

Prelims Refresher Programme: Day 30 (Test-9)

QUESTION 1:

In the context of Subsidies under Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) of World Trade Organisation (WTO), consider the following statements:

1. The most trade-distorting form of farm subsidies is classified into Red Box.
2. Blue Box subsidies aim to limit production by imposing production quotas.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- In **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** terminology, subsidies in general are identified by “Boxes” which are given the colours of traffic lights: green, amber and red.
- However, the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) has no Red Box subsidy. **The most trade-distorting form of farm subsidies** is known in WTO parlance as **Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS)** or “**Amber Box**”. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Under the WTO, the AMS is capped at 5 percent of the value of production for developed countries and 10 percent of the value of production for developing countries.
- The WTO classifies **agricultural subsidies into three categories viz. Amber Box, Green Box and Blue Box.**
 - Amber Box includes all domestic subsidies such as market support price and subsidies on seeds, fertilizers and electricity. These are considered to distort production and trade. Subsidies in this category are expressed in terms of a “**Total Aggregate Measurement of Support**” (Total AMS).
 - Green Box subsidies include all those that are deemed not to distort trade, or at most cause minimal distortion and therefore are not subject to WTO reduction commitments. It includes prices paid directly to producers.
 - **Blue Box** includes subsidy payments that are **directly linked to acreage, which also limit production by imposing production quotas** or requiring farmers to set-aside part of their land. These are said to be production limiting and are not subject to WTO reduction commitments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 2:

Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Quota System?

1. A country has to maintain 50% of its quota amount in the form of foreign currency and other 50% in the form of domestic currency.
2. The current quota formula is a weighted average of GDP of an economy exclusively.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- The work of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is of three types.
 - Firstly it involves the surveillance work. IMF monitors the economic and financial developments, and gives advice to countries on their monetary and fiscal matters to prevent currency crises.
 - Second is helping countries in maintaining their Balance of Payment (BoP). IMF provides short term funds to countries facing problems with their balance of payments.
 - Third, the IMF provides countries with technical assistance and training in its areas of expertise.

Quota System

- Each member country of the IMF is assigned a quota. Quota is a value of a country's share in the IMF financing system.
- A member country's quota determines its maximum financial commitment to the IMF, its voting power, and its access to IMF financing.
- The current quota formula is a weighted average of GDP of an economy (weight of 50 percent), openness (30 percent), economic variability (15 percent), and international reserves (5 percent). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The IMF's Board of Governors conduct general quota reviews at regular intervals. Any changes in quotas of economies must be approved by an 85 percent majority of the total voting power. Every member country has to maintain 25% of its Quota in the IMF in the form of foreign currency or gold and the remaining 75% in the form of domestic currency. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Recently, India urged for enhancement in the Quantum of Quota Resources and Realignment of Voting Shares in IMF so that it helps EMDCs (Emerging Market and Developing Countries) like India to get their shares increase in line with growing relative economic position

QUESTION 3:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Current Account is the net difference between inflows and outflows of foreign currencies.
2. Currently, India has full convertibility of Rupee on Current as well as Capital Account.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Current Account of a country is measured by the flow of **goods, services, transfers and investment income** between domestic residents, businesses and governments and the rest of the world. In other words, it is the **net difference between inflows and outflows of foreign currencies. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Full convertibility of current account means all current transactions of India in terms of trade in merchandise and services are met through full convertibility of rupee into other currencies. In other words, rupee can be used to buy other currencies and other countries can buy Indian Rupee without restrictions.
- Capital Account Convertibility here includes converting Indian financial assets into foreign financial assets at market determined rates. A full convertibility on capital account may lead to unrestricted movement of capital out of the country which in turn may destabilise the economy. Therefore, currently the INR is fully convertible on the current account but partially convertible on the capital account. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 4:

Consider the following statements about Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES):

1. The cost of projects under TIES are equally shared between the Centre and the States.
2. Its objective is to enhance export competitiveness by bridging gaps in export infrastructure.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The government has launched **Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)** in 2017, which replaced the initiative called **Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme**.
- The objective of the TIES scheme is to **enhance export competitiveness by bridging gaps in export infrastructure**, creating focused export infrastructure, first mile and last mile connectivity for export-oriented projects and addressing quality and certification measures. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Central and State Agencies, including Export Promotion Councils, Commodities Boards, SEZ Authorities and Apex Trade Bodies recognised under the EXIM policy of Government of India; are eligible for financial support under this scheme.
- The ASIDE scheme objective was to involve the States in their export effort by providing assistance to the State Governments/ UT Administrations for creating appropriate infrastructure for the development and growth of exports.
- Unlike the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme, which was funded by the Centre, the cost of projects under TIES are equally shared between the Centre and the states. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Negative list of projects that will not be considered under this scheme:
 - Projects which are considered under sector specific schemes like textiles, electronics, IT, etc.
 - General infrastructure projects like highways, power etc.
 - Projects where an overwhelming export linkages cannot be established.

QUESTION 5:

With reference to 'India's Foreign Exchange Reserve', consider the following statements:

1. It includes gold and foreign currency only.
2. It has declined continuously in the last five years.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- India's Foreign Exchange Reserve includes:
 - **Gold,**
 - **Foreign currency assets,**

- **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and**
- **Reserve Position in the International Monetary Fund (IMF).**Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- India's forex reserves **fell to \$274.8 billion in September of 2013**, prompting the Centre and RBI to unleash measures to attract inflows. It has been a **steady rise for the reserves since then, with \$175 billion added in the last six years. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In December 2019, India's Foreign Exchange (Forex) reserves crossed the \$450-billion mark for the first time ever on the back of strong investment inflows which enabled the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to buy dollars from the market.

QUESTION 6:

With reference to Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a part of the World Bank group and provides insurance to investors against political risks.
2. It supports climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), set up in 1988 is a member of the World Bank Group.
- It encourages foreign investment in **developing economies** by offering insurance (guarantees) to foreign private investors against loss caused by non-commercial (i.e., political) risks, such as currency transfer, expropriation, war and civil disturbance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It also provides technical assistance to help countries disseminate information on investment opportunities.

Strategy

- A re-affirmed focus on the poorest through support for projects in International Development Association (IDA) countries.
- A continuing emphasis on Fragile and Conflict-affected States, where MIGA has the opportunity to have impact where private insurers are unwilling to go.
- An expanded commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation, targeting 28% of new projects issuance related to climate change mitigation or adaptation in 2020. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

The World Bank Group consists of five organizations:

1. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development: It lends to governments of middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries.
2. The International Development Association: It provides interest-free loans – called credits – and grants to governments of the poorest countries. Together, IBRD and IDA make up the World Bank.
3. The International Finance Corporation: It is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector.
4. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency: It was created in 1988 to promote foreign direct investment into developing countries to support economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve people's lives. MIGA fulfills this mandate by offering political risk insurance (guarantees) to investors and lenders.
5. The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID): It provides international facilities for conciliation and arbitration of investment disputes.

QUESTION 7:

With reference to 'unfair trade practices' adopted by exporters of other countries, consider the following statements:

1. An anti-dumping duty is protectionist tariff levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country.
2. Countervailing Duties (CVDs) are protectionist tariffs that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Anti-dumping duty

- An anti-dumping duty is a **protectionist tariff** that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is an instrument for ensuring fair trade and is not a measure of protection per se for the domestic industry. It provides relief to the domestic industry against the injury caused by dumping.
- The WTO does not regulate the actions of companies engaged in dumping, but instead focuses on how governments can – or can not – react to dumping.
- Anti-dumping and anti subsidies & countervailing measures in India are administered by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) functioning in the Department of Commerce in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- However, DGAD function is only to conduct the anti-dumping & countervailing duty investigation and make recommendations to the Government for the imposition of anti-dumping or anti-subsidy measures.
- While the Department of Commerce recommends the anti-dumping duty, it is the Ministry of Finance, which levies such duty.

Countervailing Duties (CVDs)

- CVDs are tariffs **levied on imported goods** to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- CVDs are meant to level the playing field between domestic producers of a product and foreign producers of the same product who can afford to sell it at a lower price because of the subsidy they receive from their government.
- As export subsidies are considered to be an unfair trade practice under the WTO's "Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures," which is contained in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994.
- The definition of 'subsidy' in this regard is quite broad. It includes any financial contribution made by a government or government agency, including a direct transfer of funds (such as grants, loans, and infusion of equity), potential direct transfer of funds (for example, loan guarantees), fiscal incentives such as tax credits, and any form of income or price support.
- The WTO only permits countervailing duties to be charged after the importing nation has conducted an in-depth investigation into the subsidized exports. Duration of countervailing duties is typically 5 years.

QUESTION 8:

Consider the following statements:

1. Mughal painting was primarily secular whereas paintings in Central India, Rajasthan and the Pahari region were deeply influenced by religion of the land.
2. Basohli, a miniature painting, belongs to the Pahari school of painting.
3. Mughal school of painting originated in the era of Jahangir.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation

- Unlike Mughal painting which is primarily secular, the art of painting in Central India, Rajasthani and the Pahari region etc. is deeply rooted in the Indian traditions, taking inspiration from Indian epics, religious texts like the Puranas, love poems in Sanskrit and other Indian languages, Indian folk-lore and works on musical themes.
- The cults of Vaishnavism, Saivism and Sakti exercised tremendous influence on the pictorial art (paintings) of these places. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Pahari region comprises the present State of Himachal Pradesh, some adjoining areas of the Punjab, the area of Jammu in the Jammu and Kashmir State and Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh.
- Basohli, a miniature Painting, is one of the famous examples of Pahari School of Painting. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The origin of the Mughal School of Painting is considered to be a landmark in the history of painting in India. With the establishment of the Mughal Empire, the Mughal School of painting originated in the reign of Akbar in 1560 A.D. The Mughal style evolved as a result of a **happy synthesis** of the **indigenous Indian style of painting** and the **Safavid school of Persian painting**. The Mughal style is marked by supple naturalism based on close observation of nature and fine and delicate drawing. It is of a high aesthetic merit. It is primarily aristocratic and secular. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 9:

Consider the following statements about the Nayaka paintings:

1. The Nayaka paintings depict episodes from the Mahabharata and the Ramayana.
2. This art of painting is in the form of the murals.
3. They showcase an extension of the Vijayanagara style with minor regional modifications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 3 only
(D) None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- Nayaka paintings of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are seen in Thiruparakunram, Sreerangam and Tiruvarur in Tamil Nadu.

- In Thiruparakunram, paintings are found of two different periods – of the fourteenth and the seventeenth century.
- The Nayaka paintings show the scenes from Hindu mythology on temple walls and ceilings. These paintings depict episodes from the Mahabharata and the Ramayana and also scenes from Krishna-leela. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In Chidambaram there are panels of paintings narrating stories related to Shiva and Vishnu – Shiva as bhikshatana murti, Vishnu as Mohini, etc.
- In the Sri Krishna temple at Chengam in Arcot District there are sixty panels narrating the story of the Ramayana which represent the late phase of Nayaka paintings.
- Mural paintings are those made integral with the surface of a wall or ceiling. The Nayaka paintings are characterised with paintings of the gopuram of temples, decorations on every surface, beautiful wooden sculptures, pillars, sculpted ceiling and gorgeous paintings on the walls called mural paintings. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The features of Nayaka paintings were more or less an extension of the Vijayanagara style with minor regional modifications and incorporations. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 10:

Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Vijayanagara paintings?

1. The faces in the paintings are shown in profile, whereas figures and objects are two dimensional.
2. The murals painted on the high ceiling of the Virupaksha temple are an example of Vijayanagara paintings.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- The paintings of the Vijayanagara represent the great revival of Hindu religion and art in South India.
- During the Vijayanagara Empire, mural paintings were practiced widely. The best representation of these paintings can be seen in the Veerabhadra temple in Lepakshi in Andhra Pradesh and Virupaksha temple at Hampi.
- These paintings have covered the ceiling of the great Virupaksha temple at Hampi and the themes of them are generally religious.
- The **Vijayanagara painters** evolved a pictorial language wherein the faces are shown in profile while figures and objects are two-dimensional. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The murals painted on the high ceiling of the ranga-mantapa (the hall) at the Sri Pampa Virupaksha temple, Hampi in Karnataka are excellent examples of Vijayanagara paintings. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The murals painted on the ceilings depict the procession of the sage Vidyananya, the spiritual master who motivates Hakka and Bukka to establish the Vijayanagara Empire.

