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Q.1) The 28th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit began in Laos capital Vientiane today (06 Sep, 2016). Consider the following statements in regard to ASEAN:

- 1. ASEAN is an alliance promoting economic and political cooperation by fostering dialogue among all its Southeast Asian members.
- 2. RCEP consists of all ten ASEAN countries plus six countries (China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, India, and United States) which have trade agreements with ASEAN countries.

#### Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?

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

#### Q.1) Solution (d)

ASEAN is an alliance promoting economic and political cooperation by fostering dialogue among its 10 Southeast Asian members. (Timor is the only South East Asian country which is not the member of ASEAN)

RCEP consists of all ten ASEAN countries plus six countries (China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, India, and New Zealand) which have trade agreements with ASEAN countries.

**In News** - <a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/business/world-market/emerging-asean-exchanges-ignore-high-valuations-to-lead-share-surge-3014454/">http://indianexpress.com/article/business/world-market/emerging-asean-exchanges-ignore-high-valuations-to-lead-share-surge-3014454/</a>

# Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Pelargonic Acid Vanillyl Amide (PAVA)

- 1. It is an organic compound found in chilli pepper
- 2. It is used as a food additive

#### Select the correct statement(s)

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

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#### Q.2) Solution (c)

PAVA shells contain Pelargonic Acid Vanillyl Amide, an organic compound found in chilli pepper. It derives its name from the compound, which is also known as Nonivamide. It is considered to be bio-safe, less lethal than pellet guns and equally effective.

It is also used as a food additive to add pungency, flavouring and spicy effect to food.

**In News** - <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pellet-gun-alternatives-chillifilled-pava-shells-cleared-by-rajnath-singh/article9070128.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pellet-gun-alternatives-chillifilled-pava-shells-cleared-by-rajnath-singh/article9070128.ece</a>

#### Q.3) 'Bulbul' is the state bird of which of the following

- a) Manipur
- b) Goa
- c) Odisha
- d) Nagaland

#### Q.3) Solution (b)

**In News** - <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/goa-to-host-threeday-bird-festival-from-nov-11/article9066370.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/goa-to-host-threeday-bird-festival-from-nov-11/article9066370.ece</a>

#### Q.4) Identify the lake:

- 1. It is a freshwater lake and hosts phumdis
- 2. The only floating national park in the world is found here

#### Choose the correct lake exhibiting the above-mentioned characteristics:

- a) Renuka Lake
- b) Kolleru lake
- c) Loktak Lake
- d) Pong Dam Lake

#### Q.4) Solution (c)

Loktak Lake in Manipur (Ramsar site)

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- Largest freshwater lake in the north-eastern region of the country
- **Phumdis:** Heterogeneous mass of vegetation, soil, and organic matters at various stages of decomposition
- Only floating national park in the world: Keibul Lamjao
- Keibul Lamjao National Park: the last natural refuge of the endangered 'Sangai' or Manipur brow-antlered deer

# Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

- 1. It is created under the Department of Telecommunications
- 2. It provides access to quality ICT services at affordable prices to people in rural and remote areas

#### Select the correct statements:

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

#### Q.5) Solution (c)

#### What:

- Provide widespread and non-discriminatory access to quality ICT services at affordable prices to people in rural and remote areas.
- Provide an effective and powerful linkage to the hinterland thereby mainstreaming the population of rural and remote parts of the country.
- Ensure that universal services are provided in an economically efficient manner.
- Ensure that by developing hitherto unconnected areas, the benefits of inclusive growth are reaped by our nation, bringing in its wake rapid socio-economic development and improved standards of living.

#### For Whom:

People in rural and remote areas of the country where ICT services are not available due to commercial non-viability on account of various combinations of reasons such as:

Sparse population

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- Remoteness of areas
- Absence of supporting infrastructure (power, road etc.)
- Low income of inhabitants
- Insurgency
- Difficult terrain

It is here that USOF Administration steps in to provide subsidy support thereby incentivizing telecom service providers to venture forth and provide services to such target beneficiaries.

In News - <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/mobile-access-scheme-for-remote-">http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/mobile-access-scheme-for-remote-</a>

