

100 Most Important Questions for IAS Prelims-2023

- Which organization releases “The World Inequality Report 2022”?
 - World Inequality Lab
 - World Institute for Development Economics Research
 - Economic Policy Institute
 - Russell Sage Foundation
- Vitamin E is particularly important for
 - Development of teeth
 - Carbohydrate metabolism
 - Normal activity of sex glands
 - General health of epithelial tissues
- Endosulfan, frequently seen in the news is:
 - a fertiliser
 - an insecticide
 - a drug for diabetes
 - a herbicide
- Recently seen in the news, DSR technique is related to:
 - Detecting virus in a computer network
 - Sending a broadcast message
 - Bettering soil quality
 - Seeding of crops
- The IUCN red list classifies ‘Gharial’ as
 - Vulnerable
 - Endangered
 - Critically Endangered
 - Least Concern
- Consider the following statements:
 - QUAD is an informal strategic forum between India, Japan, US and Australia.
 - The idea of QUAD was first mooted by the Indian Prime Minister in 2010.
 - Exercise Malabar is an initiative of all the QUAD members.Which of the above statement(s) is/are not correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
 - None of the above
- Which Indian state is in the process of developing a Dugong (Sea Cow) reserve?
 - Assam
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Kerala
 - Andhra Pradesh
- Consider the following statements about laterite soils:
 - These soils develop in areas with high rainfall and high temperature.
 - These soils are rich in organic matter, nitrogen and phosphate.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- Consider the following statements about asteroids and comets?
 - Both are made up of rocky materials.
 - Both are mostly found in the ‘Kuiper belt’.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- The annexation of Awadh inflamed the anti-British feelings among sepoys which were one of the reasons behind the Revolt of 1857. Awadh was annexed,
 - under the Doctrine of Lapse
 - on the grounds of the misgovernment by the Nawab
 - because it violated the Subsidiary Alliance agreement
 - to punish it for its participation in the Battle of Buxar against the British
- Mansabdar was a grading system used by Mughals to fix which of the following?
 - Rank
 - Salary
 - Military responsibilitiesSelect the correct answer from the codes given below:
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
 - 2 and 3 only
- Which of the following concepts is used to find the value by which the cost of a good has risen from its cost in the base year?
 - GDP Deflator
 - Real Gross Domestic Product
 - Nominal Gross Domestic Product
 - Gross Value Added (GVA)
- Both Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) are related to investment in the country. Which of the following statements best represent an important difference between FDI and FII?
 - FII helps bring better management skills and technology, while FDI only brings capital.
 - FII helps in increasing capital availability in general, while FDI only targets specific sectors.
 - FDI flows only into the secondary market while FII targets primary market.
 - FII is considered to be more stable than FDI.
- Consider the following statements with respect to Bonds:
 - Corporate Bond is an instrument for raising long term capital only.
 - Bonds are non-tradable instruments.
 - Increase in bond yield indicates higher demand of bond.Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3

15. A rise in the general level of prices may be caused by
1. An increase in the money supply
 2. A decrease in the aggregate level of output
 3. An increase in the effective demand
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
16. Which of the following writs is issued by the court to a public official asking him to perform the official duties that he has failed or refused to perform?
- (a) Prohibition (b) Certiorari
(c) Quo-Warranto (d) Mandamus
17. Consider the following statements:
1. A Minister from Lok Sabha can participate in the proceedings of Rajya Sabha.
 2. A Minister who is not a member of either House can participate in a joint session only.
- 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
18. What does the term 'judicial review' mean?
- (a) A review of the judicial structure of the system
(b) Authority vested in the hands of Supreme Court to examine whether some legislative enactments or executive orders of both Central and State governments is following the Constitution of India or not
(c) Judicial review means the power vested in Supreme Court to challenge High Courts of India
(d) None of the above
19. Which organisation releases the "Global Environment Outlook report"?
- (a) Greenpeace
(b) The UN Environment Programme
(c) World Wide Fund for Nature
(d) Global Footprint Network
20. Global Cybersecurity Outlook Report is released by –
- (a) World Bank
(b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
(c) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
(d) World Economic Forum (WEF)
21. The term "Great Reset", which was in the news recently, is associated with which organization?
- (a) World Bank (b) IMF
(c) World Economic Forum (d) WWF
22. Which of the following countries is not a part of P5+1?
- (a) France (b) Russia
(c) Germany (d) Japan
23. Which of the following best describes the Troika of Group of 20 (G20)?
- (a) The country holding the presidency, together with the previous and next presidency-holder.
(b) Three permanent member countries holding veto power in decision making of G 20.
(c) Personal representatives of a head of state or head of government.
(d) Both a and b
24. Consider the following statements:
1. English built their first factory in South at Masulipatnam in 1611.
 2. The Island of Bombay was acquired by the East India Company from Portugal.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
25. Consider the following statements regarding 'Extra-tropical cyclones':
1. Extra-tropical cyclones have a clear frontal system which is absent in tropical cyclones.
 2. Extra-tropical cyclones move from east to west whereas tropical cyclones move from west to east.
- 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
26. Which of the following are the outcomes of the La Nina event?
1. Cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures over the central Pacific Ocean.
 2. Cold winter and spring seasons for India.
 3. Suppression of monsoon rainfall
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
27. Which of the following best defines "Constitutional morality"?
- (a) The set of moral principles established in a country's constitution
(b) The belief that the government should promote traditional values
(c) The idea that individual rights should be protected by the constitution
(d) The principle that the constitution should be interpreted in a way that maximizes social welfare
28. The provision of joint sitting applies to which of the following Bills?
1. Ordinary Bill
 2. Constitution Amendment Bill
 3. Money Bill
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
29. In the context of Bills in the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements:
1. A Private Member Bill can be introduced by any Member of the Parliament after giving one month's notice.
 2. The rejection of a Money Bill by the Lok Sabha may lead to the resignation of the Union Government.
- 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
30. Regarding the 'veto power of the President of India', which of the following features are correct?

1. It can be exercised over a Constitutional Amendment Bill.
 2. The President can withhold his assent to a Money Bill.
 3. The State legislatures cannot override the veto power of the President.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 only
31. Which of the following statements best describes the phrase "collective responsibility of Council of Ministers"?
 - (a) Duty to countersign any and every order of the President for legal liability.
 - (b) Duty of every Minister to hold office during the pleasure of the President.
 - (c) Duty of every Minister to stand by Cabinet decisions with full support.
 - (d) Duty to collectively enact legislation for the governance of the country.
 32. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the main authority for deciding the monetary policy of India. Which of the following Monetary Policy instruments is/are used by the RBI?
 1. Repo Rate
 2. Liquidity Adjustment Facility
 3. Market Stabilization Scheme (MSS)
 4. Open Market Operations

Select the correct answer using the code below:

(a) 2 only (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 33. Consider the following statements with respect to Inflation:
 1. Inflation always hinders growth in any economy.
 2. It is one of the responsibilities of Government of India to reduce inflation.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
 34. With reference to the tax-to-GDP ratio, consider the following statements:
 1. A low tax-to-GDP ratio indicates more spending on infrastructure creation, hence a better financial position for the country
 2. Developed nations typically have lower tax-to-GDP ratios than developing nations.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
 35. Microcredit is delivered through which of the institutional channels in India?
 1. Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs)
 2. Cooperative banks
 3. Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
 36. Which of the following statements is / are correct about Subsidiary Alliance system?
 1. It was started by Lord Wellesley.
 2. An Indian ruler entering into Subsidiary Alliance with the British had to dissolve his own armed forces and accept British forces in his territory.
 3. The Indian state could not enter into any political connection with another Indian state without British approval.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

(a) 1 and 3 only (b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 2 only (d) 2 and 3 only
 37. Which of the following is the correct reason for which Mahatma Gandhi supported the Khilafat Movement?
 - (a) He was obliged to do so as all Indian National Congress leaders were optimistic about Khilafat being part of the national movement.
 - (b) He saw this as a golden opportunity for Hindu Muslim unity and to bring Muslim masses into the national movement.
 - (c) The Khalifa in the past had given shelter to Indian revolutionaries abroad.
 - (d) The Khalifa had been actively supportive of India's freedom movement.
 38. Consider the following statements:
 1. The Indian National Congress passed a resolution demanding Home Rule for India in the Lucknow Session.
 2. Lokmanya Tilak started the Home Rule League that covered the whole Bombay Presidency.