QUESTION 11:

Which of the statements given below is/are correct?

1. Thalassemia is a genetic disorder in which patients develop tumours in multiple organs.
2. Von Hippel-Lindau's (VHL) disease is a genetic syndrome in which red blood cells do not produce enough of the proteins that make haemoglobin.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- Thalassemia is a genetic disorder in which red blood cells do not produce enough of the proteins that make haemoglobin. Haemoglobin is the protein molecule in red blood cells that carries oxygen. The disorder results in excessive destruction of red blood cells, which leads to anaemia. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Von Hippel-Lindau's (VHL) disease is a rare genetic syndrome in which patients develop tumours in multiple organs in early childhood. It is caused by defects to the tumour-suppressor gene VHL.
- William G. Kaelin received the Nobel Prize for Medicine (2019) for his work investigating a genetic syndrome called Von Hippel-Lindau's (VHL) disease. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 12:

The 2019 Nobel Prize of Physics was awarded for efforts to understand the Comprehensible Universe. In this context, consider the following statements.

1. Concept of 'Cosmological Constant' was given by Einstein.
2. The expansion of the Universe has stopped due to its gravity.
3. The major part of the Universe consists of dark matter and dark energy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Universe is **continuously expanding**. It has not been slowing due to its gravity. In fact, It is accelerating. The clue to the nature of the Universe began to unfold with the discovery of the General Theory of Relativity by Einstein that is now the basis of all large scale calculations about the universe. He also introduced the concept of the '**Cosmological Constant**'. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Edwin Hubble clearly demonstrated that the Universe expands. Most cosmologists now agree that the Big Bang model is a true story about the origin and development of the cosmos, despite only 5% of its matter and energy now being known.
- The **Universe expansion means** that it was once much denser and hotter. The early Universe was full of compact, hot and opaque particles soup in which light particles, photons just bounced around. Later it cooled to condense into the matter and become transparent enough for lights to propagate. The universe is getting bigger every second. The space between galaxies is stretching, like dough rising in the oven. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Dark Matter and Dark Energy

- DJames Peebles: Theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology dark matter, though never detected, is believed to be present in the entire universe, its existence presumed because a number of observable celestial phenomena could not be possible if the universe did not have much more matter in it than is seen.

- It turns out that roughly 68% of the universe is dark energy.
- Dark matter makes up about 27%. Hence, 95% of the Universe is dark matter and dark energy. The rest – everything on Earth, everything ever observed with all of our instruments, all normal matter – adds up to less than 5% of the universe. Gravitational force prevents stars in our Milky Way from flying apart. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 13:

With reference to carbon nanotubes, which of the following statements is not correct?

- (A) They exhibit extraordinary strength and unique electrical properties and are efficient insulators of heat.
- (B) They may help solve the global water crisis.
- (C) They are used in drug delivery and can result in drug efficiency.
- (D) They can soak up oil in water with unparalleled efficiency.

Answer: A

Explanation

What are Carbon nanotubes (CNTs)?

- Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are tiny hexagonal, cylindrical tubes of the fullerene structural family, made by rolling sheets of graphene. They have novel properties that make them potentially useful in a wide variety of applications in nanotechnology, electronics, optics and other fields of materials science.
- They exhibit extraordinary strength and unique electrical properties and are efficient conductors of heat (not insulators). **Hence, statement A is not correct.**

Purification of water

- CNTs can address the world's growing need to purify water from the sea. By 2025, 14% of the global population will be forced to use seawater.

Why is it significant?

- Require little energy and can be designed to specifically reject or remove not only salt but also common pollutants.
- Allow frictionless passes of water through the pores, but reject most salts, ions, and pollutants, giving us purified water, probably in its best form.
- Have self-cleaning properties.
- Have cytotoxic properties i.e they naturally kill microbes that might otherwise foul up their surfaces. **Hence, statement B is correct.**

Medical Applications for Carbon Nanotubes

- Chemotherapy and drug delivery:
 - Medical implants made of porous plastic, coated with carbon nanotubes are being used for drug delivery. Therapeutic drugs, which are attached to the nanotubes can be released into the bloodstream.
 - CNTs and gold nanoparticles are being used in a sensor that detects proteins indicative of oral cancer. It is accurate in detecting oral cancer and provides results in less than an hour.
 - Targeted heat therapy is being developed to destroy breast cancer tumours.
- Gene therapy: Since CNTs are able to penetrate cells, they are used for gene delivery.
- Stem cell-related therapies. **Hence, statement C is correct.**

Carbon Nanotubes and oil spill

- Adding boron atoms during the growth of carbon nanotubes causes the nanotubes to grow into a sponge-like material that can absorb many times its weight in oil.

- The material's mechanical flexibility, magnetic properties, and strength lend it additional appeal as a potential technology to aid in oil spill cleanup. **Hence, statement D is correct.**

QUESTION 14:

Recently 'Bedin 1' has been in the news, refers to?

- (A) A Chinese satellite to measure the effects of global warming
- (B) A dwarf spheroidal galaxy
- (C) A collaboration satellite between ASEAN and China
- (D) A Chinese telescope

Answer: B

Explanation

- With the help of the **NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope**, **astronomers have found a new dwarf galaxy** in our cosmic neighbourhood which has been named as '**Bedin 1**'.
- The newly discovered galaxy is approximately 30 million light-years away and is classified as a dwarf spheroidal galaxy as it measures only around 3,000 light-years at its greatest extent and is roughly a thousand times dimmer than our own Milky Way Galaxy. **Hence, option B is correct.**

QUESTION 15:

With reference to the term Goldschmidtite, which of the following statements is not correct?

- (A) Goldschmidtite is a mineral which is dark green and opaque found about 170 kilometres beneath the Earth's surface.
- (B) Goldschmidtite contains a high concentration of niobium, potassium and rare elements.
- (C) Goldschmidtite is found in diamonds from volcanic sites.
- (D) Goldschmidtite is placed along with Lanthanoids in the Periodic Table.

Answer: D

Explanation

- **A new and unusual mineral** has been discovered as an inclusion in diamond from a **volcanic site in South Africa**. It was named as **Goldschmidtite** in honour of mineralogist Victor Moritz Goldschmidt.
 - The mineral is **dark green and opaque** found about 170 kilometres beneath the Earth's surface. Goldschmidtite **contains a high concentration of niobium, potassium and rare elements**. Potassium and niobium are the main components in the mineral which is very rare in the mantle. **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 16:

KP-BOT has been in the news lately. With reference to it, which of the following statements is correct?

- (A) KP-BOT is a malware that can jeopardise data stored on a personal computer.
- (B) KP-BOT is a malware that specifically targets through social media mobile applications.
- (C) KP-BOT is an anti-malware programme to curtail threats like ransomware.
- (D) KP-BOT is a humanoid police robot.

Answer: D

Explanation

- **India's first humanoid police robot KP-BOT** was inaugurated in Kerala and has been given the rank of Sub-inspector (SI) at the Police Headquarter, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Embracing a progressively automated future of the nation, Kerala has become the first-ever police department in the nation to deploy a robot for police tasks. **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 17:

With reference to Biosimilars, consider the following statements:

1. Biosimilars are generic equivalents of branded biological products or biologics that are created through biological processes instead of chemical synthesis.
2. Biosimilars are popular for treating various cancers, rheumatoid arthritis and adverse cardiovascular conditions.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- **Biosimilars are termed as the “generic equivalent” of branded biological products** or biologics that are created through biological processes instead of chemical synthesis. The world is witnessing an unheard-of boom in these medicines. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Biosimilars are popular for **treating various cancers, rheumatoid arthritis and adverse cardiovascular conditions**. Patented and brand biologics are expensive and turn out to be prohibitive in case of diseases like cancer and hepatitis. The biosimilars are relatively dirt-cheap and are now being supported by the governments of developed countries precisely for this reason. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 18:

Consider the following statements:

1. New Swarnima Scheme provides term loan to women entrepreneurs belonging to the backward classes.
2. New Swarnima Scheme was introduced by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation.
3. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation operates under the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 Only
(B) 2 and 3 Only
(C) 1 and 3 Only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation

- **The Swarnima Scheme** was introduced by the **National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)** for the **welfare of Women**. Under this scheme, term loan will be provided to women entrepreneurs belonging to the target group (backward classes). The scheme is implemented by the State Channelising Agency (SCA) which also acts as the nodal agency. **Hence, both statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation was incorporated in 1992 as a non profit company under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It works for promoting economic and developmental activities for the benefit of Backward Classes and assisting the weaker section of these classes in skill development and self-employment. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 19:

Which of the following best describes 'Water PLUS Protocol'?

- (A) It is an initiative launched to enhance rain water harvesting.
- (B) It is an initiative to provide clean drinking water in schools.
- (C) It provides guidelines under Swachh Bharat Mission to ensure no untreated waste-water is released into the environment.
- (D) It aims to deal with water shortage problems in water stressed regions of the country.

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Ministry Housing & Urban Affairs launched the Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS 2020), the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- The Ministry has also launched the '**Water PLUS Protocol**' and tool kit. It will provide a guideline for cities and towns to ensure that no untreated waste-water is released into the environment thereby enabling sustainability of the sanitation value chain.
- The toolkit provides the detailed SBM Water Plus protocol laid down by MoHUA, along with declaration formats to be obtained from various stakeholders, that wards / work circles and cities are required to submit, as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission Water Plus declaration and certification process. **Hence, option C is correct.**

QUESTION 20:

Which one of the following best describes the term "Bipalium"?

- (A) It is a toxic terrestrial flatworm that eradicates earthworms.
- (B) It is a variety of medicinal plant that is found in the northeast.
- (C) These are the smallest species of frog indigenous to western ghats.
- (D) These are large-scale invasive species of fungus harmful to the wheat crop.

Answer: A

Explanation

- The **hammerhead worm (Bipalium sp.)** is a **terrifying and toxic terrestrial flatworm**. It is both a predator and a cannibal and is basically a large planarian that lives on land. While the distinctive-looking worms don't pose a direct threat to human beings, they are invasive species that eradicate earthworms.
- Earthworms decompose the soil organic matter by eating and breaking it down into smaller pieces allowing bacteria and fungi to feed on it and release the nutrients. Earthworms are also responsible for mixing soil layers and incorporating organic matter into the soil. Eradication of earthworm leads to loss of fertility of the soil. **Hence, option A is correct.**

QUESTION 21:

Which of the following are the advantages for a company of setting up a sourcing or manufacturing platform within a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in India?

1. Duty free import and domestic procurement of goods.
2. Exemption from the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
3. External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) is allowed up to US\$500 million a year without restriction.
4. Exempted from Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 and 3 only
- (B) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B

Explanation

- **Special economic zones (SEZs)** are regions or certain localities in India which **offer tax and various other financial and non-financial incentives** to companies setting up their units within the region. SEZs in India are set up under the India's Special Economic Zone Act, 2005.
- Some advantages of setting up a sourcing or manufacturing platform within an Indian SEZ include:
 - Duty free import and domestic procurement of goods;
 - 100 percent income tax exemption on export income for first five years;
 - Exemption from the Goods and Services Tax (GST);
 - External commercial borrowing (ECB) is allowed up to US\$500 million a year without restriction;
 - SEZ Units are not exempted from minimum alternate tax (MAT). Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) is levied on companies which exploit the loopholes to reduce their tax liability to zero or negligible despite having earned profit.
 - Hence, option (B) is correct.

QUESTION 22:

In which of the following ways is/are Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) helping farmers in India?

1. Distribution of high-yielding variety seeds
2. Providing agricultural credit
3. Issuing soil health cards

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- The main objective of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) is to provide need based practically feasible solutions to the farming community, scientists and researchers. Besides, they are knowledge providing centres to rural youth, entrepreneurs, farm women and financial institutions.
- They also provide farm advisories using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and other media means on varied subjects of interest to farmers.
- They are responsible for collecting soil samples, testing the sample and finally distributing the soil health cards to farmers. **Hence, option 3 is correct.**
- High-yielding variety seeds are distributed to farmers through them. **Hence, option 1 is correct.**
- They help farmers with Credit Linkage but do not provide agricultural loans to them. **Hence, option 2 is NOT correct.**
- KVKs are also helping farmers of NCR-Delhi region with no burning of paddy residue in the fields. Hence, the option (C) is correct.

QUESTION 23:

Which of the following are included in priority sector lending?

