

Q.1) Which of the following is the correct explanation with respect to Petrification?

- a) Process of fossilisation in which dissolved minerals replace organic matter
- b) Process of accumulation of toxic substances along the food chain
- c) Process of removal of toxic substance through use of bacteria
- d) Process of rearing earth worms.

Q.1) Solution (a)

- Petrification is the process of fossilisation in which dissolved minerals replace organic matter.
- A 20 million year old fossilised tree was discovered on the outskirts of Himachal Pradesh and saved from destruction.
- It is said that the discovered fossils dated back to paleo flooding that was related to global warming and glacial melt, resulting in floods.
- Click [here](#)

Q.2) Ecuador was in news because of the recent earthquake. Consider the following statements with respect to Ecuador

1. Ecuador is a small island off the coast of Japan.
2. Ecuador which lies in close proximity to shifting boundary between tectonic plates is more prone to such earthquakes.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Q.2) Solution (b)

- Ecuador is a South American country situated close to equator.
- The active tectonics of Ecuador is dominated by the effects of the subduction of the Nazca Plate beneath the South American Plate. Ecuador lies within the Northern Volcanic Zone where the subduction zone is moving at a rate of 7 cm/yr to the east-northeast, significantly oblique to the trend of this segment of the Andes.
- Click [here](#) to know more about the news.
- Click [here](#) to know more about the Ecuador earthquake

Q.3) Consider the following International institutions

1. International development association
2. International finance corporation
3. International centre for settlement of investment disputes

Which of the following is/are not the organs of World Bank Group?

- a) 3 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) None of the above

Q.3) Solution (d)

- The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans to developing countries for capital programs.
- It comprises two institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the International Development Association (IDA).
- The World Bank is a component of the World Bank Group, which is part of the United Nations system.

The World Bank Group consists of

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), established in 1945, which provides debt financing on the basis of sovereign guarantees;
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC), established in 1956, which provides various forms of financing without sovereign guarantees, primarily to the private sector;
- The International Development Association (IDA), established in 1960, which provides concessional financing (interest-free loans or grants), usually with sovereign guarantees;
- The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), established in 1965, which works with governments to reduce investment risk;
- The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), established in 1988, which provides insurance against certain types of risk, including political risk, primarily to the private sector.
- Click [here](#) to read the news.

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to recent development in India's Defence corporation:

1. Logistical exchange memorandum of agreement or (LEMOA) is a defence agreement between India and Iran
2. According to LEMOA militaries of both the countries will share facilities for refuelling, supplies and spares.
3. Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum Agreement (CISMOA) and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA) have been signed with US.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.4) Solution (b)

- Logistical exchange memorandum of agreement or (LEMOA) is a defence agreement between India and USA. According to this agreement militaries of both the nations to share facilities for refuelling, supplies and spares.
- USA has similar arrangements with over 80 countries.
- Agreements on CISMOA and BECA have not been signed yet.

Q.5) Recently Tara Bhagavati cult, a lesser known sect of Buddhism was in news. Consider the following statements about this sect:

1. This cult belongs to Mahayana sect of Buddhism.
2. It was popular in Southern part of India.

Which of the above statements are correct:

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

Q.5) Solution (b)

- Tara Bhagwati is a part of Vajrayana sect of Buddhism.
- Inscription related to Buddhism was found in Lakkundi, Karnataka, a place of antiquarian interest with nearly 50 temples, 101 stepped wells and a large number of inscriptions spread over the Chalukya, Kalachuri, Seuna and Hoysala periods.
- The inscription, whose lower portion has been severed off, makes salutations to Lord Buddha, 'dhamma', 'sangha' and Tara Bhagavati.
- There are possibilities of the inscription speaking about donations to a Buddhist monastery located at Lakkundi. Besides, it was among a handful of inscriptions making specific reference to the Tara Bhagavati cult of the Vajrayana Buddhism which was in vogue here till 12th century.
- The period of this inscription could be assigned to the regime of Hoysala king Veeraballala II (1173–1220 CE).
- Click [here](#)