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
 39. The transfer of Judges from one High Court to another High Court may be made by the
 - (a) President of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of that High Court
 - (b) Chief Justice of the concerned High Court
 - (c) Governor of the State concerned in consultation with the Chief Justice of India
 - (d) President of India after consultation with the Chief Justice of India
 40. With reference to Crypto currencies, consider the following statements:
 1. In India, these are managed by the RBI.
 2. India at present has no Dispute Settlement Mechanisms with reference to Crypto currencies.
 3. El Salvador is the first country to use bitcoin as legal tender, alongside the US dollar.

Which of the given 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
 41. The banks are required to maintain a certain ratio of liquid assets between their cash in hand and the total assets. This ratio is called?

- (a) Bank Rate
(b) Cash Reserve Ratio
(c) Statutory Liquidity Ratio
(d) Reverse Repo Rate
42. Which of the following Governors-General of India was known as 'The liberator of the Indian Press'?
- (a) Lord Curzon (b) Lord Wellesley
(c) Lord Hastings (d) Lord Metcalfe
43. Consider the following statements about the establishment of the Indian National Congress (INC):
1. The INC was established during the tenure of Lord Dufferin.
 2. The aim of INC was to promote national unity among the nationalist leaders.
- 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
44. Consider the following statements regarding the Ahmadabad Mill strike:
1. There was a conflict between the mill owners and the workers on the plague bonus and wage hike issue.
 2. It was the first time Mahatma Gandhi used the method of Hunger strike in India
 3. Gandhi was successful in getting more increase in wages than the workers demand.
- 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
45. Which of the following is correct about Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar?
1. He opened the gates of Sanskrit college for non-Brahmin students.
 2. First lawful widow remarriage was conducted under his supervision.
- Which of the above statements is / are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
46. The "Common Carbon Metric" supported by UNEP, has been developed for
- (a) Assessing the carbon footprint of building operations around the world
 - (b) Enabling commercial farming entities around the world to enter carbon emission trading
 - (c) Enabling governments to assess the overall carbon footprint caused by their countries
 - (d) Assessing the overall carbon foot-print caused by the use of fossil fuels by the world in a unit time
47. "One Ocean Summit" is being organized by France in cooperation with?
- (a) United Nations and the World Bank.
 - (b) WWF and UNEP
 - (c) Greenpeace and the Nature Conservancy.
 - (d) Earth Island Institute and Conservation International
48. Which of the following is a unique climatic feature of the 'Savanna' region?
- (a) Rainfall in winter
 - (b) An extremely short dry season
 - (c) Alternate dry and wet seasons
 - (d) Rainfall throughout the year
49. Which of the following statements clearly explains "breaks in the monsoon"?
- (a) The date at which monsoon rainfall ends.
 - (b) It is the period in the South-West Monsoon during which rain fails to occur for days or weeks.
 - (c) It denotes the phenomenon when monsoon winds collide with the mountains of the Western Ghats and the Himalayas.
 - (d) None of the above
50. The Solomon Islands recently seen in the news, it is situated in which of the following oceans?
- (a) Atlantic Oceans (b) Indian Oceans
(c) Pacific Oceans (d) Arctic Oceans
51. Which of the following missions have the objective to ensure the return of humans to moon?
- (a) Chandrayaan-3 (b) Parker mission
(c) Artemis mission (d) OSIRIS-REx mission
52. With reference to I-STEM, consider the following statements:
1. It is a dynamic and interactive national portal initiated by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.
 2. The main objective is to provide support to needy researchers in different ways and strengthen the R&D ecosystem of the country.
- 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
53. Which of the following are core industries of India?
1. Natural Gas
 2. Fertilizers
 3. Refinery products
 4. Electricity
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 4 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
54. Consider the following statements regarding silk production in India:
1. India is the largest producer of silk in the world.
 2. India has the unique distinction of being the only country producing all the five kinds of silk namely, Mulberry, Eri, Muga, Tropical Tasar and Temperate Tasar.
- 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
55. Rotterdam Convention, often seen in news, is related to
- (a) Prohibition of the usage of biological weapons by the member countries
 - (b) Promote shared responsibility among State Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals
 - (c) Prevention of the proliferation of ballistic missiles
 - (d) None of the above
56. Which of the following can be considered as ecological implications of desertification?
1. Lowering of water table
 2. Decreasing water carrying capacity of rivers
 3. Excessive soil erosion by water
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

57. Consider the following pairs:
1. Ten-degree channel – separates Andaman and Nicobar Islands
 2. Nine-degree channel – separates India and Sri Lanka
 3. Eight-degree channel – separates Lakshadweep islands and Maldives
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
58. With reference to ocean currents, consider the following statements:
1. Water with low salinity is denser than water with high salinity.
 2. Difference in water density affect the vertical mobility of ocean currents.
 3. Ocean currents are stronger at the surface than at the depths.
- 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
59. With reference to the Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle, consider the following statements:
1. It is native to India and Bangladesh and inhabits large swift-flowing rivers
 2. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List classifies it as Vulnerable.
- 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
60. Which of the following legislations govern the Environment Impact Assessment in India?
1. Water Act, 1974
 2. Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
 3. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
 4. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
 5. Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 4 and 5 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
61. In the context of heavy metal poisoning consider the following statements:
1. Itai-Itai disease is caused by cadmium poisoning associated with softening of bones and kidney failure.
 2. Long term exposure to high levels of inorganic lead causes skin lesions and hard patches on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet.
- 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
62. With reference to the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following statements:
1. It was established in the 14th century by brothers, *Harihara* and *Bukka*.
 2. The empire was located on the banks of the Godavari River.
 3. Use of Sanskrit was officially denounced and local languages were preferred by the empire.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
63. Which of the following are the features of Subsidiary System?
1. Any Indian ruler who entered into the subsidiary alliance with the British had to maintain a contingent of Indian troops for the service of British.
 2. The state was also forbidden to have any political contact even with other Indian powers without the permission of the British.
 3. Hyderabad was the first state which was brought under Subsidiary System.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
64. Which of the following is not the cause of revolt of 1857?
1. British refusal to impose protective duties against machine-made goods from Britain.
 2. Defeat of British in Boer's war.
 3. Religious disabilities act.
 4. General Service Enlistment act.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only (b) 2 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only (d) 3 and 4 only
65. With reference to the reforms under Cornwallis Code, consider the following statements:
1. This code separated the functions of the Judiciary and the Executive.
 2. Superintendent of Police was appointed in each district to supervise the work of the Inspectors.
- 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
66. With reference to the Civil Services in India consider the following statements:
1. The Civil Service was brought into existence in India by Lord Wellesley.
 2. Wellesley established the College of Fort William at Calcutta for the education of young recruits to the Civil Service.
 3. From 1853, recruits to the Civil Service were to be selected through a competitive examination.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
67. Consider the following statements with regard to the Cash Reserve Ratio:
1. It is the percentage of deposits a bank is legally required to keep as cash reserves with itself.
 2. It helps to determine the money multiplier effect of the banking system on the money supply.
 3. The Reserve Bank of India decides the Cash Reserve Ratio in India.

- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
 (c) 3 only (d) 2 and 3 only
68. Consider the following statements:
 1. Minimum Support Price (MSP) may be both lower and higher than the prevailing market price of the particular crop.
 2. All food grain procurement operations in India are undertaken by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
 Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
 (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
69. Which of the following are the objectives of Disinvestment in India?
 1. Reducing fiscal burden on the exchequer
 2. Encouraging private ownership
 3. Promoting competition in the market
 Select the correct answer using the code given below:
 (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
70. The concept of 'fall-back liability' sometimes seen in news is related to
 (a) Recapitalization of Banks
 (b) Central Government grants to states
 (c) E-commerce Rules
 (d) Merger of Public Sector Banks
71. The distinguishing feature of a federal government is:
 (a) National government gives some powers to the provincial government.
 (b) Power is distributed among the legislature, executive and judiciary.
 (c) Elected officials exercise supreme power in the government.
 (d) Governmental power is divided between different levels of government.
72. Which of the following amendments of the constitution under Article 368 need consent of half of the states for its passage?
 1. Manner of election of the President.
 2. Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.
 3. Central list in the seventh schedule.
 4. Fundamental Rights
 Select the correct answer using the code given below:
 (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
 (c) 2 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
73. With reference to Ordinance making powers of the President, consider the following statements:
 1. An Ordinance can be promulgated only when both houses of Parliament are not in Session.
 2. Such an Ordinance has the same force as a law passed by the Parliament.
 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
74. In which of the following cases does the Governor compulsorily reserves a bill for consideration of the President?
 (a) The bill endangers the position of the State High Court.
 (b) The bill proposes death penalty for heinous crimes.
 (c) The bill overstrains Consolidated Fund of the State.
 (d) The bill proposes to make law on a subject in the Concurrent list.
75. With reference to impeachment motion against Chief Justice of India (CJI), consider the following statements:
 1. Acting against the Constitution is a valid ground for impeachment of CJI.
 2. Such a motion needs to be passed by two-third of the total strength of both Houses separately.
 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
76. With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements:
 1. The Parliament has no authority to modify the orders of the Delimitation Commission.
 2. Orders of the Delimitation Commission can be challenged in the Supreme Court.
 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
77. With reference to the 'Advisory Jurisdiction' of Supreme Court, considers the following statements:
 1. The President of India can refer any matter that is of public importance, or that involves interpretation of the Constitution to the Supreme Court for advice.
 2. The Supreme Court is bound to advice on such matters, though the President is not bound to accept such advice.
 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
78. With reference to preventive detention, consider the following statements:
 1. Constitution provides that the detenu should be afforded an opportunity to make a representation against the detention order at the earliest opportunity.
 2. The detention of a person cannot exceed six months unless the arresting authority finds a sufficient cause for extended detention.
 3. State and central governments share legislative power with regard to preventive detention.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 1 only
 (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
79. Consider the following statements:
 1. Fundamental Rights are also called as Constitutional Rights.
 2. Non-Fundamental legal Rights are also Justiciable.
 3. All the Fundamental Rights are directly enforceable.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 2 only (d) All of the above.