1. Agriculture
2. Export Credit
3. Housing
4. Renewable Energy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Priority Sector means those sectors which the Government of India and Reserve Bank of India consider as important for the development of the basic needs of the country and are to be given priority over other sectors. The banks are mandated to encourage the growth of such sectors with adequate and timely credit.
- **Priority Sector includes the following categories:**
 - (i) **Agriculture**
 - (ii) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
 - (iii) **Export Credit**
 - (iv) Education
 - (v) **Housing**
 - (vi) Social Infrastructure
 - (vii) **Renewable Energy**
 - (viii) Others

Hence, option (D) is correct.

The activities covered under Agriculture are classified under three sub-categories viz. Farm credit, Agriculture infrastructure and Ancillary activities.

QUESTION 24:

Consider the following statements regarding Minimum Support Prices (MSP):

1. It is announced by the Government on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
2. In case the market price for the commodity falls below the announced minimum price government agencies are supposed to purchase the entire quantity offered by the farmers at the announced minimum price.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The Price Support Policy of the Government is directed at providing insurance to agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- The minimum guaranteed prices are fixed to set a floor below which market prices cannot fall.
- The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- MSP is price fixed by the Government of India to protect the farmers against excessive fall in price during bumper production years. The minimum support prices are a guarantee price for their produce from the Government.
- The major objective is to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution.
- In case the market price for the commodity falls below the announced minimum price due to bumper production and glut in the market, government agencies are supposed to purchase the entire quantity offered by the farmers at the announced minimum price. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 25:

Which of the following are Kharif crops and also covered under the minimum support price (MSP)?

1. Wheat
2. Gram
3. Jowar
4. Maize
5. Groundnut
6. Barley

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (A) 3, 4 and 5 only
- (B) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (C) 1, 2, 5 and 6 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Answer: A

Explanation

- The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors.
- The major objective is to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution.
- The mandated crops are:
 - 14 crops of the kharif season viz. paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, arhar, moong, urad, groundnut-in-shell, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, niger seed and cotton. Hence, option (A) is correct.
 - 6 rabi crops viz. wheat, barley, gram, masur (lentil), rapeseed/mustard and safflower two other commercial crops viz. jute and copra.
 - In addition, the MSPs of toria and de-husked coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively.
 - Recently, the Government has announced to fix MSP at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production for kharif crops.

QUESTION 26:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is implementing the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).
2. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is implementing Participatory Guarantee System-India (PGS-India).
3. Participatory Guarantee System is a process of certifying organic products.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

Participatory Guarantee System

- In order to promote domestic organic market growth and enable small and marginal farmers **to have easy access to organic certification**, a decentralized organic farming certification system called Participatory Guarantee System –India (PGS-India) is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture Cooperation farmers welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is a process of certifying organic products which ensures the agriculture production process is in accordance with the standards laid down for organic products and that desired quality has been maintained. This system is exhibited in the form of a documented logo or a statement. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It is a quality assurance initiative that is locally relevant with active participation of stakeholders including producers/farmers, traders and consumers in the certification system.
- This group certification system is supported by Paramaparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) scheme.
- **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)** Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been implementing the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) since 2001. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

The **objectives of NPOP** are as under:

- To provide an evaluation and certification programme for organic agriculture and products (including wild harvest, aquaculture, livestock products) as per the approved criteria.
- To accredit Certification Bodies.
- To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the prescribed standards.
- To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the importing countries organic standards as per equivalence agreement between the two countries or as per importing country requirements.
- To encourage the development of organic farming and organic processing.

QUESTION 27:

Consider the following statements regarding Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme:

1. It is being implemented through the Department of Agriculture of all the State and Union Territory Governments.
2. SHC will be made available once every 5 years.
3. It is a printed report provided to the farmer for each of his holdings.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- (A) 2 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation

- Soil Health Card (SHC) is a Government of India's scheme promoted by the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and farmers welfare under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- It is being implemented through the Department of Agriculture of all the State and Union Territory Governments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is meant to give each farmer **soil nutrient status** of his/ her holding and advise him/her on the dosage of fertilizers and also the needed soil amendments, that s/he should apply to maintain soil health in the long run.
- It is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It will contain the status of his soil with respect to 12 parameters, namely: N, P, K (Macronutrients) (Secondary-nutrient) Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micro – nutrients) pH, EC, OC (Physical parameters)
- Based on this, the SHC will also indicate fertilizer recommendations and soil amendment required for the farm.
- The card will contain an advisory based on the soil nutrient status of a farmer's holding. It will show recommendations on dosage of different nutrients needed.
- **It will be made available once in a cycle of 3 years**, which will indicate the status of soil health of a farmer's holding for that particular period. The SHC given in the next cycle of 3 years will be able to record the changes in the soil health for that subsequent period. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- The State Government will collect samples through the staff of their Department of Agriculture or through the staff of an outsourced agency.
- The State Government may also involve the students of local Agriculture / Science Colleges.

QUESTION 28:

In the context of India's services sector, consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest contributor among all sectors to India's Gross Value Added (GVA) and workforce involvement.
2. The cumulative FDI equity inflow has been maximum in the services sector over the last decade.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- India's services sector includes activities such as trade, hotels, restaurants, transport, storage and communication, financing, insurance, real estate, business services, social and personal services, and services associated with construction, tourism and medical tourism.
- Currently, the services sector contributes nearly 55 percent of India's Gross Value Added at current price and **has a workforce of nearly 28 percent of the total population.**

- Services sector thus remains the highest contributor to India's GVA among all sectors but it does not involve the maximum workforce as the maximum workforce is in the agriculture sector (nearly 42 percent of the total). **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- The share of services sector is 56.6 percent of the cumulative FDI equity inflows during the period April 2000-October 2017 and 63.7 percent of FDI equity inflows during 2018-2019. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 29:

Which of the following is/are the aim(s) of 'Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS)'?

1. To enhance market supply of food grains
2. To exercise a moderating influence on open market prices
3. To offload surplus stocks

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 3 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- The **Food Corporation of India** has been undertaking sale of food-grains at pre-determined prices (reserve prices) in the open market from time to time, known as the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). This is aimed at serving the following objectives:
 - to enhance market supply of foodgrains;
 - to exercise a moderating influence on open market prices;
 - and to offload surplus stocks.
 - To reduce the carrying cost of food grains. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- Under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic), the government adopts a policy of differential prices to encourage sale of older stock first – sticking to the following policy stance:
 - Keeping the reserve price above MSP, but reasonably below the acquisition cost or economic cost of food-grains, so that the buyers remain attracted to purchase of food-grains from the mandis during the harvest season and the market remains competitive.
 - Maintaining that the market price during the lean season does not increase much and inflation remains under check.

QUESTION 30:

Consider the following statements with reference to Model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act-2018:

1. The Act lays special emphasis on protecting the interests of the farmers, considering them as weaker of the two parties entering into a contract.
2. Contract framing will be outside the ambit of Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- With a view to integrate farmers with bulk purchasers including exporters, agro-industries etc. for better price realization through mitigation of market and price risks to the farmers and ensuring smooth agro raw material supply to the agro industries, Union Finance Minister in the budget for 2017-18 announced preparation of a 'Model Contract Farming Act'. **Salient features of Model Contract Farming Act, 2018** are:
- The Act lays special emphasis on protecting the interests of the farmers, considering them as weaker of the two parties entering into a contract. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In addition to contract farming, services contracts all along the value chain including pre-production, production and post-production have been included.
- Contracted produce is to be covered under crop/livestock insurance in operation.
- Contract framing to be outside the ambit of APMC Act. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- No permanent structure can be developed on farmers' land/premises
- No right, title of interest of the land shall vest in the sponsor.
- FPO/FPC can be a contracting party if so authorized by the farmers.
- Contract Farming Facilitation Group (CFFG) for promoting contract farming and services at village/ panchayat at level provided.
- Accessible and simple dispute settlement mechanism at the lowest level possible provided for quick disposal of disputes.
- It is a promotional and facilitative Act and not regulatory in its structure

QUESTION 31:

With reference to security markets, what is 'Greenshoe Option'?

- (A) To use factor price of export products for transfer pricing in sister companies.
- (B) Over allotment provision for company listing for the first time.
- (C) Forex rebates for new industries in medium and small scale industries.
- (D) Notional rebate for credit issued by a company filing for bankruptcy.

Answer: B

Explanation

- **Greenshoe Option:** It is a provision under which a company issuing shares for the first time is allowed to sell some additional shares to the public – usually 15 per cent (also known as over-allotment provision). It gets its name from the first company (Greenshoe Company, USA) which was allowed such an option.
 - This option permits the underwriters to buy up to an additional 15% of the shares at the offer price if public demand for the shares exceeds expectations and the share trades above its offering price.
- The above option is primarily used at the time of IPO or listing of any stock to ensure a successful opening price. Accordingly, companies can intervene in the market to stabilise share prices during the first 30 days' time window immediately after listing. This involves purchase of equity shares from the market by the underwriting syndicate in case the share price falls below issue price or goes significantly above the issue price. The above option acts as a price stabilising mechanism. Hence, option (B) is correct.

QUESTION 32:

When a new technology makes a form of work outdated or so inexpensive that employment drops drastically in that field, then the situation leads to which type of unemployment in the society?

- (A) Structural

- (B) Frictional
- (C) Cyclical
- (D) Disguised

Answer: A

Explanation

- **Structural unemployment** occurs when there is a mismatch between the jobs that are available and the skills of people looking for work. It occurs mainly when a new technology makes a form of work outdated that employment drops drastically in that field. For example, consider the drones to replace people in delivering packages. This would generate higher unemployment of those who specialize in transporting packages.
- Structural unemployment tends to be longer lasting because it can take a number of years for workers to develop new skills or move to a different region to find a job that matches their skills.
- **Frictional unemployment** occurs when people move between jobs in the labour market, as well as when people transition into and out of the labour force.
- **Cyclical unemployment** occurs with changes in economic activity over the business cycle. During an economic downturn, a shortfall of demand for goods and services results in a lack of jobs; whereas during an economic boom demand for goods and services increases and therefore increases the opportunities available for those who want to work.
- **Disguised unemployment** type usually occurs when there is over employment in a particular work. It exists where part of the labour force is either left without work or is working in a redundant manner. **Hence, option A is correct.**

QUESTION 33:

Consider the following statement:

1. Article 270 of the Constitution gives power to both union and state governments to impose cess.
2. Cess is a compulsory contribution collected by governments for any specific purpose.
3. Kerala became the first state to impose flood cess under the GST regime.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 2 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- **Article 270(1):** All taxes and duties referred to in the Union List, except the duties and taxes referred to in articles 268, 269 and 269A, respectively, surcharge on taxes and duties referred to in Article 271 and **any cess levied for specific purposes** under any law made by Parliament shall be levied and collected by the Government of India and shall be distributed between the Union and the States in the manner provided in clause (2). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A Cess is a **compulsory contribution** collected by the government from the public at large and is to be used for a **specific public purpose**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Kerala government** will impose an **additional cess of 1% on goods and services with GST slab above 5% from June 1**. Kerala is the **first state to impose additional cess on GST** after it was implemented. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 34:

With reference to the “GAFA” tax plan of France, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is being devised because existing tax norms, in many countries are not suitable to regulate online services.
2. India, in 2016 levied a similar tax known as equalisation levy (EL), through the Finance Act, 2016.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- France announced the introduction of a GAFA tax – named after Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon – on large technology and internet companies in France from 1 January 2019.
- The rationale behind devising a separate framework to tax online service providers is this:
 - Existing tax norms that are framed envisaging brick and mortar business models are not suitable to regulate online services.
 - This is because the digital economy is characterized by a unique system of value creation resulting from a combination of factors such as sales functions, algorithms and personal information of users.
 - User participation in creating value, which, in turn, translates into revenue, in technology companies distinguishes it from traditional businesses. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Equalization Levy is similar to GAFA tax and imposed on online advertisements. It is the first instance of a digital-specific tax legislation in Indian law.
 - It is independent of the domestic income tax provisions and introduced through the Finance Act, 2016.
 - It could be considered as an alternative way to address the broader direct tax challenges of the digital economy. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 35:

Consider the following pairs:

Type of inflation Meaning

1. Creeping : When inflation increases gradually, but continuously, over time.
2. Galloping : When the prices of goods and services increase at two-digit or three-digit rate per annum
3. Walking inflation : When the price rise is moderate and the annual inflation rate is of a single digit.

Which of the pairs given above is/are matched correctly?

