will be implemented in an integrated manner.

94.Ans: c

Justification:

- Established by the central government under Section 125 of Companies Act 2013.
- a statutory body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- The Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs is the Chairperson of IEPF.
- The authority aims to administer the Investor Education and Protection Fund with the objective of promoting Investor’s Education, Awareness and Protection.
- It is empowered to undertake various initiatives to fulfil its objectives through Investor Awareness Programmes and various other mediums like print, Electronic, Social Media and Community Radio.

95.Answer: a

Justification:

- The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in international trade provides Parties with a first line of defence against hazardous chemicals. It promotes international efforts to protect human health and the environment as well as enabling countries to decide if they want to import hazardous chemicals and pesticides listed in the Convention.

96.Ans: c

Justification:

- Small Grants Program (SGP) is implemented by UNDP on behalf of the GEF (Global Environment Facility) partnership.
- SGP provides financial and technical support to communities and Civil Society Organizations to meet the overall objective of global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions.
- Through a decentralized, national-level delivery mechanism, SGP finances community-led initiatives to address global environmental issues.
- The Program is specifically designed to mobilize bottom-up actions by empowering local civil society organizations, and poor and vulnerable communities, including women and Indigenous Peoples.

97.Ans: b

Justification:

- River Information System is a combination of modern tracking equipment related hardware and software designed to optimize traffic and transport processes in inland navigation.
- RIS is being implemented under the overall responsibility of Inland Waterway Authority of India, a statutory body administered by the Ministry of Shipping.
- The system enhances swift electronic data transfer between mobile vessels and shore (Base stations) through advance and real-time exchange of information.

98.Ans: a

Justification:

- ASPIRE Scheme or Scheme for promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship and Agro-Industry is promoted by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- It will promote Innovation & Rural Entrepreneurship through rural Livelihood Business Incubator (LBI), Technology Business Incubator (TBI) and Fund of Funds for start-up creation in the agro-based industry.
- The ASPIRE Scheme fund has a Rs.200 crore corpus

99.Ans: c

Justification:

- Recently Balkan nation Macedonia has signed accession papers with NATO.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization or North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance.
- It constitutes a system of collective defense whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party.

100.Answer: d

Justification:

- Shark Bay is the World Heritage-listed marine ecosystem situated in Australia.
- Since 2011 it has been devastated by extreme temperatures, when a brutal marine heatwave struck off Western Australia.
- According to World Heritage Advisory Committee Shark Bay is classified as the highest category of vulnerability to future climate change.
- Shark Bay hosts the world's most extensive population of Stromatolites – stump-shaped colonies of microbes that date back billions of years.

101.Ans: c

Justification:

- The BrahMos (designated PJ-10) is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft, or land. It is the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world.
- It is a joint venture between the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) who together have formed BrahMos Aerospace.
- It is based on the Russian P-800 Oniks cruise missile and other similar sea-skimming Russian cruise missile technology. The name BrahMos is a portmanteau formed from the names of two rivers, the Brahmaputra of India and the Moskva of Russia.

102.Ans: a

Justification:

- The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia will launch a common digital currency called Aber.
- Aber will be used for financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.

103.Ans: c

Justification:

- Zearalenone is a fungal toxin infesting cereals such as wheat, maize and barley. It attacks crops while they are growing, but can also develop when cereals are stored without being dried fully.
- It is a Group 3 carcinogen.(Cancer causing substance)

104.Ans: c

Justification:

- With shrinking habitats, experts opine that India has almost neared its capacity to manage tigers. Therefore, India must also prepare for a new challenge — of reaching the limits of its management capacity.
- India's current capacity to host tigers ranges from 2,500-3,000 tigers. Officially, India had 2,226 tigers as of 2014. An ongoing census is expected to reveal an update to these numbers.
- 25-35% of India's tigers now lived outside protected reserves.
- Recent attempts at translocating tigers to unpopulated reserves, such as Satkosia in Orissa, have ended badly, with one of the tigers dying.
- India has the maximum number of wild tigers in the world (70% of tigers in the world are in India).

105.Answer: a

Justification:

- During the St. Petersburg declaration in 2010, tiger range countries had resolved to double tiger numbers across their range by 2022.

106.Ans: c

Justification:

- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), was officially inaugurated in Bengaluru.
- NSIL's main objective is to scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes.
- NSIL was incorporated on March 6 2019, for commercially utilising research and development activities carried out by ISRO in the area of space with an authorised share capital of Rs 100 crore and initial paid up capital of Rs 10 crore.

107.Ans: a

Justification:

- The Gender Parity Index is a socioeconomic index usually designed to measure the relative access to education of males and females. This index is released by UNESCO. In its simplest form, it is calculated as the quotient of the number of females by the number of males enrolled in a given stage of education

108.Ans: a

Justification:

- So far three Indian cities as been added to UCCN, they are as follows,
- Varanasi for Music
- Jaipur for Crafts and Folk Art
- Chennai for Music
- To become part of the network of 180 cities, where development is believed to be intricately linked to their creative traditions.
- Proposal to add Srinagar as a city of Crafts and Folk Art under UCCN is on cards, it is to be noted that Jammu and Kashmir do not have any site or monument with the UNESCO inscription of a World Heritage Site.