80. With reference to Democracy, which of the following statement is correct?
- In a democracy, elections must offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.
 - In a democracy, the rulers elected by the people must take all the decisions.
 - In a democracy, government is limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizens' rights.
 - All of the above are correct.
81. Consider the following statements regarding 'Solar Facility', recently seen in news:
- Solar Facility was approved by International Solar Alliance (ISA).
 - It aims to stimulate high potential solar technologies, by attracting private capital to flow into underserved markets in Africa.
 - Solar Payment Guarantee Fund and Solar Insurance Fund are part of Solar Facility.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- 1 and 2
 - 1 and 3
 - 2 and 3
 - 1, 2 and 3
82. With reference to Unified Payments Interface (UPI), consider the following statements:
- UPI is an instant payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India.
 - UPI still has to make improvements to be better than Immediate Payment Service (IMPS).
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
83. Consider the following statements regarding components of Balance of Payment:
- The sale of assets or shares in foreign companies forms part of invisibles in the Current Account of Balance of Payment.
 - External Commercial Borrowings form part of Capital Account while governmental aid is part of transfer payments.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
84. Which of the following is the best description of the term 'deficit financing'?
- It is the excess of government's current expenditure over its current revenue.
 - It is the difference of borrowing from external and internal resources.
 - It is an excess of government's total expenditure over its total revenue.
 - It is the capital expenditure on items of public constructions and public borrowings.
85. Doctrine of Lapse was introduced by
- The Marquess Cornwallis
 - The Marquess Wellesley
 - Lord William Bentinck
 - The Earl of Dalhousie
86. Consider the following statements:
- The Prarthana Samaj was founded in 1867 in Bombay by Dr. Atmaram Pandurang.
 - The Theosophical Society was founded in 1882 in Adyar by Annie Besant.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
87. Arrange the following events in a chronological manner (earliest to latest events):
- Wavell Plan
 - Direct Action Day
 - Rajaji formula
 - Inception of RIN Mutiny
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 3-1-4-2
 - 3-2-4-1
 - 1-3-2-4
 - 1-3-4-2
88. With reference to Pitt's India Act, consider the following statements:
- It gave the British Government supreme control over the Company's affairs in India.
 - The Act clearly subordinated the Bombay and Madras Presidencies to Bengal.
 - Trade monopoly of the Company in India was ended.
- Which of the statement given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
89. Consider the following statements regarding Inversion of temperature:
- Inversion is usually of short duration and quite rare in occurrence.
 - A long winter night with clear skies and still air is an ideal situation for inversion.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
90. Consider the following statements:
- Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are the legally binding pledges that each country makes to reduce its emissions and adapt to climate change.
 - Countries have to update and expand their *Nationally Determined Contributions* (NDCs) every five years.
 - The principle of "*common but differentiated responsibilities*" (CBDR) was enshrined in the Kyoto accord, which says that developed countries should take the lead in fighting climate change.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- 1 and 2
 - 1 and 3
 - 2 and 3
 - 3 only
91. Ecosystem is formed, most appropriately, by the interaction of
- Both biotic and abiotic factors of the environment
 - All Living organisms present in the system
 - Diverse Landforms found within a large zone
 - Communities found near edge of a biome

92. With reference to Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), consider the following statements:
1. These schools are for tribal students- one each in every sub-district that has at least a 10,000-odd Scheduled Tribe population.
 2. The grants were given to the State Governments for construction of schools and recurring expenses under Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution.
- 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
93. Which of the following statements is/are not correct with reference to the National Green Tribunal?
1. India is the first country in the world to have a full-fledged Green Tribunal.
 2. It includes enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment and giving relief for damages to persons and property.
 3. Its mandate is to dispose of the cases within six months.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only (b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
94. Consider the following statements:
1. When air is heated in an automobile engine, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) are produced.
 2. Nitric oxide (NO) is a greenhouse gas, which reacts with oxygen to form nitrogen dioxide (NO_2).
 3. Diesel engines emit fine particulate matter (PM) emissions.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 1 and 3
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3
95. Consider the following statements:
1. Thermal power plants produce fly ash which can cause pollution of water bodies.
 2. Liquefied Petroleum Gas is a clean fuel which helps in reducing household pollution.
- 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
96. With reference to the National Mission on Natural Farming, consider the following statements:
1. The mission aims to popularize integrated agriculture-animal husbandry models based on foreign cows and global resources.
 2. At the national level, NMNF is steered through a National Steering Committee (NSC) under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister.
- 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
97. With reference to Unified Payments Interface (UPI), consider the following statements:
1. UPI is an instant payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India.
 2. UPI still has to make improvements to be better than Immediate Payment Service (IMPS).
- 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
98. Consider the given statements in the context of Civil Disobedience movement in Assam:
1. In May 1930, Director of Education J.R. Cunningham issued a circular banning the participation of the Students of Government in activities against the government.
 2. Assamese women showed lukewarm attitude towards the question of participating in the movement.
- Which of the statement (s) above is/ are correct?
- (a) 1 Only (b) 2 Only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
99. Consider the given statements with respect to evolution of Assamese language:
1. Assamese, Bengali, and Oriya, evolved independently from a single source language, Magadhi Prakrit.
 2. The true development of the Assamese language began with the arrival of Srimanta Sankardeva in the medieval period.
- Which of the statement (s) above is/are **not** correct?
- (a) 1 Only (b) 2 Only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
100. Consider the given statements with respect to Administrative system in ancient Assam:
1. In Ancient Assam, monarchy was the dominant form of government. The king had the final say in all significant areas of government.
 2. Monarchy was founded on the divine origin of kingship.
 3. The subjects in ancient Assam could defy the king's order.
- Which of the statement (s) above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