- (A) 2 and 3 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- **Creeping inflation** is defined as the circumstance where the inflation of a nation increases gradually, but continually, over time. The relatively small effect of creeping inflation, when viewed long-term, actually adds up to a pretty significant increase in the cost of living. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Galloping Inflation** is a type of inflation that occurs when the prices of goods and services increase at a two-digit or three-digit rate per annum. Galloping inflation is also known as jumping inflation. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Walking inflation:** When the price rise is moderate (is in the range of 3 to 7 %) and the annual inflation rate is of a single digit, it is called walking inflation. It is a warning signal for the government to control it before it turns into running inflation. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

QUESTION 36:

Tobin Tax refers to which of the following?

- (A) Tax levied at goods imported from hostile countries.
- (B) Tax on foreign exchange transactions.
- (C) Tax on insurance products.
- (D) Tax on religious endowments.

Answer: B

Explanation

TOBIN TAX

- It is a proposal of imposing a small tax on all foreign exchange transactions with the objective to discourage destabilizing speculation and volatility in the foreign exchange markets. **Hence, option B is correct.**
- Proposed by the Nobel prize-winning economist James Tobin (1918–2002). It is more formally known today as a Financial Transactions Tax (FTT), or less formally a Robin Hood tax.

QUESTION 37:

With reference to the Sukhna Lake, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Rajasthan.
2. It has been declared as a living as well as legal entity.
3. It is for the first time any non-living entity is being declared as a legal person in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- (A) 3 only
- (B) 1 and 3 only
- (C) 2 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation

- Sukhna Lake is a rain-fed lake, **located within Chandigarh** and its catchment area falls both in Punjab and Haryana. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Punjab and Haryana High Court has invoked its **parens patriae jurisdiction** to declare the lake as a legal entity for its survival, preservation and conservation having a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Earlier, the Uttarakhand High Court declared the rivers Yamuna and Ganga as legal or juridical persons, enjoying all the rights, duties and liabilities of a living person. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 38:

With reference to Indian Pharma Industry, consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest supplier of generic medicines globally.
2. The Indian pharmaceutical market is the largest in terms of value.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- India is the **largest supplier of generic medicines** globally. From 2018-19, India's pharmaceutical exports were worth **USD 19.13 billion** with a **growth of 10.72% in pharma exports** the previous year. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian pharmaceutical market is the third-largest in terms of volume and thirteenth largest in terms of value. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - India is also the largest vaccine producer in the world.
- The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is organised **India Pharma 2020 & India Medical Device 2020** Conference & Exhibition at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat in March, 2020.
- This was the fifth edition in India and first in the State of Gujarat.

QUESTION 39:

With reference to the Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It was conceptualised by the Ministry of AYUSH.
2. Every scientist and academician empanelled with the Ministry of AYUSH can participate in the programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- The **Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) Programme** was conceptualized in 2015 by the **Department of Science and Technology (Ministry of Science and Technology)** under its Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSRI). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Scientists and academicians with research backgrounds in '**Yoga and Meditation**' and having regular positions can participate in the programme. Practitioners actively involved in yoga and meditation practices can also participate. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Under SATYAM**, the Department of Science and Technology **has invited proposals to study appropriate intervention of yoga and meditation in fighting Covid-19 and similar kinds of viruses.**

QUESTION 40:

With reference to Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), consider the following statements:

1. It manages provident funds for the workforce engaged in the government sector only.
2. It is administered by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is a government organization that manages provident fund and pension accounts for the workforce engaged in the **organized sector** (can be both government as well as private) in India. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is administered by the **Ministry of Labour & Employment**, Government of India. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- A scheme allowing **advance withdrawal from Employee's Provident Fund (EPF)** accounts was notified by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - It allows withdrawal not exceeding the basic wages and dearness allowances for three months or up to 75% of the PF balance, whichever is less.
 - Also, as part of the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana** the government will bear the cost of the provident fund contributions, both of the employer and employees for the three months (April-June).

QUESTION 41:

'Mission Madhumeha' started by the Ministry of AYUSH is based on which of the following medicinal practices?

- (A) Unani
(B) Homeopathy
(C) Siddha
(D) Ayurvedic

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Ministry of AYUSH launched '**Mission Madhumeha**' on the occasion of first National Ayurveda Day on 28th October, 2016.
- Madhumeha Assessment Tool (MAT) based on Ayurvedic Philosophy has been developed for the first time for the self-assessment of people with regard to the possibility of diabetes. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- MAT aims to sensitise people about diabetes and its common symptoms and to encourage them to visit Ayurveda hospitals in case of having the score above the threshold.
- Specific diet and exercises explained in the protocol under the mission is useful for the end-user to promote self-health.

QUESTION 42:

Consider the following statements about the National Family Health Survey (NFHS):

1. International Institute for Population Sciences is the nodal agency to conduct NFHS.
2. It provides information on population, health, and nutrition status.
3. Malnutrition indices have shown a decline as per NFHS fourth survey.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- The **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of India, designated International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) as the nodal agency, responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the NFHS. NFHS was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with supplementary support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)

- It provides information on **population, health and nutrition** for India and each State/Union territory. NFHS-4, for the first time, provides district-level estimates for many important indicators. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Malnutrition indices have shown a decline as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4 (fourth survey) in 2015-16 over NFHS (3) in 2005-06. But the overall malnutrition scenario still continues to look bleak across the country. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- In NFHS(4), 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight and 38.4% are stunted indicating a reduction from the previous NFHS – 3 which reported 42.5% children under 5 years of age as underweight and 48% stunted.
- Further, 22.9% women (15-49 years of age) have chronic energy deficiency (BMI less than 18.5) which is a decline from the previous NFHS-3 levels which reported 35.5% women having chronic energy deficiency.

QUESTION 43:

Consider the following statements about the Human Development Index:

1. It is released by the United Nation Development Programme.
2. It reflects on factors like inequality, poverty, human security and empowerment.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- In 1990 the first **Human Development Report** introduced a new approach for advancing human well-being.
- **Human development approach** – is about expanding the richness of human life, rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live.
- The human development approach was developed by the economist Mahbub UI Haq.
- Human Development Reports (HDRs) have been released most years since 1990 and have explored different themes through the human development approach.
- The Human Development Index (HDI) is released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It focuses on improving the lives people lead rather than assuming that economic growth will lead, automatically, to greater wellbeing for all.
- The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development.
 - **A long and healthy life** – assessed by life expectancy at birth,
 - **Being knowledgeable** – measured by means of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age.
 - **Have a decent standard of living** – measured by gross national income per capita.
- The HDI simplifies and captures only part of what human development entails. It does not reflect on inequalities, poverty, human security, empowerment, etc. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 44:

Which of the following are the pillars of Gross National Happiness?

1. Good Governance
2. Environmental Conservation
3. Sustainable Socio-economic Development
4. Preservation and Promotion of Culture

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- The phrase '**Gross National Happiness**' (GNH) was first coined by the 4th King of Bhutan, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, in 1972. He declared that "Gross National Happiness is more important than Gross Domestic Product.
- GNH, is a holistic and sustainable approach to development, which balances material and non-material values with the conviction that humans want to search for happiness. The objective of GNH is to achieve a balanced development in all the facets of life that are essential for our happiness.
- The 4 Pillars of (Gross National Happiness) GNH are:
 - **Good Governance:** It is considered a pillar for happiness because it determines the conditions in which Bhutanese thrive. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Sustainable Socio-economic Development:** A thriving GNH economy must value social and economic contributions of households and families, free time and leisure given the roles of these factors in Happiness. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- **Preservation and Promotion of Culture:** Happiness is believed to be contributed to by preserving the Bhutanese culture. Developing cultural resilience, which can be understood as the culture's capacity to maintain and develop cultural identity, knowledge and practices, and ability to overcome challenges and difficulties from other norms and ideals. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Environmental Conservation:** It is considered a key contribution to GNH because in addition to providing critical services such as water and energy, the environment is believed to contribute to aesthetic and other stimulus that can be directly healing to people who enjoy vivid colours and light, untainted breeze and silence in nature's sound. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 45:

The European Union (EU) ensures that no import or export duties are paid on goods moving between EU Member States and a common tariff is imposed on goods imported from outside the EU. By doing so, the EU behaves as which of the following?

- (A) Cartel
- (B) Collusion
- (C) Customs Union
- (D) Trade Union

Answer: C

Explanation

- A **cartel** is a group of similar independent countries or companies which join together to fix prices, to limit production or to share markets or customers between them.
- European Union aims to promote competition in trade and provide everyone in Europe with better quality goods and services at lower prices; whereas cartel members rely on commitment made to each other, which reduces their **incentives to provide** new or better products and services at competitive prices.
- Cartels therefore are illegal under EU competition law.
- Collusion refers to secret or illegal cooperation between two or more countries or companies in order to deceive others.
- A **customs union** is a form of trade agreement between two or more countries in such a manner that the member countries decide not to impose tariffs (taxes on imports) on each other's goods and agree to impose common external tariffs on goods imported from outside countries.
- The European Union is the biggest customs union in the world in terms of economic output. **Hence, option C is correct.**

QUESTION 46:

How is Import Tariff different from Import Quota?

1. In general, Import Tariff raises revenue for the government, whereas import quota generally does not.
2. Import Tariff reduces Individual consumer surplus, whereas import quota increases the same.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Tariffs are essentially taxes or duties placed on an imported good or service by a domestic government. It therefore generates revenue for the domestic government.
- Import quota generally reduces the quantity of imports, and does not generate additional revenue for the government. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - However, the government may sometimes increase the fees for import licences to tighten its trade norms. If the government sets the import licence fee equal to the difference between domestic price and international price, the import quota works exactly like a tariff. In such cases it generates revenue for the government.
- Individual consumer surplus is the net gain to an individual buyer from the purchase of a good. It is equal to the difference between the buyer's willingness to pay and the price paid.
- In case of increase in tariff, the cost of product in the market would increase and hence reduce the Individual consumer surplus. Similarly, with introduction of import quota, the competition in the market would reduce and therefore increase price of goods and reduce the Individual consumer surplus. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Importing Country Consumers** – Consumers of the product in the importing country are worse-off as a result of the tariff. The increase in the domestic price of both imported goods and the domestic substitutes reduces consumer surplus in the market.

QUESTION 47:

Which of the following best describes the “Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)”?

- (A) A fund set up by the World Bank for providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries for reducing their carbon emissions.
- (B) A fund set up under the Ministry of communication to set up telecom infrastructure and provide communication facilities in rural and remote areas of the country.
- (C) A fund set up under the Ministry of Finance for building a strong ecosystem to nurture innovation and start-ups in the country.
- (D) A fund set up under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to meet the specific health needs of refugees and migrants around the world.

Answer: B

Explanation

- Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up under the Ministry of Communication to help setup telecom infrastructure and provide telecom services to people in rural and remote areas at affordable prices. Hence, option (B) is correct.
- The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003 gave **statutory status** to the Universal Service Obligation Fund.
- The Rules for administration of the Fund known as Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2004 were notified. As per the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (as amended in 2003, 2006 and 2008), the Fund is to be utilized for meeting the Information and Communication needs of the countrymen.

The objectives of the fund are:

- Meaningful access to telecommunications facilities to rural and remote areas.
- Access to information, services, employment opportunities to countrymen.
- To spread the positive impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to people.
- Encourage service providers and other stakeholders to take up such initiatives on a larger scale to address the telecom needs of the citizens, especially of rural people.

QUESTION 48:

Recently Government of India has approved the proposal to set up Indian Institute of Skills (IISs) in different locations. With reference to the IISs, consider the following statements:

1. These institutes will be set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2. The institutes will provide vocational training in low skilled works, such as carpentry, bricklaying, etc.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Indian Institute of Skills (IISs)

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** has approved the proposal to set up Indian Institute of Skills (IISs) in 3 locations viz. Kanpur, Mumbai and Ahmedabad in the country. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The IISs are conceptualized with an **objective to provide advanced skills in highly specialized areas** – for example defence, aerospace, oil & gas and other emerging business domains. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It will develop highly skilled technical manpower to meet the demands of organizations that are currently operating and are likely to set up their production/manufacturing & business facilities in India.
- These institutes will be set up on a **Not-for-profit Public Private Partnership (N-PPP)** basis.
- The institutes are expected to help boost global competitiveness of key industry sectors by providing high-quality training, applied research education and a direct and meaningful connection with the industry.