109.Ans: c

Justification:

- Urban 20 (U20) is an initiative developed in 2017 under the leadership of the Mayor of Buenos Aires and Mayor of Paris, and convened by the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).
- U20 seeks to develop a joint position and collective messages to inform and enrich the discussions of national leaders at the G20 Summit through unique urban perspectives.
- Urban 20, or U20, aims to tackle global challenges by leveraging the potential of cities as hubs of diversity and innovation.

110. Answer: a

Justification:

- The Bengalee was founded in 1862 by Girish Chandra Ghosh as an English language newspaper based in Kolkata. The newspaper had a nationalist editorial stand. Surendranath Banerjea served as its editor. It was the highest circulated weekly newspaper in the late 19th and early 20th century. Following the Surat Split in the Indian National Congress, the newspaper took a stand for the moderate fraction of the Congress.

111.Ans: c

Justification:

- In India, the Lok Sabha has a five-year term, but can be dissolved earlier.
- The conditions for dissolution of Lok Sabha are as follows
- According to Article 83(2) of the Constitution, completion of five years from the first day of its meeting amounts to dissolution of the Lower House, In this case, an election is held to elect the new Members of Parliament.
- The Lower House can also be dissolved earlier by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- Lok Sabha can also be dissolved if the President feels that no viable government can be formed after the resignation or fall of a regime.

112.Ans: d

Justification:

- Bharavi (550 A.D.), wrote Kiratarjuniyam (Kirat and Arjun) and Magha (65-700 A.D.) wrote Sishupalavadha (the killing of Shishupal).
- The rules and prescriptions regarding performance, the theatre hall, acting, gestures, Rasa, stage direction, are all given in the first book of dramaturgy, Natyashastra, by Bharata (1st century B.C.-1st century A.D.).

113.Ans: a

Justification:

- The Nanda Devi National Park or Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, established in 1982, is a national park situated around the peak of Nanda Devi (7816 m) in the state of Uttarakhand in northern India. The entire park lies at an elevation of more than 3,500 m (11,500 ft) above mean sea level.
- The National Park was inscribed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1988. The latter was expanded and renamed to Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks in 2005.

114.Ans: c

Justification:

- Open market operations is the sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by RBI or the central bank of the country.
- The objective of OMO is to regulate the money supply in the economy.
- RBI carries out the OMO through commercial banks and does not directly deal with the public.
- When the RBI wants to increase the money supply in the economy, it purchases the government securities from the market and it sells government securities to suck out liquidity from the system.

115. Answer: a

Justification:

- Cas9 is an RNA-guided DNA endonuclease enzyme associated with the CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) which is used as molecular scissors.
- The Cas9 protein has been heavily utilized as a genome engineering tool to induce site-directed double strand breaks in DNA.

116.Ans: c

Justification:

- Kaladan project in Sittwe port project was jointly initiated by India and Myanmar to create a multi-modal platform for cargo shipments from the eastern ports to Myanmar and to the North-eastern parts of the country through Myanmar.
- Sittwe port is located at the mouth of the Kaladan river, which flows into Mizoram in north-eastern India.
- It is expected to open up sea routes and promote economic development in the North-eastern states, and also add value to the economic, commercial and strategic ties between India and Myanmar.

117.Ans: a

Justification:

- The Western Ghats region is famous for freshwater biodiversity. Mahseer, belonging to the genus Tor, is considered a prized sports fish of great cultural value.
- In the Cauvery, the Mahseer community comprises two varieties—a “blue-finned” fish and an “orange-finned, hump-backed” one

118.Ans: a

Justification:

- West Nile Virus (WNV) is a member of Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex, which can cause neurological disease and death in people.

- WNV is commonly found in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia.
- WNV is maintained in nature in a cycle involving transmission between birds and mosquitoes, Humans, horses and other mammals can be infected.
- Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, which circulate the virus in their blood for a few days.
- Human infection is most often the result of bites from infected mosquitoes

119.Ans: a

Justification:

- Bumphead parrotfish (*Bolbometopon muricatum*), is an important component of coral reef ecosystem.
- It is categorized as 'vulnerable' in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The fish is threatened due to limited knowledge about its distribution and abundance in Indian waters.
- According recent studies fishing and coral reef degradation threaten parrotfish in Andaman

120. Answer: d

Justification:

- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India & Sri Lanka.

121.Ans: c

Justification:

- India accounts for about 1/4th of all patients suffering rare diseases worldwide.
- A rare disease occurs infrequently in a population, but there is no universal definition.
- There are 3 parameters based on which a disease is said to be rare disease
- The total number of people having the disease
- Its prevalence
- Non-availability of treatment for the disorder
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has suggested that a rare disease should be defined as one with frequency less than 6.5 – 10 per 10,000 people.
- Hereditary sensory and autonomic neuropathy type II (HSAN2) and thalassemia are two such diseases.
- Orphan drugs are those that are used to treat rare diseases.