HINTS & EXPLANATIONS

1. (a) According to the recently released World Inequality Report 2022, India is now among the most unequal countries in the world. The report was released by the World Inequality Lab, which aims to promote research on global inequality dynamics. India stands out as a poor and very unequal country. The top 1% of the population hold more than one-fifth of the total national income in 2021 and the bottom half just 13%. The economic reforms and liberalization adopted by India have mostly benefited the top 1%.
2. (c) Vitamin E is a powerful antioxidant that helps improve circulation. Apart from sexual desire itself, circulation is the most important component of sexual function. Good bodily circulation is mandatory for a good sex life. A deficiency in vitamin E can cause anemia, or a low red blood cell count, which affects our body's ability to produce sex hormones that promote reproductive system function.
3. (b) Endosulfan is a highly toxic insecticide that produces tonic-clonic convulsions, headache, dizziness and ataxia. The toxicity of endosulfan is well known on non-target organisms and has been responsible for many severe poisonings, including several fatal cases. It can also cause life threatening metabolic disturbances. The Supreme Court banned the manufacture, sale, use and export of endosulfan throughout India, citing its harmful health effects.
4. (d) Direct seeding of Rice (DSR) is a method under which pre-germinated seeds are directly drilled into the field by a tractor-powered machine. It is a crop establishment system wherein rice seeds are sown directly into the field, as opposed to the traditional method of growing seedlings in a nursery, then transplanting into flooded fields. Direct seeded rice is seen to be one of the most efficient, sustainable, and economically-viable rice production systems used today.
5. (c) The gharial is the longest among all living crocodilians. IUCN Red List classifies it as Critically Endangered. Threats faced by Gharial are loss of habitat because of sand mining and conversion to agriculture, depletion of fish resources and detrimental fishing. Odisha is the only State in India having all three species of crocodiles (gharial, mugger and saltwater crocodiles). Gharial reserves of India are located in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
6. (b) Known as the 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue' (QSD), the Quad is an informal strategic forum comprising four nations, namely - United States of America (USA), India, Australia and Japan. One of the primary objective of the Quad is to work for a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. The idea of Quad was first mooted by the Japanese Prime Minister in 2007. Malabar Exercise, initiated by India and US in 1992, now includes all QUAD members as participants. Japan joined it in 2015.
7. (b) Dugong conservation reserve would be established in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay between India and Sri Lanka in the state of Tamil Nadu. Dugong is also called the Sea Cow. It is a herbivorous mammal. In India, they are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Australia has the highest Dugong population due to coral reefs. The Dugong is under constant threat of getting extinct for the reasons including the loss of seagrass habitats, water pollution, degradation of the coastal ecosystem due to developmental activities, accidental entanglement in fishing nets and collision with boats, trawlers and poached for meat.
8. (a) Laterite soils develop in areas with high temperature and high rainfall. These are the result of intense leaching due to tropical rains. These soils are poor in organic matter, nitrogen, phosphate and calcium, while iron oxide and potash are in excess. Hence, laterites are not suitable for cultivation.
9. (a) Asteroids and comets have a few things in common. Both are celestial bodies orbiting the Sun, and can have unusual orbits, sometimes straying close to Earth or the other planets. Both are composed of leftover materials of solar system. Asteroids consist of metals and rocky materials. Comets are made up of ice, dust, rocky materials and organic compounds. When comets get closer to the Sun, they lose material because some of their ice melts and vaporizes. Asteroids typically remain solid, even when near the Sun. Asteroids are generally larger chunk of rocks that comes from the asteroid belt located between the orbit of Mars and Jupiter planets. Comets are found in the two main regions of the outer solar system: the Kuiper belt and the Oort cloud.
10. (b) The policy of Doctrine of Lapse stated that the adopted son could inherit the private property of his foster father but not the state. It was to be decided by the British Government whether to allow the adopted son to inherit the throne or to annexe it. The states that were annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse were Satara, Sambalpur, Jhansi, Nagpur, Udaypur, Balghat etc. but not Awadh. However, in the case of Awadh, the annexation was done by Lord Dalhousie on the grounds of misgovernment after the resident official submitted a report describing the anarchical condition in the state.
11. (c) The term Mansabdar refers to an individual who holds a mansab, meaning a position or rank. It was a grading system used by the Mughals to fix (1) rank, (2) salary and (3) military responsibilities. Rank and salary were determined by a numerical value called zat. The higher the zat, the more prestigious was the noble's position in court and the larger his salary. The mansabdar's military responsibilities required him to maintain a specified number of sawar or cavalymen. The mansabdar brought his cavalymen for review, got them registered, their horses branded and then received money to pay them as salary.

12. (a) GDP Deflator is the ratio of nominal GDP to real GDP. It gives us the value by which the cost of a good or service has risen from its cost in the base year. It is a measure of inflation. This ratio helps show the extent to which the increase in gross domestic product GDP has happened on account of higher prices rather than increase in output. Nominal GDP differs from real GDP as the former doesn't include inflation, while the latter does. As a result, nominal GDP will most often be higher than real GDP in an expanding economy.
13. (b) Foreign investment is of two types: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Portfolio Investment (FII). FDI is an investment that a parent company makes in a foreign country. On the contrary, FII is an investment made by an investor in the markets of a foreign nation. FDI only targets a specific enterprise. It aims to increase the enterprises' capacity or productivity or change its management control. In a FDI, the capital inflow is translated into additional production. The FII investment flows only into the secondary market. It helps in increasing capital availability in general rather than enhancing the capital of a specific enterprise.
14. (d) Bonds are used for raising both the Long and the Short-term capital. Bonds are tradable in the financial market after their initial sale. Bond yield is the difference between Cost Price and Selling price. Bond yield is a good indicator of profitability. Bonds come with a fixed maturity value, so, if bond yield is increasing, it means a decrease in selling price of bond, which means the bond is not attracting demand & its price in market is falling.
15. (d) The general price rise may be caused by an increase in the money supply as the real value of the money reduces. The higher aggregate price level will reduce the purchasing power henceforth reducing consumer spending. Effective demand refers to the willingness and ability of consumers to purchase goods at different prices. When demand surpasses supply, higher prices are the result. Effective demand also increases when there is less purchasing power due to inflation.
16. (d) Mandamus means 'we command'. It is a command issued by the court to a public official asking him to perform the official duties that he has failed or refused to perform. It can also be issued against any public body, a corporation, an inferior court, a tribunal or government for the same purpose. The writ of mandamus cannot be issued against a private individual or body; to enforce departmental instruction that does not possess statutory force; when the duty is discretionary and not mandatory; to enforce a contractual obligation; against the President of India or the state Governors; and against the Chief Justice of a High Court acting in judicial capacity.
17. (a) In addition to the members of a House, every Minister and the Attorney General of India have the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of either House, any joint sitting of both the Houses and any Committee of Parliament of which he is a member, without being entitled to vote. There are two reasons underlying this constitutional provision: (i) A Minister can participate in the proceedings of a House, of which he is not a member. In other words, a Minister belonging to the Lok Sabha can participate in the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha and vice-versa; and (ii) A Minister, who is not a member of either House, can participate in the proceedings of both the Houses. It should be noted here that a person can remain a Minister for six months, without being a member of either Houses of Parliament.
18. (b) It is the authority vested in the hands of Supreme Court to examine whether some legislative enactments or executive orders of both Central and State governments is following the Constitution of India or not. The judicial reviews seeks to put checks on the powers of Executive and Legislature with regards to the principles laid down in the Constitution of India.
19. (b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority established in 1972. It sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system. Its major reports include 'Emission Gap Report', 'Global Environment Outlook', 'Frontiers', and 'Invest into a Healthy Planet'. One of UNEP's major achievements since its creation in 1972 has been the initiation, negotiation and implementation of a large number of multilateral environmental agreements, bringing together nations and the environmental community to tackle the challenges of our time.
20. (d) Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022 is released by World Economic Forum (WEF). It is the first Global Cybersecurity Outlook flagship report. The report identifies the trends and analyzes the near-term future cybersecurity challenges. The accelerated shift to remote working during the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with recent high-profile cyberattacks have resulted in bringing cybersecurity top of mind among key decision-makers in organisations and nations.
21. (c) The Great Reset is an initiative by the World Economic Forum. It has been conceptualised by the founder and executive chairman of the WEF, Klaus Schwab, and has evolved over the last few years. It is based on the assessment that the world economy is in deep trouble. Schwab has argued that the situation has been made a lot worse by many factors, including the pandemic's devastating effects on global society, the unfolding technological revolution, and the consequences of climate change.
22. (d) The 'P5+1' refers to the UN Security Council's five permanent members (the P5); namely China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; plus Germany. The 'P5+1' is often referred to as the E3+3 by European countries. Hence, Japan is not a part of it. It is a group of six world powers which, in 2006, joined together in diplomatic efforts with Iran with regard to its nuclear program.
23. (a) The G20 was formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular. Its aim was to secure global