QUESTION 49:

With reference to the National Testing Agency (NTA), consider the following statements:

1. It will conduct examinations of various State Boards as well as those of higher educational institutions.
2. It has established a network of test practice centres for students of rural areas.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- **National Testing Agency (NTA)** is registered as a Society under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, and as an **autonomous and self-sustained** premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.
- It is an independent organisation to conduct efficient, transparent and international standard tests in order to assess the competency of candidates. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Features

- The NTA would initially conduct those entrance examinations which are currently being conducted by the CBSE.
- Other examinations will be taken up gradually after NTA is fully geared up.
- The entrance examinations will be conducted in online mode at least twice a year, thereby giving adequate opportunity to candidates to bring out their best.
- In order to serve the requirements of the rural students, it would locate the centres at sub-district/district level and as far as possible would undertake hands-on training to the students.
- NTA has established a **network of test practice centres for students of rural areas** so that everyone will have an opportunity to practice before the exam. Schools/ engineering colleges with computer centres would be identified and kept open on Saturday/Sunday. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 50:

With reference to DISHA Centres, consider the following statements:

1. These are aimed at providing free counselling to victims of domestic violence.
2. These are an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- DISHA is an early intervention and **school readiness scheme** for children in the age group of 0-10 years with the four disabilities covered under National Trust. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is an initiative of the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, Government of India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The National Trust** has been established for welfare of persons with Autism, cerebral Palsy, mental Retardation and multiple disabilities.
- The National Trust act aims at setting up Disha Centres for early intervention for Persons with Disability (PwD) through therapies, training and support to family members.
- Under this scheme, any organization of persons with disabilities may register with the National Trust. These are known as Registered Organizations.
- The national trust provides funding to the DISHA centre by way of set up cost, sustenance cost and Monthly recurring cost.

QUESTION 51:

In the context of Mithila paintings, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It involves the use of fallen leaves and flowers for paintings.
2. It avoids the use of edible materials for painting.
3. The return of Ram from exile and Krishna playing with gopis are the preferred subject matter for paintings.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 and 3 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only

- (C) 1 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- **Mithila painting** is also known as Madhubani art. It is from the district of the same name in Bihar and is now well-known all over the world.
- Women from Mithila practice this painting to decorate the nuptial chamber and the inner walls of their homes to celebrate festivals.
- The return of Ram from exile and Krishna playing with gopis are the preferred subject matter. Artists sometimes show scenes of nature, an abundant harvest, tantric images of snake worship, and even city scenes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- In Mithila painting the artists **use fallen leaves and flowers** for giving colours to their paintings, but they **avoid the use of edible materials** for this purpose. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

QUESTION 52:

Which of the following statements best describes the Kolam painting?

- (A) Classical cloth painting of the Odisha and West Bengal regions.
(B) Canvas painting done with fingers and twigs using natural dyes and pigments in the north-west region of India.
(C) Hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile, produced in Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
(D) Floor painting made by women at the entrance of their homes with white rice powder in Tamil Nadu.

Answer: D

Explanation

- A Kolam is a geometric line drawing composed of curved loops. It is drawn around a grid pattern of dots. This drawing is made by using rice flour, chalk, chalk powder or rock powder. It is widely practised by female family members in front of their houses in south India, especially in Tamil Nadu state. Hence, option (D) is correct.

QUESTION 53:

With reference to the 'Urban Co-operative Banks', consider the following statements:

1. These are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India only.
2. The Prompt Corrective Action Framework of the RBI is applicable on these banks.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- The **banking operations** of Urban Co-operative Banks are regulated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, which lays down their capital adequacy, risk control and lending norms. However, their **management and resolution** in the case of distress is regulated by the **Registrar of Co-operative Societies** either under the State or Central government. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework** of the RBI is applicable **only to commercial banks** and is not extended to co-operative banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Supervisory Action Framework (SAF)**, used for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), is similar to the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework.
 - Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). It seeks to ensure expeditious resolution of financial stress faced by some of the UCBs.

QUESTION 54:

Consider the following statements:

1. The World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report is jointly released by the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
2. UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body headquartered at Geneva in Switzerland.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- **The World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)** is jointly released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (**UN DESA**) and the **five United Nations Regional Economic Commissions**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body headquartered at Geneva in Switzerland. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The recent report in 2020 warns about strong economic risks, deep political polarization and increasing scepticism about the benefits of multilateralism.

QUESTION 55:

Global Social Mobility Index is released by:

- (A) World Economic Forum
- (B) International Labour Organization
- (C) Amnesty International
- (D) United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Global Social Mobility Index is released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**. This is the first ever edition of the report. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- The WEF's Global Social Mobility Index assesses the 82 economies on "10 pillars" spread across the following five key dimensions of social mobility:
 - Health;
 - Education (access, quality and equity, lifelong learning);
 - Technology;

- Work (opportunities, wages, conditions);
 - Protection and Institutions (social protection and inclusive institutions).
- **India's overall ranking is poor – 76 out of the 82 countries considered.** However, India is among the five countries that stand to gain the most from a better social mobility score. The Nordic nations hold the top five spots, led by Denmark in the first place, followed by Norway, Finland and Sweden and Iceland.

QUESTION 56:

With reference to mission Purvodaya, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Mines.
2. It will ease the set up of Greenfield steel plants.
3. It will help in India's march towards a \$5 trillion economy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation

- Mission Purvodaya was launched by the Ministry of Steel. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was launched in 2020 for the accelerated development of eastern India through the establishment of an integrated steel hub in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The focus will be on eastern states of India (Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal) and northern part of Andhra Pradesh which collectively hold ~80% of the country's iron ore, ~100% of coking coal and significant portion of chromite, bauxite and dolomite reserves.
- The Integrated Steel Hub would focus on 3 key elements:
 - Capacity addition through easing the setup of Greenfield steel plants.
 - Development of steel clusters near integrated steel plants as well as demand centres.
 - Transformation of logistics and utilities infrastructure which would change the socio-economic landscape in the East.
- The objective of this hub would be to enable swift capacity addition and improve overall competitiveness of steel producers both in terms of cost and quality.
- It will ease the set up of Greenfield steel plants. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In achieving India's objective of becoming a \$5 trillion economy, the eastern states can play a major role where the steel sector can become the catalyst. Thus, the mission will help in India's march towards a \$5 trillion economy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 57:

Which of the following best describes the term 'import cover', sometimes seen in the news?

- (A) It is the ratio of value of imports to the Gross Domestic Product of a country.
(B) It is the total value of imports of a country in a year.
(C) It is the ratio between the value of exports and that of imports between two countries.
(D) It is the number of months of imports that could be paid for by a country's international reserves.

Answer: D

Explanation

- 'Import cover' is a concept of Economics which deals with the stability of a country's economy in dealing with foreign trade and Balance of Payment.
- It entails with the country's international reserves, which is adequate as a hedge against a crisis to meet the payment for import bills.
- In simple terms, it can be said to mean the number of months of imports that could be paid for by a country's international reserves. **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 58:

Which of the following is/are treated as 'artificial currency'?

- (A) American Depository Receipt (ADR)
- (B) Global Depository Receipt (GDR)
- (C) Special Drawing Rights (SDR)
- (D) Both ADR and SDR

Answer: C

Explanation

- Artificial currency units are a substitute for an actual currency that is used in economic transactions.
- An example of **an artificial currency is the Special Drawing Rights (SDR)** that were created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). SDRs are used by the members of the IMF to pay their dues and transfer funds between countries. The current makeup on the SDR is represented by US Dollar, Euro, Chinese Yuan, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling.
- An American Depository Receipt (ADR) is a negotiable certificate issued by a US bank representing a specified number of shares in a foreign stock traded on a US exchange.
- A Global Depository Receipt (GDR) is a **bank certificate issued in more than one country for shares in a foreign company**. The shares themselves trade as domestic shares, but, various bank branches offer the shares for sale globally. **hence, option C is correct.**

QUESTION 59:

The Global Infrastructure Facility is a/an:

- (A) ASEAN initiative to upgrade infrastructure in Asia and financed by credit from the Asian Development Bank.
- (B) World Bank collaboration that facilitates the preparation and structuring of complex infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to enable mobilization of private sector and institutional investor capital.
- (C) Collaboration among the major banks of the world working with the OECD and focused on expanding the set of infrastructure projects that have the potential to mobilize private investment.
- (D) UNCTAD funded initiative that seeks to finance and facilitate infrastructure development in the world.

Answer: B

Explanation

- In 2014, World Bank launched **Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF)** that coordinates and integrates the efforts of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), private sector investors and financiers, and governments interested in infrastructure investment in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs) through **facilitating the preparation and structuring of complex infrastructure public private partnerships (PPPs)**.

- The Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF) supports governments in bringing well-structured and bankable infrastructure projects to the market. GIF's project support can cover the spectrum of design, preparation, structuring, and transaction implementation activities, drawing on the combined expertise of the GIF's technical and advisory partners and focusing on structures that can attract a wide range of private investors. **Hence, option B is correct.**

QUESTION 60:

What is/are common to the two historical places known as Ajanta and Mahabalipuram?

1. Both were built in the same period.
2. Both belong to the same religious denomination.
3. Both have rock-cut monuments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) None of the statements given above is correct

Answer: B

Explanation

- The first Buddhist cave monuments at **Ajanta date back to 2nd and 1st centuries BC**. During the **Gupta period (5th and 6th centuries AD)**, many more richly decorated caves were added to the original group. While the **group of monuments at Mahabalipuram**, founded by the Pallava kings, was carved out of rock along the Coromandel coast in the **7th and 8th centuries**. **Hence, statement 1 is not current.**
- The paintings and sculptures of Ajanta, considered masterpieces of **Buddhist religious art**, have had a considerable artistic influence. While temples of Mahabalipuram are known especially for its rathas (temples in the form of chariots), mandapas (cave sanctuaries), giant open-air reliefs such as the famous 'Descent of the Ganges', and the temple of Rivage, **with thousands of sculptures to the glory of Shiva**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Ajanta has a series of about 30 Buddhist rock-cut cave temples. Also, Mahabalipuram temples consist of several temples of enormous size, which were built by cutting huge boulders into exquisite carves. The monuments of Mahabalipuram can be grouped under four categories – rock-cut caves, monolithic structures, open air bas-reliefs and structural temples. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 61:

Consider the following statements:

1. Student Start-up NIDHI award aims to promote student innovations and entrepreneurship only.
2. They have been initiated by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- Student Start-up **NIDHI (National Initiative of Development and Harnessing Innovation)** aims to support student innovations and fast-track those ideas on the path to entrepreneurship.
- It aims to financially support 20 student start-ups each year with ₹10 Lakh each. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is funded by the Department of Science and Technology which comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 62:

Consider the following pairs:

Scheme	Objective
1. DHRUV	: Encourage innovative learning
2. Yuvika	: Imparting basic knowledge on space technology
3. Unnati	: capacity building on Nanosatellite development

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme named 'DHRUV' has been launched by Ministry of Human Resource Development. The objective of the Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme is to encourage talented students to realize their full potential and henceforth, contribute to society. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- The programme will cover two areas namely, Science and Performing Arts.
 - Overall 60 students will be selected (30 from each area) from across the country.
 - The students will be broadly from classes 9 to 12 from all schools including government and private.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva Vigyani KARYakram" from 2019. The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
 - It is a residential training programme of around two weeks duration during summer holidays and it is proposed to select 3 students from each State/ Union Territory.
- ISRO has launched a training programme UNNATI (UNIspace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training by ISRO) for capacity building programme nanosatellite development. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
 - The Programme provides opportunities to the participants from developing countries to strengthen their capabilities in assembling, integrating and testing of nanosatellites.
 - UNNATI programme is being conducted by U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) of ISRO for 3 years in 3 batches and has a target to benefit 90 officials from 45 countries.
 - The training comprises theoretical course work on nanosatellite definition, utility, laws governing their impact on space debris, design drivers, reliability & quality assurance and hands-on training on assembly, integration, and testing of nanosatellites.

QUESTION 63:

Which of the following is the purpose of the programme NISHTHA-

- (A) Creating a repository on the performance of all the students enrolled in government schools.
- (B) Improve learning outcomes through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme
- (C) Eradicate TB by 2030
- (D) Create a junction for all online portals and websites relating various activities of the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Answer: B

Explanation

- **‘National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)’**, a national mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level. NISHTHA is the largest teachers’ training programme of its kind in the world. **Hence, B is the correct option.**
 - **Objective:** To motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.
- **‘Shagun’** is one of the world’s largest Integrated Online Junction for School Education. About 1200 KVS, 600 Navodaya Vidyalayas, around 20000 CBSE affiliated schools among others are integrated with Shagun.