122.Ans: a

Justification:

- It is the bilateral joint exercise between India and Oman.
- It is scheduled at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman
- It aims to enhance interoperability in counterterrorist operations in semi urban mountainous terrain.

123.Ans: a

Justification:

- An agreement was signed between World Bank and Government of India to provide a \$250-million loan for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP).
- The key focus of the project is to promote women-owned and women-led farm and non-farm enterprises across value chains.

124.Ans: b

Justification:

- It is an informal partnership between Nations and organizations which strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world.
- It's actions highlight globally the importance of coral reefs and related ecosystems to environmental sustainability, food security and social and cultural wellbeing
- India is a member of ICRI

125.Answer: a

Justification:

- It was notified by Department of Commerce of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- The scheme is for Specified Agriculture Products.
- It aims to provide assistance for the international component of freight and marketing of agricultural produce.
- It is likely to mitigate disadvantage of higher cost of transportation of export of specified agriculture products due to trans-shipment.

126.Ans: c

Justification:

- Digambar School - Digambara sect of Jainism rejects the authority of the Jain Agama compiled by Sthulabhadra.
- According to Digambara tradition, Mahavira, the last Jaina Tirthankara, never married.
- Digambara monks tradition do not wear any clothes, they carry only a broom made up of fallen peacock feathers and a water gourd.
- The Digambara are present mainly in Southern India, Bundelkhand region (Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, etc.
- Svetambar School - The Svetambara (white-clad) is a term describing its ascetics' practice of wearing white clothes.
- Svetambara monks usually wear white maintaining that nudism is no longer practical.
- Svetambara also believes that women are able to obtain moksha.

127.Ans: a

Justification:

- Researchers have found lake made up of liquid methane in the northern polar region of Saturn's moon Titan.
- Some of frigid Titan's lakes of liquid hydrocarbons in this region are surprisingly deep while others may be shallow and seasonal.
- Titan boasts lakes, rivers and seas of hydrocarbons - compounds of hydrogen and carbon like those that are the main components of petroleum and natural gas.
- The scientists described this has "phantom lakes" as they appear wide during winter and shallow due to evaporation during springtime, a process taking seven years on Titan.

128.Ans: a

Justification:

- Sikkim-Tamang Selo-Danced to the tune of Damphu instrument
- It was a part of republic parade 2019.

129.Ans: c

Justification:

- The white shipping information refers to the exchange of prior information on the movement and identity of commercial non-military merchant vessels.
- India and the U.S had signed the White Shipping Agreement (WSA) as it establishes an information network protocol that allows the navies of both countries to exchange information about ships in their oceanic territories.
- Ships would be classified into white (commercial ships), grey (military vessels), and black (illegal vessels).

130.Answer: b

Justification:

- It is a Tamil-language based, physical and vocal form of rural, open-air ensemble theatre.
- It is widespread in the northern and central parts of the state of Tamil Nadu in South India.
- Kattaikkuttu uses different kinds of song, music, articulated prose, acting, movement, make-up and elaborate costumes.

131.Ans: d

Justification:

- Student Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana (READY) scheme is being run in order to promote the participation of students in agricultural business.
- Under the scheme practical experience of agriculture and entrepreneurship is provided to undergraduate students.

132.Ans: a

Justification:

- Makalu is the fifth highest mountain in the world at 8,485 meters (27,838 ft), whose shape is a four-sided pyramid.
- It is located in the Mahalangur Himalayas 19 km (12 mi) southeast of Mount Everest, on the border between Nepal and Tibet, China.
- Mt Makalu is considered amongst the most dangerous peaks and summiting the peak is considered extremely challenging due to inclement weather conditions and freezing temperatures.
- Recently Indian Army took an expedition to Mt. Makalu

133.Ans: a

Justification:

- An international team of scientists will begin hunting for microbes and other living specimens in an unexplored lake far beneath the surface of the Antarctic ice sheet.
- The place of exploration is bottom of the ice sheet that covers Mercer Sub-glacial Lake about 370 miles from the South Pole.
- SALSA (Sub-glacial Antarctic Lakes Scientific Access) is an expedition that will shed light on what kind of life can survive in such remote regions.
- Mercer will be the second sub-glacial lake that humans have sampled directly

134.Ans: c

Justification:

- Jet streams are relatively narrow bands of strong wind in the upper levels of the atmosphere.
- On Earth, the main jet streams are located near the altitude of the tropopause and are westerly winds.
- Jet streams follow the boundaries between hot and cold air and their paths typically have a meandering shape.
- The winds blow from west to east in jet streams but the flow often shifts to the north and south.

135. Answer: a

Justification:

- KisanUrja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme promotes decentralization of solar power production of up to 28,250 MW to help farmers.
- The scheme would provide extra income to farmers, by giving them an option to sell additional power to the grid through solar power projects set up on their barren lands.
- It would help in de-dieselizing the sector as also the DISCOMS.
- The scheme would also promote energy efficiency and water conservation and provide water security to farmers.



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