- financial stability by involving middle-income countries. The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among members. The country holding the presidency, together with the previous and next presidency-holder, forms the 'Troika' to ensure continuity of the G20 agenda. Italy, Indonesia, and India are the Troika countries right now.
24. (c) With the permission of the Bahamani ruler from Golconda region, the first East India Company factory was established in Masulipatnam in 1611 Bombay, which was given to British by Portuguese in 1661 as a part of Dowry of Catharine Braganza to Prince Charles II of England; was transferred to East India Company in 1665 for annual payment of 10 Pounds to Government. Meanwhile in 1664, George Oxenden, Company's officer at Surat, had repelled an attack of Shivaji's Maratha raiders on Surat factory. Since Marathas were enemies of Mughals, the happy Mughals allowed the company to do custom free trade from Surat for one year.
25. (a) Tropical cyclone has a low-pressure centre, a closed low-level atmospheric circulation, strong winds, and a spiral arrangement of thunderstorms that produce heavy rain. Extratropical Cyclone (temperate cyclone) occurs in the middle latitudes of the Earth. Extratropical cyclones are low pressure systems with associated cold fronts, warm fronts, and occluded fronts. Tropical cyclones moves from east to west direction under the influence of trade winds on the other hand extra-tropical cyclones (temperate cyclones) move from west to east direction under the influence of westerly winds.
26. (a) During a La Nina event, cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures prevail over the east and the central Pacific Ocean. Due to the cooler temperature, the trade winds above the sea surface change in character because of a difference in the wind pressures. This change in the character of the trade winds is then carried all around the world affecting different regions in different ways. La Nina usually brings wet and cold winter and spring seasons for India. While El Niño causes warmer temperatures over the equatorial Pacific, these are known to suppress monsoon rainfall. When La Nina happens, it has been found to be helpful in bringing good rainfall.
27. (c) Constitutional morality means adherence to the core principles of constitutional democracy. However, it is not limited only to following the constitutional provisions literally but is based on values like individual autonomy and liberty; equality without discrimination; recognition of identity with dignity; the right to privacy.
28. (a) A joint sitting is an extraordinary mechanism provided by the Constitution to resolve a deadlock between the two Houses over the passage of a Bill. The President can summon both the Houses to meet in a joint sitting to deliberate and vote on the Bill. The provision of joint sitting is applicable to Ordinary Bills or Financial Bills only and not to Money Bills or Constitutional Amendment Bills. In the case of a Money Bill, the Lok Sabha has overriding powers, while a Constitutional Amendment Bill must be passed by each House separately.
29. (b) A Private Member Bill can be introduced by any Member of the Parliament other than a Minister. If a Minister introduces a Bill in the Indian Parliament then it is considered as a Public Bill. The introduction of a private Bill needs a notice of one month, while a Public Bill can be introduced in the Parliament on a notice of Seven days. Since a Money Bill is introduced in the House of the Parliament by a Minister, its rejection in the concerned House amounts to the expression of want of Parliamentary confidence in the Union Government and may lead to its resignation.
30. (c) The President has the veto power over the Bills passed by the Parliament and State Legislatures. It cannot be exercised over a Constitutional Amendment Bill. The President can withhold his assent to a Money Bill but cannot return it for reconsideration of the Houses of the Parliament. The State legislatures cannot override the veto power of the President. If the Bill is passed again by the State legislature with or without amendments and presented again to the President for his assent, the President is not bound to give his assent to the Bill.
31. (c) Collective responsibility of Ministers means that all the Ministers own joint responsibility to the Lok Sabha for their acts of commission and omission. They work as a team and swim or sink together. Article 75 clearly states that the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. The principle of collective responsibility also means that the Cabinet decisions bind all Cabinet Ministers even if they differed in a cabinet meeting.
32. (d) There are several direct and indirect instruments that are used for implementing monetary policy. Repo Rate, Reverse Repo Rate, Marginal Standing Facility (MSF), Bank Rate, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Statutory Reserve Ratio (SLR) are the instruments of monetary policy. Repo rate refers to the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in case of shortage of funds. It is basically used by the RBI to keep inflation under control. Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) consists of overnight as well as term repo auctions. It is also an instrument of the monetary policy. Open Market Operations (OMOs) include both, outright purchase and sale of government securities for injection and absorption of durable liquidity, respectively.
33. (d) Moderate inflation in the range of 2-6% is desirable as it results in growth in the economy. It is prime responsibility of RBI to track and handle inflation, which is a key area of concern in Monetary Policy. Government of India is mainly concerned with the fiscal policy.
34. (d) Tax-to-GDP ratio represents the size of a country's tax kitty relative to its GDP. It is a representation of the size of the government's tax revenue expressed as a percentage of the GDP. The higher the tax to GDP ratio the better the financial position the country will be in. The ratio represents that the government is able to finance its expenditure. A higher tax to GDP ratio means that the government is able to cast its fiscal net wide. It reduces a government's dependence on borrowings. Developed nations typically have higher tax-to-GDP ratios than developing nations.

35. (d) Micro Finance Institutions offers a form of financial service which provides small loans and other financial services to poor and low-income households Microcredit is delivered through a variety of institutional channels including Scheduled commercial banks, self-help groups, Cooperative banks Non-banking financial companies, and Microfinance institutions registered as NBFCs as well as in other forms.
36. (b) An Indian ruler entering into Subsidiary Alliance with the British had to dissolve his own armed forces and accept British forces in his territory. He also had to pay for the British army's maintenance. If he failed to make the payment, a portion of his territory would be taken away and ceded to the British. In return, the British would protect the Indian state against any foreign attack or internal revolt. The British promised non-interference in internal affairs of the Indian state but this was rarely kept. The Indian state could not enter into any alliance with any other foreign power. He could also not employ any other foreign nationals other than Englishmen in his service. The idea was to curb the influence of the French.
37. (b) Khilafat Movement sought to restore the Caliphate, a symbol of Pan-Islamism which had recently been abolished by the Turkish ruler Kemal Ataturk after the WWI. Though the Khilafat issue was not directly related to Indian politics, Gandhi saw this as a golden opportunity for cementing Hindu Muslim unity against British rule and brings Muslim masses into the national movement. Gandhi hoped that by coupling non-cooperation with Khilafat, India's two major religious communities, Hindus and Muslims could collectively bring an end to colonial rule. These movements certainly unleashed a surge of popular action that was altogether unprecedented in colonial India.
38. (a) The Home Rule Movement was a movement in British India that started on the Irish Home Rule Movement lines. It set the stage for the independence movement under Annie Besant and Tilak to the educated English speaking upper-class Indians. Tilak and Besant set up separate leagues to avoid friction. Tilak's league was set up in April 1916, and its activities covered Maharashtra (excluding Bombay city), Karnataka, Central Provinces, and Berar. Annie Besant set up her league in September 1916 in Madras and covered the rest of India (including Bombay city). The Congress did not pass any resolution supporting the Home Rule League, though Congress committed itself to a program of educative propaganda.
39. (d) The President can transfer a Judge from one High Court to another after consulting the Chief Justice of India. On transfer, he is entitled to receive in addition to his salary such compensatory allowance as may be determined by Parliament. In the Third Judges case (1998), the Supreme Court opined that in case of the transfer of High Court Judges, the Chief Justice of India should consult, in addition to the collegium of four senior-most Judges of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of the two High Courts (one from which the Judge is being transferred and the other receiving him). Thus, the sole opinion of the Chief Justice of India does not constitute the 'consultation' process.
40. (b) A crypto currency is a virtual currency secured by cryptography. It is designed to work as a medium of exchange, where individual ownership records are stored in a computerised database. Crypto currencies are not a legal tender in India and hence are not under the regulatory control of any body. India at present has no Dispute Settlement Mechanisms with reference to Crypto currencies. El Salvador is the first country to use bitcoin as legal tender, alongside the US dollar.
41. (c) Statutory Liquidity Ratio is that ratio/percentage of its total deposits which a commercial bank has to maintain with itself at any given point of time in the form of liquid assets like cash in hand, current balances with other banks, gold or first-class securities (generally government securities).
42. (d) Lord Metcalfe was the Governor-General of India in 1835-36. He had repealed the obnoxious 1823 Ordinance. The Press Act of 1835, also known as the Metcalfe Act provided for liberal press policy which led to a rapid increase in the number of newspapers.
43. (c) INC was established in December 1885, with the efforts of A.O. Hume, a retired British Civil Servant. Lord Dufferin was the Viceroy at the time of the establishment of INC. Objectives behind the establishment of INC were to promote the sense of national unity among nationalist leaders and to voice their grievances by placing their demands before the British government. The early nationalists considered the coming of the British as beneficial and providential. They wanted to use the British in their attempts to reform contemporary Indian society.
44. (a) Gandhi intervened in a dispute between mill owners of Ahmedabad and the workers over discontinuing the plague bonus. The Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918) was the First Hunger Strike of Gandhi. He asked the workers to go on a strike and demand a 35% hike in wages. The employers were willing to raise a bonus of 20% only. Gandhi advised the workers to remain non-violent while on strike. He undertook a fast unto death to strengthen the worker's resolve. Mill owners finally agreed to give the workers a 35% hike in wages.
45. (c) Vidyasagar's contribution to the making of modern India is many-sided. He evolved a new methodology of teaching Sanskrit. He wrote a Bengali primer which is used till this day. His writings helped in the evolution of a modern prose style in Bengali. He opened the gates of the Sanskrit college to non-Brahmin students for he was opposed to the monopoly of Sanskrit studies that the priestly caste was enjoying at the time. The first lawful Hindu widow remarriage among the upper castes in our country was celebrated in Calcutta on 7 December 1856 under the inspiration and supervision of Vidyasagar. Widows of many other castes in different parts of the country already enjoyed this right under customary law.
46. (a) The Common Carbon Metric is a protocol developed by United Nations Environment Program's Sustainable Buildings & Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) for measuring energy use & reporting GHG emissions from Building Operations. Its purpose is to support greenhouse