QUESTION 64:

With reference to health and nutrition, consider the following statements:

1. Malnutrition comprises both undernutrition and overnutrition.
2. Overnutrition is measured by incidence of overweight obesity and diet-related Non-Communicable Diseases.
3. Wasting is a condition where the weight of the child is lower than the standard for the given height.
4. Stunting means lower than standard height of a child for the given age.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2
- (B) 1 and 4 only
- (C) 3 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

Explanation

- Malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses or imbalances in a person’s intake of energy and/or nutrients.
- The term malnutrition covers 2 broad groups of conditions: undernutrition and overnutrition.
 - Undernutrition-includes stunting (low height for age), wasting (low weight for height), underweight (low weight for age) and micronutrient deficiencies (a lack of important vitamins and minerals).
 - Overnutrition – overweight, obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer). Overweight and obesity are linked to an unbalanced or unhealthy diet resulting in eating too many calories and often associated with lack of exercise. Therefore, malnutrition comprises both undernutrition and overnutrition and they both lead to their own set of disease conditions. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- Wasting is a condition where the weight of the child is lower than the standard for the given height. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- Stunting and other forms of under-nutrition are thought to be responsible for nearly half of all child deaths globally.
- Stunting is associated with an underdeveloped brain, with long-lasting harmful consequences, including diminished mental ability and learning capacity, poor school performance in childhood.
Hence, statement 4 is correct.

QUESTION 65:

Which one of the following statements is not correct?

- (A) Health is a part of the Fundamental Right under Article 19.
- (B) India is committed to the eradication of tuberculosis by 2025.
- (C) National Health Policy 2017 says that government spending on health should reach 2.5% of GDP by 2025.
- (D) The problem of obesity is rapidly increasing in India.

Answer: A

Explanation

- Article 21 of the Indian constitution deals with Protection of Life and Personal Liberty.
- It lays down that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law.
- Health is a part of the Fundamental Right under Article 21.
- In various judgments, the Supreme Court has held that the right to health is a part of the right to life enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- In 1997 it also ruled that Article 21 must be interpreted in conformity with international law. **Hence, statement A is not correct.**
- TB is a top killer worldwide, ranking alongside HIV/AIDS.
- WHO has launched End TB Strategy to end TB by 2035.
- India is committed to eliminating tuberculosis (TB) by 2025.
- The National Health Policy, 2017 aims at achieving universal health coverage and delivering quality health care services to all at an affordable cost.
 - Reduce Under Five Mortality to 23 by 2025 and MMR from current levels to 100 by 2020.
 - Achieve global target of 2020 which is also termed as a target of 90:90:90, for HIV/AIDS
 - To reduce premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases by 25% by 2025.
 - Increase health expenditure by Government as a percentage of GDP from the existing 1.15 % to 2.5 % by 2025.
- The problem of obesity in children, adolescents and adults is rapidly increasing in India. It increases the chances of NCDs (heart diseases, cancer, diabetes and asthma).

QUESTION 66:

Digi Gaon is an initiative of :

- (A) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (B) Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
- (C) Ministry of Rural Development
- (D) Ministry of Science and Technology

Answer: A

Explanation

Digi Gaon Initiative

- The Common Service Center (CSC) Scheme is an integral part of “Digital India” initiative of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- CSC SPV is implementing Digi Gaon initiative in rural and remote villages of the country, with the mandate of the MeitY, where citizens can avail various online services of the Central and State government. Hence, option A is correct.
- The Digi Gaons are positioned to promote rural entrepreneurship and building rural capacities and livelihoods through community participation and collective action for engendering social change through a bottom-up approach with a key focus on the rural citizen.

QUESTION 67:

With reference to ‘stubble burning’, which one of the following statements is not correct?

- (A) Stubble burning emits Methane, Carbon monoxide and Volatile organic compounds.
- (B) Stubble is a good source of calories for animals and also has good vitamins.
- (C) Stubble cannot be used for making organic fertilizers.
- (D) Non-basmati rice is considered useless as fodder because of its high silica content.

Answer: C

Explanation

- **Stubble (parali)** burning is the act of setting fire to crop residue to remove them from the field to sow the next crop.
- Pollution: Open stubble burning emits large amounts of toxic pollutants in the atmosphere which contain harmful gases like Methane (CH₄), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Volatile organic compound (VOC) and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.
- Burning husk on the ground destroys the nutrients in the soil, making it less fertile.
- The heat generated by stubble burning penetrates into the soil, leading to the loss of moisture and useful microbes.
- It is a good source of calories for animals and also has good vitamins.
- From parali (stubble), high-grade organic fertilizers can be prepared by mixing with cow dung and few natural enzymes. Hence, statement C is not correct.
- Rice straw is considered useless as fodder in the case of non-basmati rice, because of its high silica content.

QUESTION 68:

As per the E-Waste (Management) Amendment Rules, 2018, which one of the following statements is not correct?

- (A) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is responsible for notifying the e-waste rules.
- (B) The e-waste collection targets under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) have been revised.
- (C) Separate e-waste collection targets have been drafted for new producers.
- (D) The Rules have the provision of the introduction of Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) registration.

Answer: A

Explanation

E-waste (Management) Amendment Rules, 2018

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has amended the E-Waste Management Rules, 2016. **Hence, statement A is not correct.**
- The amendment in rules has been done with the objective of channelizing the E-waste generated in the country towards authorized dismantlers and recyclers in order to formalize the e-waste recycling sector.

Some of the salient features of the E-waste (Management) Amendment Rules, 2018 are as follows:

- The e-waste collection targets under EPR have been revised and will be applicable from October, 2017. The phase-wise collection targets for e-waste in weight shall be 10% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in the EPR Plan during 2017-18, with a 10% increase every year until 2023. After 2023 onwards, the target has been made 70% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in the EPR Plan.
- Separate e-waste collection targets have been drafted for new producers.
- Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) shall apply to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for registration to undertake activities prescribed in the Rules.
- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) may conduct random sampling of electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market to monitor and verify the compliance of reduction of hazardous substances provisions and the cost for sampling and testing shall be borne by the government, which was not the case in the previous amendment.

QUESTION 69:

Consider the following:

1. Sorghum
2. Maize
3. Wheat
4. Ragi

Which of the above are considered as coarse cereals?

- (A) 3 and 4 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: C

Explanation

- **Coarse cereals** are a broad sub-group of several short-duration warm-weather crops such as Sorghum, Pearl Millet, Maize, Ragi. it is used in food, fodder, fuel and value-added products.
 - Maize, sorghum and other millets account for one-fourth of the total food grain production in India and occupy an important place in the food grain economy of the country.
- The dietary fibre of **sorghum** is 89.2%, pearl millet 122.3% and ragi have 113.5%. Rice has the lowest percentage of dietary fibre than other cereals.
- Ragi is recommended as a wholesome food for diabetic patients. Ragi's protein content has high biological value, so it is easily incorporated into the body. Several amino acids are found in the grain. Phosphorus content is also high.
- **Maize** is a good source of dietary fibre and protein while being very low in fat and sodium (salt).
- It is also rich in phosphorus, magnesium, manganese, zinc, copper, iron and selenium, and has small amounts of potassium and calcium.

- Pearl millet has high levels of vitamins B, and dietary minerals potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, zinc copper and manganese. It is gluten-free and is ideal for those with wheat allergies.
- Research in India showed that pearl millet and pulses are somewhat better at promoting human growth than a wheat diet.
- Sorghum is used in alcoholic beverages; the bread-making industry uses a wheat-sorghum combination.

QUESTION 70:

Consider the following pairs

List I	List II
1. Arsenic	Hemophilia
2. Cadmium	Itai-Itai
3. Mercury	Minamata
4. Titanium	Blue baby syndrome

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: B

Explanation

Heavy metals

- Heavy metals are elements that are naturally found in the earth. They're used in many modern-day applications, such as agriculture, medicine, and industry.
- Our body even naturally contains some. Zinc, iron, and copper, for example, are necessary for regular body function, as long as they aren't present in toxic amounts.
- Heavy metal poisoning occurs when your body's soft tissues absorb too much of a particular metal.
- The most common metals that the human body can absorb in toxic amounts are
 - Mercury
 - Lead
 - Cadmium
 - Arsenic
- Arsenic poisoning symptoms:
 - nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea
 - spots on your skin, such as warts or lesions
 - muscle cramps
 - Hemophilia: It is a medical condition in which the ability of the blood to clot is severely reduced, causing the sufferer to bleed severely from even a slight injury. The condition is typically caused by a hereditary lack of a coagulation factor. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- Cadmium poisoning symptoms:
 - Fever
 - breathing problems
 - muscle pain
 - Itai-itai disease. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

- Mercury poisoning symptoms:
 - lack of coordination
 - muscle weakness
 - hearing and speech difficulties
 - nerve damage in your hands and face
 - Vision disorders
 - Minamata disease. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- Lead poisoning symptoms:
 - Constipation
 - aggressive behaviour
 - sleep problems
 - Irritability
 - high blood pressure
 - loss of appetite
 - Anaemia
 - Headaches
 - Fatigue
 - memory loss
 - loss of developmental skills in children
- Lightweight metals include aluminium, magnesium, titanium, and beryllium alloys.
- Blue baby syndrome is a condition where a baby's skin turns blue. This occurs due to a decreased amount of hemoglobin in the baby's blood. The most common cause of blue baby syndrome is water contaminated with nitrates. **Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.**

QUESTION 71:

Consider the following commodities:

1. Rice
2. Wheat
3. Oil seeds

Buffer stock is maintained by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for which of the above commodities?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 1, 2 and 3
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) 1 and 3 only

Answer: A

Explanation

- Buffer Stock is the stock of foodgrains, namely **wheat and rice** procured by the government through Food Corporation of India (FCI). **Hence, option A is correct.**
- The FCI purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production. The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops. This price is called **Minimum Support Price**.
- This procurement is done to distribute foodgrains in the deficit areas and among the poor strata of society when there is shortage of foodgrains because of crop failure due to natural calamities.
- Food grains from buffer stock also helps the government to stabilise prices in volatile markets.

QUESTION 72:

The 'Twin Balance Sheet Problem' is related to which of the following?

- (A) Two fold problem with over indebtedness in the corporate sector and increase in the Fiscal Deficit.
- (B) Stress on balance sheets of banks on the one hand, and heavily indebted corporates on the other.
- (C) Stress due to Demonetization and the Good and services Tax.
- (D) None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation.

- Twin balance sheet problem (TBS) refers to the stress on balance sheets of banks due to non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans on the one hand, and heavily indebted corporates on the other. Hence, option (B) is correct.
- The genesis of TBS can be found in the early 2000s when Indian economy was consistently growing at around 8% rate.
- The factors leading to rising bank NPAs and over leveraged companies are:
- Healthy and confident market sentiment prompted banks to lend aggressively to long term infrastructure projects.
- Poor regulation and lack of period checks on the profitability and sustainability of these projects.
- Projects bid extremely low tariffs with confidence to renew them later (which didn't happen).
- Projects held due to lack of environmental clearances, growing cost of input raw material (Indonesia coal), lack of availability of raw materials (poor output from KG gas field).
- To resolve delay in projects, Banks resorted to evergreening of loans.
- The economic survey 2016-17 reconstruction company (Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency) to take over large stressed Assets and dispose them off. PARA follows the various steps taken to resolve NPA issues afflicting mostly the public sector banks.
- They were – SARFAESI Act, 2002, Asset Quality Review for banks mandated by RBI etc.