- gas (GHG) emissions reductions through accurate measurement of energy efficiency improvements in building operations.
47. (a) Recently, One Ocean Summit was organized by France in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank. The objective of the Summit is to mobilize the international community to take tangible action towards preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems. India will be joining France in launching a global initiative on single-use plastics. India supports the French initiative of a high ambition coalition on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. India would phase out single-use plastic by 2022. The country recently undertook a nationwide awareness campaign to clean plastic and other waste from coastal areas.
48. (c) The Savanna climate is also called the tropical wet and dry climate. It is the climate experienced in tropical grassland regions of the world. These places are located near the equator, and they lie between the Southern and the Northern Tropics. The climate dominates many parts of the African continent, the northern region of South America and parts of Australia. The Savanna climate has alternating dry and wet seasons. Such climate is relatively hot since they lie within the tropical latitudes. Throughout the year, mean monthly temperatures soar above 18° C. Precipitation in the Savanna climate is mainly in the form of rainfall.
49. (b) During the south-west monsoon period, after having rains for a few days, if rain fails to occur for one or more weeks, it is known as break in the monsoon. These dry spells are quite common during the rainy season.
50. (c) Recently, the US stated that it will open an embassy in the Solomon Islands. The Solomon Islands is a country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. It lies northeast of Australia and southwest of Hawaii. The country comprises 992 islands of which 147 are inhabited. It gained independence from Britain on July 7, 1978. Honiara is the capital and largest city. Today, between 70 to 80 percent of the population live a subsistence form of life in their small villages, settlements and islands away from the main urban centres.
51. (c) The Artemis program is a robotic and human Moon exploration program led by the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) along with three partner agencies: European Space Agency (ESA), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and Canadian Space Agency (CSA). The Artemis program intends to re-establish a human presence on the Moon for the first time since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972.
52. (b) Indian Science, Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM) is a dynamic and interactive national portal, which hosts various scientific programs, initiated by the office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India. The main objective of developing this portal using public funds is to provide support to needy researchers in different ways and strengthen the R&D ecosystem to fulfil the necessity of people of the country. The idea is to inculcate among every researcher the concept of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat so that they could work with full dedication to optimize the usage of the resources established across the country.
53. (d) The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The eight core industries are: Coal, Crude oil, Natural Gas, Refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index which details out the growth of various sectors in an economy such as mining, electricity and manufacturing. The all India IIP is a composite indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to that in a chosen base period. It is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) six weeks after the reference month ends.
54. (b) India is the second largest producer of silk in the world with an annual silk production of 35,469 Metric Ton (MT). India has the unique distinction of being the only country producing all the five kinds of silk namely, Mulberry, Eri, Muga, Tropical Tasar and Temperate Tasar. Among them, mulberry silk is the most popular variety, which contributes around 79% of the country's silk production. Sericulture is an important labour-intensive and agro-based cottage industry providing gainful occupation to around 7.63 million persons in rural and semi-urban areas in India. Of these, a sizeable number of workers belong to the economically weaker sections of society. There is substantial involvement of women in this Industry.
55. (b) Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures (PIC) that entered into force on 24th February, 2004, is a legally binding instrument, which was adopted on 10th September 1998 by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rotterdam. India acceded to the Convention on 24th May, 2006. The Convention seeks to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among State Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm
56. (d) Desertification can be defined as spread of desert like conditions in arid or semiarid areas due to human influence or climate change. Some important causes of desertification are uncontrolled grazing, reckless felling of trees and growing population. Climate change has also contributed towards desertification. The ecological implications of desertification include: (i) Lowering of water table leading to acute water shortage; (ii) Deposition of sand in rivers, streams and lakes thereby decreasing their carrying (water containing) capacity; (iii) Excessive soil erosion by wind and water; (iv) Drifting of sand and its accumulation on fertile agricultural land; (v) Increase in area under wastelands and (vi) Decrease in agricultural production.
57. (b) A channel is a wide strait or waterway between two landmasses that lie close to each other. A channel can also be the deepest part of a waterway, or a narrow body of water that connects two larger bodies of water. The Ten-

- degree channel is a channel that separates the Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands from each other in the Bay of Bengal. The two sets of islands together form the Indian Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Nine-degree channel separates Minicoy Island and other islands of the Lakshadweep islands like Amindivi. The Eight-degree channel separates islands of Minicoy of Lakshadweep islands and Maldives.
58. (b) Water with high salinity is denser than water with low salinity. The atomic mass of a Chlorine atom is more than that of an Oxygen atom. Therefore, saline water contains more of NaCl (salt) and hence more chlorine. This leads to increase in mass and thus the density of the water. Differences in water density affect the vertical mobility of ocean currents. Denser water tends to sink whereas warm water tends to rise. Cold-water ocean currents occur when the cold water at the poles sinks and slowly moves towards the equator. Warm-water currents travel out from the equator along the surface, flowing towards the poles to replace the sinking cold water. Ocean currents are generally referred to by their "drift". Ocean currents are stronger at the surface and may attain speeds over 5 knots. At depths, ocean currents are generally slow with speed less than 0.5 knots.
59. (a) India has put forward a proposal to better protect a species of freshwater reptile called the red-crowned roofed turtle under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Red-Crowned roofed turtles are native to India and Bangladesh, and are at a high risk of extinction. It inhabits large swift-flowing rivers with sandy bottoms. Red-Crowned roofed turtles are classified as Critically Endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.
60. (d) Environmental assessment (EA) is assessing the environmental consequences of a plan, policy, program, or actual projects before the decision to move forward with the proposed action. The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) defines an environmental impact assessment as "the process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of development proposals before major decisions being taken and commitments made." The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) of India has been in a great effort in Environmental Impact Assessment in India. The main laws in action are the Water Act (1974), the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972), the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act (1981) and the Environment (Protection) Act (1986), Biological Diversity Act (2002).
61. (a) Heavy metal poisoning is the toxic accumulation of heavy metals in the soft tissues of the body. Heavy metals may enter the body in food, water, or air, or by absorption through the skin. Once in the body, they compete with and displace essential minerals such as zinc, copper, magnesium, and calcium, and interfere with organ system function. People may come in contact with heavy metals in industrial work, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and agriculture. Itai-itai disease was the name given to the mass cadmium poisoning in Japan, starting around 1912. The term "itai-itai disease" was coined by locals for the severe pains people with the condition felt in the spine and joints. Cadmium poisoning can also cause softening of the bones and kidney failure. In arsenic poisoning through drinking water, the first changes are usually seen in skin, pigmentation changes and then skin lesions.
62. (a) The empire and its first dynasty were founded in 1336 by five sons of Sangama, of whom Harihara and Bukka became the city's first kings. With time Vijayanagara became the greatest empire of southern India. Godavari was actually at the far northern side of the Vijayanagara Empire. The empire was mostly concentrated between the Tungabhadra - Krishna Doab. Most of this expansion is attributed to Krishnadevraya of Tuluva dynasty. Sanskrit was actually used as a unifying force. There was no question of denouncing it. At the same time, regional literatures thrived. Behind its frontiers, the country flourished in unexampled peace and prosperity.
63. (b) Lord Wellesley enlarged and consolidated the already existing British Empire inherited from his predecessors through the mechanism of Subsidiary Alliance. Any Indian ruler who entered into the subsidiary alliance with the British had to maintain a contingent of British troops in his territory. The Indian state was called 'the protected state' and the British hereinafter were referred to as 'the paramount power'. The protected state should cut off its connection with European powers other than the English and with the French in particular. The state was also forbidden to have any political contact even with other Indian powers without the permission of the British. Hyderabad was the first state which was brought under Wellesley's Subsidiary System in 1798.
64. (b) British imposed high tariff duties on Indian made goods, but import of British goods in India attracted low tariffs, thus encouraging their entry into India. Free trade one way and refusal to impose protective duties against machine-made goods from Britain simply killed Indian manufacture which is one of the causes of revolt of 1857. The timeline of Boers war is 1899 onwards and fought between British and Boers colonies of South African republic following an ultimatum that the British should cease building up their forces in that region. Wars like Crimean wars (1854-56), the first afghan wars (1838-42), Punjab wars (1845-49) had psychological repercussions like British were seen to be not so strong. According to Religious disabilities act, a change of religion did not debar a son from inheriting the property of his 'heathen father' which increased the fears among the Indian society and thus create suspicion among the Indians and hurt the sentiments of the people which led to revolt of 1857. The General Service Enlistment Act decreed that all future recruits to the Bengal army would have to give an undertaking to serve anywhere their services might be required by the government. This caused resentment among the masses and people revolted against this.
65. (c) The Cornwallis Code was actually a set of regulations enacted by the East India Company in 1793 to improve