QUESTION 73:

With reference to DigiLocker, consider the following statements:

1. It is a flagship initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. It aims at securing users' gold through online registration.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under 'Digital India' programme. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the government's effort to create an electronic version of documents, which can be easily verified and stored in printable format and users can store their documents such as insurance, medical reports, PAN card, passport, marriage certificate, school certificate and other documents in the digital format. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 74:

With reference to the 'Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961', consider the following statements:

1. A diplomat in a foreign state shall not practise any professional or commercial activity for personal profit.
2. India has ratified this convention.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- As per Article 42 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, a diplomatic agent shall not in the foreign State practise for personal profit any professional or commercial activity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **India ratified** the Convention in **1965**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 75:

With reference to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), consider the following statements:

1. It is composed of both government and civil society organisations.
2. World Conservation Congress is an annual conference conducted by IUCN.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Held once every four years, the IUCN World Conservation Congress** brings together several thousand leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, and academia, with the goal of conserving the environment and harnessing the solutions nature offers to global challenges. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 76:

With reference to Prime Minister's Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council's (PM-STIAC) identification of nine national science missions, consider the following statements:

1. The mission aims at addressing major scientific challenges to ensure India's sustainable development.
2. The mission will directly be under PMO and engage international and national institutional partners.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 or 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Prime Minister's Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) has identified nine national science missions aimed to address major scientific challenges to ensure India's sustainable development. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Each mission **will be led by a lead Ministry** and will engage international and national institutional partners, young scientists and industry. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The nine national science missions are:**
 - Mission 1: Natural Language Translation.
 - Mission 2: Quantum Frontier.
 - Mission 3: Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Mission 4: National Biodiversity Mission.
 - Mission 5: Electric Vehicles (EVs)
 - Mission 6: BioScience for Human Health.
 - Mission 7: Waste to Wealth.
 - Mission 8: Deep Ocean Exploration.
 - Mission 9: AGNIi (Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations)

QUESTION 77:

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India has enabled NRIs to invest in specified Government securities(G-secs) through Fully Accessible Route (FAR). Which of the following are the likely outcomes of the scheme?

1. Indian G-secs would attract large funds from major global investors.
2. An increase in volatility in the inflow of foreign investment in government bonds.
3. Inclusion of Indian government securities in global bond indices.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

The following are the benefits of the RBI's move to enable NRIs to invest in specified Government securities(G-secs) through Fully Accessible Route (FAR):

- The scheme would help Indian G-secs attract large funds from major global investors, including pension funds. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It would facilitate inflow of stable foreign investment in government bonds. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It would also facilitate inclusion of Indian government securities in global bond indices. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

What is Government Security (G-Sec)?

- A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).
- In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs).
- G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

QUESTION 78:

Consider the following statements with reference to VIX index:

1. It is an index used to measure volatility expectations of the markets.
2. India VIX has been established by SEBI.
3. VIX value is the important parameters that are taken into account for pricing of derivative instruments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 2 and 3 only

Answer: C

Explanation

- VIX (Volatility index) is an index used to measure the near term volatility expectations of the markets. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The India VIX was **launched by the National Stock Exchange (NSE)** in 2010. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- VIX value is among the important parameters that are taken into account for pricing of options contracts, which are one of the most popular derivative instruments. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 79:

Consider the following statements with reference to PM-CARES Fund:

1. It is meant for supporting relief or assistance relating to a public health emergency only.
2. It is set up as a public charitable trust.
3. It has replaced the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 2 only
- (D) 2 and 3 only

Answer: C

Explanation

- PM-CARES is meant for supporting relief or assistance of any kind relating to a public health emergency or any other kind of emergency, calamity or distress, either man-made or natural. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

- PM-CARES Fund is a public charitable trust with the Prime Minister as its Chairman. Other Members include Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- PM-CARES is different from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and PMNRF still exists. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- The Fund enables micro-donations as a result of which a large number of people will be able to contribute with the smallest of denominations.
- The Fund will strengthen disaster management capacities and encourage research on protecting citizens.

QUESTION 80:

With reference to the the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Order, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It substitutes the existing clause of 'domicile' by the 'permanent resident of the Union Territory'.
2. It enables non-domiciles to apply for the gazetted and non-gazetted posts in Jammu and Kashmir.
3. People registered as migrants under Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) will not be considered domiciles.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 2 only
- (D) 1 and 3 only

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Order, 2020 substitute the clause for 'permanent resident of the State' under the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment) Act, 2010, by 'Domicile' of the Union Territory. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Before these orders, only permanent residents of J&K were eligible to apply for the gazetted and non-gazetted posts but now non-domiciles can also apply for these posts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Someone who is registered as a migrant by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) will fall into the criteria for being a domicile. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 81:

The Current Account of Balance of Payment (BoP) of a country includes which of the following items?

1. Trade in Goods
2. Trade in Services
3. Remittance
4. Net Interest Payments

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (B) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (C) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

Explanation

- **Balance of Payment (BoP)** is a summary of the international transactions of a country over a period of time. It includes **commodity and service transactions, capital transactions, and gold movements**.
 - It consists of two parts viz. Balance of Payment (BoP) on current account and Balance of Payment (BoP) on capital account.
- **Current account of Balance of Payment (BoP)** includes **Trade in goods and services, Net income in the form of interest from foreign investments and direct money transfers in the form of Remittance**.
 - Trade in goods includes all tangible goods which add to, or subtract from, the stock of material resources of a country. Trade in Services refers to the sale and delivery of an intangible product. It includes tourism services, transport services, legal services, advertising services, telecommunication, postal and courier services, etc.
 - Remittance is the fund an expatriate sends to his or her country of origin.
 - Interest payment includes the interest earned by a country on loans given to foreign countries.**Hence, option D is correct.**
- Major components of **Capital account of Balance of Payment (BoP)** includes Loans & borrowings (eg. borrowings from IMF, WB), Investments (FDI, FII) and Foreign exchange reserves.

QUESTION 82:

Among the following, who would prefer low interest rates in the economy?

1. Manufacturers
2. Households
3. Domestic equity investors
4. Government
5. Services exporters

Select the correct answers using the code given below:

- (A) 2, 3 and 5 only
(B) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Manufacturers will prefer low interest rates.
 - **Reason:** Due to low interest rate, credits will be available at lower rates to manufacturers and thus profits of manufacturers will increase.
- Households will prefer **high interest rates**.
 - **Reason:** Due to high interest rate, returns on savings of households will increase therefore, households will prefer high interest rates.
- Domestic equity investors will prefer low interest rates.
 - Reason: Due to low interest rates profitability of corporates will increase and thus returns on investment of domestic equity investors will rise therefore Domestic equity investors will prefer low interest rates.
- Government will prefer low interest rates.
 - Reason: Through low-interest rates governments seek to stimulate the economy, generate tax revenue and, ultimately, reduce the national debt. Low interest rates make it easy for individuals and businesses to borrow money since credits are available at low rates therefore the Government will prefer low interest rates.

- Service exporters will prefer low interest rates.
 - Reason: Due to low interest rate, credits will be available at low interest rate and their export competitiveness will increase there by profits of service exporters will increase, thus service exporters will prefer low interest rates. **Hence, option B is correct.**

QUESTION 83:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced changes to Total Expense Ratio (TER) of mutual funds. Consider the following statements with reference to Total Expense Ratio:

1. It is the cost of running and managing a mutual fund scheme.
2. It is expressed in percentage terms.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** announced changes to total expense ratio (TER) of mutual funds.
- Mutual funds are investments where an investor entrusts his/her money with an investment manager (of an asset management company) to manage the money smartly and efficiently.
- This money management comes at a cost, which is usually charged as a percentage of the investment.
- The official regulator of mutual funds, SEBI has laid down rules on how much an asset management company can charge an investor to manage their funds.
- For an investor this is important because it is a charge (called total expense ratio or TER in short) levied on their investment, and the money they get back from their investment is reduced by this figure.
- For example, if a fund charges 2% as the TER, and the fund produces a gross profit (return) of 15% in a given year, the investor would get 13% – which is the gross profit minus the TER – in their hands.
- In other words, **Total Expense Ratio (TER)** is the total cost an investor has to bear while investing in a mutual fund scheme. Costs such as registrar fee, fund management fee, distributor commission, advertising expense, custodian's share, etc. are borne by investors as a percentage of assets managed by the fund house.
- Basically, these are the charges for availing the services of mutual funds. It is the cost of running and managing a mutual fund scheme. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is expressed in percentage terms. Mutual funds charge it as an annual fee to investors. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- SEBI has, across the board, lowered the TER. The reduction is higher for larger funds and lower for smaller funds.

QUESTION 84:

Which of the following statements best describes a 'Hard Currency'?

- (A) A currency that has appreciated against virtually every currency in the world in a financial year.
- (B) A widely accepted currency that is expected to remain relatively stable in the short run.
- (C) A currency that is traded at a fixed price based on a fixed exchange rate system.
- (D) A digital asset designed to work as a medium of exchange.

Answer: B

Explanation

- A hard currency is defined as a widely accepted currency around the world as a form of payment for goods and services, and as a currency that is expected to remain relatively stable in the short run. Hence, option (B) is correct.
- For a currency to be termed as hard currency, it also must be highly liquid in foreign exchange markets. The U.S. dollar (USD) is one of the best examples of a hard currency.
- Other attributes of a hard currency are that it is issued by a politically stable government and by a country with a large GDP.
- Some of the other examples of hard currencies are European Euro (EUR), Japanese Yen (JPY) and British Pound (GBP).

QUESTION 85:

Which of the following statements about Women's Livelihood Bonds (WLBs) is/are correct?

1. These are issued by the International Monetary Fund exclusively for women.
2. These will enable women entrepreneurs in sectors like food processing, agriculture, services and small units.
3. These will be an unsecured and unlisted bond.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 2 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation

- The **Women's Livelihood Bonds (WLBs)**, which will have a tenure of five years, will be launched by SIDBI with the support of World Bank and UN Women. These will be launched with an initial corpus of `300 crore. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The proposed bond will enable individual women entrepreneurs in sectors like **food processing, agriculture, services and small units** to borrow around `50,000 to `3 lakh at an annual interest rate of around 13-14 per cent or less. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- SIDBI will act as the financial intermediary and channel funds raised to women entrepreneurs through participating financial intermediaries like banks, NBFCs or microfinance institutions.
- The WLBs will be **unsecured, unlisted bonds** and offer a fixed coupon rate of 3 per cent per annum to bond investors. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - **Unlisted Securities:** Unlisted securities are shares, bonds or any other securities that are not traded on a stock exchange but through the over-the-counter (OTC) market.
 - **Unsecured Bonds:** Unsecured bonds, also called debentures, are not backed by any collateral, or mortgages on real estate. Instead, the issuer promises that they will be repaid. This promise is frequently called full faith and credit.

QUESTION 86:

With reference to Mezzanine financing, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed as an asset on the issuing company's balance sheet.
2. It is a financial instrument having features of both debt and equity.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

MEZZANINE FINANCING

- Mezzanine financing is defined as a **financial instrument** which is a **mix of 'debt and equity' finance**. It is a debt capital that gives the lender the rights to convert to an ownership or equity interest in the company. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is listed as an asset on the issuing company's balance sheet. As it is treated as equity in a company's balance sheet, it allows the company to access other traditional sources of finance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In the hierarchy of creditors, mezzanine finance is subordinate to senior debt but ranks higher than equity.
- The return on mezzanine finance is higher in relation to debt finance but lower than equity finance. It is also available quickly to the borrower with little or no collateral.
- The concept of mezzanine financing is just catching up in India. Mezzanine financing is used mainly for small and medium enterprises, infrastructure and real estate.
- ICICI Venture's Mezzanine Fund was the first fund in India to focus on mezzanine finance opportunities.

QUESTION 87:

Consider following statements regarding "Wholesale Price Index" (WPI):

1. The new series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has base year 2011-12.
2. It is also known as the headline inflation rate in India.
3. It is calculated by the Central Statistics Office.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- (A) 1 and 3 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** measures the average change in the prices of commodities for bulk sale at the level of early stage of transactions.
- The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017 to align it with the base year of other macroeconomic indicators like the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The index basket of the present 2011-12 series has a total of 697 items including 117 items for Primary Articles, 16 items for Fuel & Power and 564 items for Manufactured Products.
- The prices tracked are ex-factory price for manufactured products, mandi price for agricultural commodities and ex-mines prices for minerals.
- Weights given to each commodity covered in the WPI basket is based on the value of production adjusted for net imports. WPI basket does not cover services.

- WPI basket does not cover services.
- In India WPI is also known as the headline inflation rate. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In India, **Office of Economic Advisor (OEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry** calculates the WPI. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 88:

What will happen when grants to states for the creation of capital assets are increased?

- (A) Revenue deficit will decrease
- (B) Effective Revenue deficit will decrease
- (C) Effective Revenue deficit will increase
- (D) Primary deficit will decrease

Answer: B

Explanation

- **Fiscal deficit** is calculated as the difference between total expenditure of the government on one hand and on the other hand the revenue receipts plus those capital receipts which are not in the nature of borrowing but which finally accrue to the government revenue.
- The **primary deficit** can be arrived by deducting interest paid on the borrowings from the fiscal deficit.
- **Revenue deficit** is the excess of government revenue expenditure over revenue receipts. Effective Revenue deficit is a new term introduced in the Union Budget 2011-12.
 - While revenue deficit is the difference between revenue receipts and revenue expenditure, and includes all grants from the Union Government to the state governments/ Union territories/ other bodies as revenue expenditure, even if they are used to create assets.
 - The assets created by the sub-national governments/ bodies are owned by them and not by the Union Government. Nevertheless they do result in the creation of durable assets.
- According to the Finance Ministry, such revenue expenditures contribute to the growth in the economy and therefore, should not be treated as unproductive in nature.
- Thus in the Union Budget (2011-12) a new methodology has been introduced to capture the '**effective revenue deficit**', which excludes those revenue expenditures (or transfers) in the form of grants for creation of capital assets.
- Grants for creation of capital assets, as a concept, was introduced in the FRBM Act through the amendment in 2012. The Act defines grants for creation of capital assets as grants-in-aid given by the Central Government to state governments, autonomous bodies, local bodies and other scheme implementing agencies for creation of capital assets which are owned by these entities.
- In short, Effective Revenue Deficit is the difference between revenue deficit and grants for creation of capital assets. Hence, option (B) is correct.
- **Effective Revenue Deficit** signifies that amount of capital receipts that are being used for actual consumption expenditure of the Government.

QUESTION 89:

The Reserve bank of India provides which of the following facilities to commercial banks to meet their day to day requirements of maintaining balances?

- (A) Cash Management Bills
- (B) Liquidity Adjustment Facility

- (C) Standing Deposit Facility
(D) Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio

Answer: B

Explanation

- **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)** is a facility extended by the Reserve Bank of India to the scheduled commercial banks (excluding RRBs) and primary dealers. It aims to make money available to banks in case of requirement, or park excess funds with the RBI also provides liquidity on an overnight basis against the collateral of Government securities.
- Basically LAF enables liquidity management on a day to day basis. Banks borrow money from the Reserve bank of India to meet short term needs by selling securities to RBI with an agreement to repurchase the same at a predetermined rate and date.
- The rate charged by RBI for this transaction is called the repo rate. Repo operations therefore inject liquidity into the system.
- Reverse repo operation is when RBI borrows money from banks by lending securities. The interest rate paid by RBI in this case is called the reverse repo rate. Reverse repo operation therefore absorbs the liquidity in the system. Hence, option (B) is correct.
- **Cash Management Bills (CMBs)** are short-term instruments, issued to meet the temporary mismatches in the cash flow of the Government of India. The CMBs have the generic character of Treasury bills but are issued for maturities less than 91 days.
- **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)**, is a facility for banks with excess funds, which allows these banks to keep the excess with the RBI, without having to provide any collateral. The RBI had recommended this tool following demonetization when banks witnessed a surge in cash deposit leading to a liquidity surplus of ₹4 trillion. By amending the RBI Act through the Finance Act 2018, the government has allowed the operation of the SDF.
- **Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio** was intended to absorb a part of the large increase in liquidity in the system following the withdrawal of the legal tender status of ₹500 and ₹1,000 denomination bank notes post demonetisation. It was also indicated that the incremental cash reserve ratio was purely a temporary measure to meet the demands created by demonitisation, It allowed banks to keep with them selves 100 % of the increase in **net demand and time liabilities (NDTL)** of scheduled banks between September 16, 2016 and November 11, 2016 effective the fortnight beginning November 26, 2016.

QUESTION 90:

Which of the following best describes the 'Indian Rupee'?

- (A) Full Bodied Money
(B) Credit Money
(C) Representative Full Bodied Money
(D) Promissory Notes

Answer: D

Explanation

- **Full Bodied Money** whose value as a commodity for non monetary purposes is as great as its face value as money e.g. Gold coins, Silver coins, etc.
- **Credit Money:** its value as money is greater than the commodity value of the material of which it is made. This is done by limiting the quantity of money by preventing the free and unlimited transformation of the commodity into money.

- **Representative full Bodied Money** This is usually in the form of Currency notes, which is in effect a circulating warehouse receipt for token coins or equivalent amount of bullion (Gold) backing it. The coin or bullion is worth less as a commodity than the money thus making it credit money.
- Promissory Notes are issued by central banks. This is the greatest part of modern currency. It includes all currency notes issued by the Reserve Bank of India. Hence, option (D) is correct.

QUESTION 91:

With reference to Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP), consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by the NITI Aayog to measure the growth of the knowledge based economy.
2. It measures the growth of a nation by including the creation and accumulation of knowledge.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP)

- It is a new method of measuring a country's wealth in the digital Age, which measures the production of knowledge instead of production of goods and services used to calculate the Gross Domestic Product.
 - It is **developed by Professor Umberto Sulpasso of the University of Southern California**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- It provides a fundamental measure of growth of a nation by including a wide range of factors that involve the **creation and accumulation of knowledge** – the key international factors measuring wealth in the digital era. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It creates a comparable measure of the production of individual wealth based on knowledge, which counts not only for evaluating the future wealth of individuals but also their contribution to the wealth of their country.
- It creates an optimal capital investment measure for private companies in knowledge rather than in other forms of capital investments.

Note

The measurement of GDKP is based on four basic pillars:

1. Knowledge items (Ki).
2. Country's Knowledge Producing Matrix (CKPM).
3. Country's Knowledge User Matrix (CKUM).
4. Cost of Individual Learning, compared to the Cost of Living.

QUESTION 92:

Which of the following best describes the S & D Box of the World Trade Organisation?

- (A) Subsidies given by developing countries to the agricultural sector under certain conditions.
- (B) Subsidies that limit the level of production in agricultural fields.
- (C) Subsidies, including all forms of government expenses, which are not targeted at a particular product.
- (D) None of these.

Answer: A

Explanation

- The agricultural subsidies, in the World Trade Organisation terminology have in general been identified by 'boxes' which are – Amber box, Blue box, Green box and S & D Box.
- S & D Box: The Social and Development Box (S & D Box) allows the developing countries for some subsidies to the agriculture sector under certain conditions. Hence, option (A) is correct.
- These conditions revolve around human development issues such as poverty, minimum social welfare, health support, etc., specially for the segment of population living below the poverty line. Developing countries can forward such subsidies to the extent of less than 5 percent of their total agricultural output.

QUESTION 93:

Which of the following vaccines come under the Universal Immunisation Programme?

1. BCG
2. OPV
3. Hepatitis B
4. Pentavalent vaccine
5. Rotavirus Vaccine

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1, 3 and 5 only
(B) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
(C) 3, 4 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India provides several vaccines to infants, children and pregnant women through the Universal Immunisation Programme.
- Vaccines provided under UIP:
 - **BCG:** It stands for Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine. It is given to infants to protect them from tubercular meningitis and disseminated TB.
 - **OPV:** It stands for Oral Polio Vaccine. It protects children from poliomyelitis.
 - **Hepatitis B vaccine** protects from Hepatitis B virus infection. Pentavalent vaccine is a combined vaccine to protect children from five diseases Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilus influenzae type b infection and **Hepatitis B**.
 - **Rotavirus Vaccine:** It gives protection to infants and children against rotavirus diarrhoea.
 - **PCV:** It stands for Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine. It protects infants and young children against disease caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.
 - **fIPV:** It stands for Fractional Inactivated Poliomyelitis Vaccine. It is used to boost the protection against poliomyelitis.
 - **Measles/MR vaccine**
 - **JE vaccine:** It stands for Japanese encephalitis vaccine.
 - **DPT booster:** DPT is a combined vaccine; it protects children from Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis.
 - **TT:** Tetanus toxoid vaccine is used to provide protection against tetanus.

QUESTION 94:

With reference to the Shodhganga project, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It aims to promote research for clean ganga projects.
2. It will make Indian research available to foreign universities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Shodhganga

- It is the **repository developed to contain an electronic copy of all M.Phil/Ph.D** thesis to make it accessible to all institutions.
- The task of setting-up of this repository is assigned to Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an inter-university centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- The main objectives of Shodhganga are to:
 - (i) Develop a national repository of theses and dissertations with an intuitive interface which enables submission of electronic version of theses and dissertations by Universities in India and facilitates search, browse and downloading of theses available in the repository;
 - (ii) Avoid unnecessary duplication and repetition that, in effect, is wastage of huge resources, both human and financial;
 - (iii) Providing access to Indian theses and dissertations in open access to the world-wide academic community and making visibility of Indian research to other countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - (iv) Extend access to plagiarism detection software to eligible universities; and
 - (v) Fund eligible Universities (that are under purview of the UGC) for digitization of back lists of theses submitted to their universities.
- It has no relation with clean ganga missions. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

QUESTION 95:

With reference to the 'Tejaswini' scheme, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a scheme for the socio-economic empowerment of disabled youth.
2. Recently India has signed a financing agreement with the World Bank for funding this scheme.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

'Tejaswini'

- It is a scheme for the socio-economic empowerment of **Adolescent Girls** and Young women. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- It seeks to empower the adolescent girls with basic life skills and thereafter provide further opportunities to acquire market driven skill training or completion of secondary education.
- It has 3 main components –
 - (i) Expanding social, educational and economic opportunities
 - (ii) Improve livelihood opportunities by developing participants' skills (iii) Strengthens women's participation in local governance.
- India signed a financing agreement with the World Bank for funding of this scheme. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 96:

Which of the following is a student-scientist connect programme that focuses on connecting school students and scientists to develop scientific temper amongst students and their teachers?

- (A) Jigyasa
- (B) Ishan Uday
- (C) Saakshar Bharat
- (D) Nai Manzil

Answer: A

Explanation

- Jigyasa is a student-scientist connect programme that focuses on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with that of a very well planned research laboratory based learning. Hence, option (A) is correct.
- The 'JIGYASA' inculcates the culture of inquisitiveness on one hand and scientific temper on the other, amongst the school students and their teachers.

QUESTION 97:

Recently in the news, GIMS platform is related to:

- (A) Health initiative for adolescents in the tribal areas
- (B) Messaging System for employees of Central and state government
- (C) Marine Safety initiative launched by IORA
- (D) Satellite programme launched ISRO

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Government Instant Messaging System (GIMS) is being developed for employees of Central and state government departments and organisations for intra and inter organisation communications. It is designed and developed by the Kerala unit of National Informatics Centre (NIC). **Hence, option B is correct.**

QUESTION 98:

With reference to 'ICEDASH and ATITHI' initiatives, consider the following statements:

1. These are the initiatives of the Ministry of Tourism..
2. ATITHI aims to promote tourism in India.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- ICEDASH and ATITHI is an initiative of the **Ministry of Finance**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- ICEDASH is an **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) monitoring dashboard** of the Indian Customs that aims to help the public see the daily customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports.
- **ATITHI** is an easy to use mobile app for international travelers to file the Customs declaration in advance.
- Passengers can use this app to file declaration of dutiable items and currency with the Indian Customs even before boarding the flight to India.
- It would encourage tourism and business travel to India. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

QUESTION 99:

'ARPIT' sometimes seen in the news, is related to:

- (A) Voluntary donations to National Defence Fund
(B) Training for higher education faculties
(C) Fund established by SAARC countries to fight epidemics
(D) Distribution of required aids to differently abled in the country

Answer: B

Explanation

- **Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching (ARPIT)** is an initiative for online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty using the Massive open online courses (MOOCs) platform SWAYAM. Hence, **option B is correct**.
- For implementing ARPIT, some of the important institutions have been notified as **National Resource Centres (NRCs)**.
 - NRCs prepare online training material with focus on latest developments in a discipline, new & emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.
 - NRCs are located in a mixed range of institutions such as, Central Universities, IISc, IUCAA, IITs, IISERs, NITs, State Universities.

QUESTION 100:

With reference to One Stop Centres, consider the following statements:

1. They aim to provide assistance under one roof to women affected by violence only at the workplace.
2. It is funded through a Nirbhaya fund.
3. They are formed under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation

- **One Stop Centres (OSCs) are intended to support women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The One Stop Centre (OSC) provides a range of services including police facilitation, medical aid, psycho-social counselling, legal counselling and temporary shelter to women affected by violence in an integrated manner under one roof.
- It is implemented by **States through the Nirbhaya Fund**. The Central Government will provide 100% financial assistance. The funds would be made available by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to the District Collector/District Magistrate directly. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They were formed under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- During the lockdown period due to covid-19 pandemic, the ministry ensured that One Stop Centres are linked with local medical teams, police, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to ensure that their services are not impacted due to restrictions on movement of people.