- the governance of its territories in India. It contained provisions regarding various areas of administration ranging from land, governance, police, judicial and civil administration. Lord Cornwallis (1793) did not favor condition of judicial and executive functions in one hand and placed them in different hands. Henceforth the Collector was only a collector of land revenue and the District judge and Magistrate became the head of the district. The districts were divided into small thanas and an Inspector was appointed in each *thana*. A superior officer with the designation of Superintendent of police was appointed in each district to supervise the work of the Inspectors.
66. (c) The Civil Service was brought into existence by Lord Cornwallis. Cornwallis, who came to India as Governor-General in 1786, was determined to purify the administration. He enforced the rules against private trade and acceptance of presents and bribes by officials with strictness. At the same time, he raised the salaries of the Company's servants. In 1800, Lord Wellesley pointed out that even though civil servants often ruled over vast areas, they came to India at the immature age of 18 or so and were given no regular training before starting on their jobs. They generally lacked knowledge of Indian languages. Wellesley therefore established the College of Fort William at Calcutta for the education of young recruits to the Civil Service. Though, the Directors of the Company disapproved of his action and in 1806 replaced it by their own East Indian College at Haileybury in England. Till 1853 all appointments to the Civil Service were made by the Directors of the East India Company who placated the members of the Board of Control by letting them make some of the nominations, The Directors fought hard to retain this lucrative and prized privilege and refused to surrender it even when their other economic and political privileges were taken away by Parliament. They lost it finally in 1853 when the Charter Act decreed that all recruits to the Civil Service were to be selected through a competitive examination.
67. (d) Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is the Percentage of deposits which a bank must keep as cash reserves with the RBI and not itself. The ability of the banking system to create money is referred to as the Money Multiplier effect of the Banking system. The Money multiplier effect of the banking system on the money supply is determined by the Cash reserve Ratio. In India, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decides the CRR. It means that the RBI decides the percentage of deposits which every bank must keep as reserves. This is done to ensure that no bank is 'over lending'. This is a legal requirement and is binding on the banks. The Reserve Bank of India takes stock of the CRR in every monetary policy review, which, at present, is conducted every six weeks. CRR is one of the major weapons in the RBI's arsenal that allows it to maintain a desired level of inflation, control the money supply, and also liquidity in the economy.
68. (b) MSP can be anything that the government considers that the farmers should fairly get. This is to help them get fair remuneration for their produce and to motivate or demotivate them to produce a particular crop. Hence it can be either lower or higher than the market price. For e.g. if the government wishes to discourage rice farming, it would lower the MSP of rice. The procurement system decentralization was started in 1997 where states play a very important role in the supply chain. Not all procurements are done by FCI. State cooperative agencies and other state-level distribution agencies also play a crucial role.
69. (d) Disinvestment means sale or liquidation of assets by the government, usually Central and state public sector enterprises, projects, or other fixed assets. The government undertakes disinvestment to reduce the fiscal burden on the exchequer, or to raise money for meeting specific needs, such as to bridge the revenue shortfall from other regular sources. Objectives of Disinvestment in India include: (i) Reducing fiscal burden on the exchequer; (ii) Improving public finances; (iii) Encouraging private ownership; (iv) Funding growth and development programmes and; (v) Maintaining and promoting competition in the market.
70. (c) E-commerce Rules define fall-back liability as the liability of the marketplace e-commerce entity where a seller registered with such entity fails to deliver the goods or services ordered by a consumer due to negligent conduct, omission or commission of any act by such seller in fulfilling the duties and liabilities in the manner as prescribed by the marketplace e-commerce entity which causes loss to the consumer.
71. (d) One of the federal features of the Constitution of India is Dual polity. The Constitution establishes a dual polity consisting the Union at the Centre and the states at the periphery. Each is endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them respectively by the Constitution.
72. (b) The provisions need special Majority of Parliament and Consent of States for amendment include Election of the President and its manner; Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states; Supreme Court and high courts; Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states; Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule; Representation of states in Parliament and; Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself). Fundamental Rights can be amended only through special Majority of the Parliament.
73. (b) Such an Ordinance can be promulgated under Article 123 even if one House is in Session. The condition put by the Constitution is that both the Houses should not be in session at the time of promulgation of the ordinance. Such ordinances carry the full force of a law made by the legislature. But the law remains in force only for six weeks. Once the Parliament is reconvened, it must be approved by both Houses of Parliament in order to become a law.
74. (a) The Governor of a state may reserve any Bill for the consideration of the President. Bills relating to subjects like compulsory acquisition of property, measures affecting powers and position of High Courts and imposition of taxes on storage, distribution and sale of water or electricity

- in Inter-State River or river valley development projects should necessarily be so reserved. These powers are a sub-set of the Governor's Legislative Powers.
75. (d) Under Article 124, 'Proved Misbehavior or Incapacity' is the only grounds mentioned for impeachment of the chief Justice and other judges of the Supreme Court. A three member Committee is set up under Judges Enquiry Act, 1968. If the report of the Committee records a finding of misbehaviour or incapacity, the motion for removal is then taken up for consideration and debated. Such a motion needs to be passed by two-thirds of members present and voting (not two-thirds of total strength of House). Once the motion is adopted in both Houses, it is sent to the President, who will issue an order for the removal of the judge.
76. (a) The copies of the orders of Delimitation Commission are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them. The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.
77. (b) In addition to original and appellate jurisdiction, the Supreme Court of India possesses advisory jurisdiction also. This means that the President of India can refer any matter that is of public importance or that involves interpretation of the Constitution to Supreme Court for advice. However, the Supreme Court is not bound to advise on such matters, and the President is not bound to accept such advice. The utility of advisory jurisdiction is two-fold. In the first place, it allows the government to seek legal opinion on a matter of importance before taking action on it. This may prevent unnecessary litigations later. Secondly, in the light of the advice of the Supreme Court, the government can make suitable changes in its action or legislation.
78. (a) Article 22 grants some protection to persons who are arrested or detained under a preventive detention law. It provides that detenu should be afforded an opportunity to make a representation against the detention order at the earliest opportunity. Article 22 also provides that detention of a person cannot exceed three months (not six) unless an advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention. The board is to consist of judges of a high court. The Constitution has divided the legislative power with regard to preventive detention between the Parliament and the state legislatures. The Parliament has exclusive authority to make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with defence, foreign affairs and the security of India. Both the Parliament as well as the state legislatures can concurrently make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with the security of a state, the maintenance of public order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community.
79. (a) Most of the fundamental rights are directly enforceable (self-executory) while a few of them can be enforced on the basis of a law made for giving effect to them. Such a law can be made only by the Parliament and not by state legislatures so that uniformity throughout the country is maintained (Article 35).
80. (d) A democratic polity is based on the doctrine of popular sovereignty, that is, possession of supreme power by the people. The Indian Constitution provides for representative parliamentary democracy under which the executive is responsible to the legislature for all its policies and actions. Universal adult franchise, periodic elections, rule of law, independence of judiciary, and absence of discrimination on certain grounds are the manifestations of the democratic character of the Indian polity.
81. (d) To bolster investments in solar power projects, the International Solar Alliance (ISA), in its General Assembly meeting, approved the 'Solar Facility', a payment guarantee mechanism expected to stimulate investments into solar projects through two financial components- a Solar Payment Guarantee Fund and Solar Insurance Fund. The thrust of the facility is to attract private capital to flow into *underserved markets* in Africa. With the Solar Facility ISA is looking to support projects by reducing lenders' apprehensions and enabling finance to flow for projects that otherwise may not have received funding.
82. (a) Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an RBI regulated entity. UPI is built over the IMPS infrastructure and allows us to instantly transfer money between any two parties' bank accounts. UPI enables real-time money transfers via mobile devices 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It gives access to multiple bank accounts through a single mobile application. It offers single-click two-factor authentication while also offering single-click payment.
83. (d) Capital Account consists of receipt of loans from abroad, sale of assets or shares in foreign companies as well as repayment of loans, purchase of assets or shares in foreign countries. External Commercial Borrowing, short term debt, Intergovernmental, bilateral and multilateral loans and governmental aids are part of capital account whereas Grants, remittances and gifts form part of Transfer payment under the Current Account.
84. (c) Deficit financing is the budgetary situation where expenditure is higher than the revenue. It is a practice adopted for financing the excess expenditure with outside resources. The expenditure-revenue gap is financed by either printing of currency or through borrowing. Nowadays most governments, both in the developed and developing world, are having deficit budgets and these deficits are often financed through borrowing. Hence the fiscal deficit is the ideal indicator of deficit financing.
85. (d) Dalhousie took advantage of every opportunity to acquire territory by peaceful means. The East India Company was rapidly becoming the predominant power in India. Dalhousie sought to acquire even more power. According to the Hindu Law, one can adopt a son in case of no male heir to inherit the property. It was customary for a ruler without a natural heir to ask the British Government whether he could adopt a son to succeed him. According

- to Dalhousie, if such permission was refused by the British, the state would “lapse” and thereby become part of the British India. Dalhousie maintained that there was a difference in principle between the right to inherit private property and the right to govern. This principle was called the Doctrine of Lapse.
86. (a) The Prarthana Samaj was founded in 1867 in Bombay by Dr. Atmaram Pandurang. It was an off-shoot of Brahmo Samaj. It was a reform movement within Hinduism and concentrated on social reforms like inter-dining, inter-marriage, widow remarriage and uplift of women and depressed classes. The Theosophical Society was founded in New York (USA) in 1875 by Madam H.P. Blavatsky, a Russian lady, and Henry Steel Olcott, an American colonel. They arrived in India and established their headquarters at Adyar in Madras in 1882. Later in 1893, Mrs. Annie Besant arrived in India and took over the leadership of the Society after the death of Olcott.
87. (a) To break the deadlock between the two major political parties (INC and Muslim League) in 1944, C. Rajagopalachari, INC member who was close to Mahatma Gandhi, proposed a set of plans which is called as the C. Rajagopalachari Formula or simply Rajaji Formula. This was the first acknowledgement by a Congressman about the inevitability of the partition of the country and a tacit acceptance of Pakistan. Lord Wavell became the Viceroy of India in 1943 succeeding Lord Linlithgow. In June, 1945, he announced his proposals to break the constitutional deadlock in India. This was called the Wavell Plan. The mutiny of the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) broke out on February 18, 1946 in protest against general conditions. The immediate issues of the revolt were living conditions and food. After the talks over Cabinet Mission broke down, Jinnah called for a “Direct Action Day” to press the League’s demand for Pakistan. On the designated day, 16 August, 1946, bloody riots broke out in Calcutta.
88. (a) Pitt’s India Act gave the British Government supreme control over the Company’s affairs and its administration in India. It established six Commissioners for the affairs of India, popularly known as the Board of Control, including two Cabinet Ministers. The Board of Control was to guide and control the work of the Court of Directors and the Government of India. The Act placed the Government of India in the hands of the Governor-General and a Council of three. The Act clearly subordinated the Bombay and Madras Presidencies to Bengal in all questions of war, diplomacy, and revenues. The Company saved its monopoly of the Indian and Chinese trade and hence was satisfied. Its Directors retained the profitable right of appointing and dismissing its British officials in India. By the Charter Act of 1813, the trade monopoly of the Company in India was ended and trade with India was thrown open to all British subjects.
89. (b) Normally, temperature decreases with increase in elevation. It is called normal lapse rate. At times, the situation is reversed and the normal lapse rate is inverted. It is called Inversion of temperature. Inversion is usually of short duration but quite common nonetheless. A long winter night with clear skies and still air is an ideal situation for inversion. Over polar areas, temperature inversion is normal throughout the year. Surface inversion promotes stability in the lower layers of the atmosphere.
90. (c) *Nationally Determined Contributions* (NDCs) are the pledges that each country makes to reduce its emissions and adapt to climate change from 2020 onward. Countries have to update and expand their NDCs every five years. The principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” (CBDR), was enshrined in the Kyoto accord. It says that developed countries, which produced more emissions in the past as they built their economies, should take the lead in fighting climate change.
91. (a) An ecosystem is a system formed by the interaction of all living organisms (biotic) with each other and with the physical and chemical factors (abiotic) of the environment in which they live, all linked by transfer of energy and material. Biome is a larger region than ecosystem, and comprises many such ecosystems.
92. (b) The Union government is pushing to set up 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal students. The school is built for tribal students, one each in every sub-district that has at least a 20,000-odd Scheduled Tribe population, which must be 50% of the total population in that area. The government is persisting with its mission despite the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Ministry noting this year that the population criteria was “impractical” and needed an “immediate review”. The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-round development of the students. Each school has a capacity of 480 students, catering to students from Class VI to XII. Hitherto, grants were given for construction of schools and recurring expenses to the State Governments under Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution.
93. (a) The National Green Tribunal was established in 2010, under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010, for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources, including enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and matters connected therewith or incidental to that. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues. It shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice. India is the third country in the world to full-fledged green Tribunal, followed by New Zealand and Australia. NGT is mandated to dispose of the cases within six months of their respective appeals.
94. (b) When air is heated in an automobile engine, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) are produced- these include nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) which is toxic; nitrous oxide (N₂O), which is a greenhouse gas; and nitric oxide (NO), which reacts with oxygen to form the harmful NO₂. Nitric oxide on its own also increases the risk of respiratory problems in the long

- run. In a petrol engine, a three-way catalytic converter reduces these emissions, ensuring that the NO_x emissions are about 30 per cent lower than they would be in a diesel engine on average. While modern diesel cars are fitted with particulate filters that take care of NO_x emissions (reducing them by 90%, according to some estimates), diesel engines also emit fine particulate matter (PM) in their tailpipe emissions. This is essentially soot, the finest particles of which can be embedded deep in the lungs, and they can cause heart and respiratory problems in the longer term. PM has also been linked to cancer.
95. (c) Thermal power plants produce fly ash which, if not used properly, can cause pollution of water bodies, land and other components of the environment. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is a flammable mixture of hydrocarbon gases used as fuel in heating appliances, cooking equipment, and vehicles. It is a clean fuel especially when compared to traditional fuels such as wood and cow dung cakes used in rural areas in India and reduce household pollution to a large extent. Also, energy wastage is minimized. This is one of the reasons for the government's push for shift of households from using traditional fuels towards using LPG cylinders through Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojana.
96. (d) Recently, the Union Agriculture Minister launched a portal on the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) for the benefit of the farming community. National Mission on Natural farming aims at: (i) promoting alternative system of farming for freedom from external purchased inputs, cost reduction and thereby increasing income of farmers; (ii) popularizing integrated agriculture-animal husbandry models based on *desi* (local) cow breeds and local resources; (iii) collecting, validating and documenting Natural Farming practices being practiced in various parts of the country and to encourage participatory research with farmers on further up scaling and; (iv) undertaking activities for awareness creation, capacity building, promotion and demonstration of Natural Farming. At the national level, NMNF is steered through a National Steering Committee (NSC) under the Chairmanship of Agriculture Minister. NSC will be the policy making body providing overall direction and guidance to Mission, monitor and review its progress and performance.
97. (a) Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an RBI regulated entity. UPI is built over the IMPS infrastructure and allows us to instantly transfer money between any two parties' bank accounts. UPI enables real-time money transfers via mobile devices 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It gives access to multiple bank accounts through a single mobile application. It offers single-click two-factor authentication while also offering single-click payment.
98. (a) In May 1930, Director of Education J.R. Cunningham issued a circular that raised awareness among students. According to the circular, parents and guardians of students in government schools were required to confirm to the government the students' non-participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement. Students who participate in strikes, hartals, or other political programmes, or who disobey the school authority, must pay a penalty, and their scholarships and hostel seats will be revoked. Assamese women took an active role in this movement as well. During the Civil Disobedience Movement, Pushpalata Das, Punya Prava Baruah, and Jyotshna Mazumdar formed the 'Mukti Sangha' to organise women and contribute to popularizing the demand for Swaraj.
99. (d) There is a widespread misconception that the current Assamese language is a corrupted form of Bengali. In fact, each of the three languages, Assamese, Bengali, and Oriya, evolved independently from a single source language, Magadhi Prakrit. Furthermore, the Assamese language was heavily influenced by Sanskrit and a number of tribal dialects. The Assamese language and literature did not emerge until the 12th and 13th centuries. Chajyapadas were the first examples of written Assamese literature. The true development of the Assamese language began with the arrival of Srimanta Sankardeva in the mediaeval period.
100. (b) In Ancient Assam, monarchy was the dominant form of government. The king had the final say in all significant areas of government. However, before making any decision that would be critical to the state's safety and prosperity, he consulted with his Ministers and high-ranking officials. The throne was passed down through hereditary principles. The eldest son of the royal family succeeded the king in direct succession. Monarchy was founded on the divine origin of kingship. Since the king was regarded as God's representative on Earth, the subject was required to owe unqualified obedience and loyalty to the king and the royal house. The inscriptions issued by the kings explicitly stated that they were the representatives of God on earth to prevent anarchy and maintain order, and thus every citizen was instructed to show the kings the utmost respect.