

Q.1) Scientists have discovered new species belonging to the genus Nyctibatrachus. It is a genus of?

- a) Lizards endemic to Western Ghats
- b) Frogs endemic to Western Ghats
- c) Specific Plants endemic to Western Ghats
- d) None of the above

Q.1) Solution (b)

Scientists have discovered seven new frog species belonging to the **genus Nyctibatrachus**, commonly **known as Night Frogs**. This find is a result of five years of extensive explorations in the Western Ghats global biodiversity hotspot in India. **Four out of seven** of the new species are miniature-sized frogs (12.2-15.4 mm), which can comfortably sit on a coin or a thumbnail. These are among the smallest known frogs in the world.

Unlike other frogs in the genus that are predominantly stream dwelling, the new miniature frogs were found under damp forest leaf litter or marsh vegetation.

Listed as **Vulnerable under IUCN because its Extent of Occurrence is less than 20,000 km²**, its distribution is severely fragmented, and there is continuing decline in the extent and quality of its forest habitat.

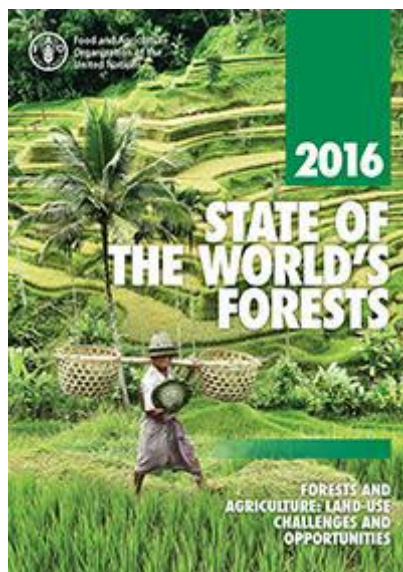
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/indian-scientists-discover-four-new-species-of-smallest-known-frogs-from-the-western-ghats/articleshow/57281095.cms>

Q.2) 'State of World's Forests' Report is published by

- a) World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- c) Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
- d) World Bank

Q.2) Solution (c)

State of the World's Forests 2016



Forests and agriculture: land-use challenges and opportunities

Forests and trees support sustainable agriculture. They stabilize soils and climate, regulate water flows, give shade and shelter, and provide a habitat for pollinators and the natural predators of agricultural pests. They also contribute to the food security of hundreds of millions of people, for whom they are important sources of food, energy and income. Yet, agriculture remains the major driver of deforestation globally, and agricultural, forestry and land policies are often at odds.

State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2016 shows that it is possible to increase agricultural productivity and food security while halting or even reversing deforestation, highlighting the successful efforts of Costa Rica, Chile, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Tunisia and Viet Nam. Integrated land-use planning is the key to balancing land uses, underpinned by the right policy instruments to promote both sustainable forests and agriculture.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed **2011 as the "International Year of Forests"**

The International Day of Forests was established on the 21st day of March, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2012

The World Forestry Congress (WFC) is the largest and most significant gathering of the world's forestry sector and it has been held every six years since 1926 under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organized by the government of the host country. It is a forum for the sharing of knowledge and experience regarding the conservation, management and use of the world's forests, and covers such issues as international dialogue, socio-economic and institutional aspects, and forest policies.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding BIOFIN

1. BIOFIN, Biodiversity Finance is a global partnership to help government plan and pay for its actions on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
2. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is implementing a global multi country project on Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)
3. India has joined BIOFIN looking at the financing options to reverse biodiversity loss

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.3) Solution (c)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing a global multi country project on Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)

http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/press-releases/Press%20Release_BIOFIN.pdf

Q.4) Recently, our scientists of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have found a new species of Zingiber (commonly referred as Ginger) having medicinal properties. In which part of the country it was discovered?

- a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- b) Eastern Ghats
- c) Western Ghats
- d) Northern Himalayas

Q.4) Solution (a)

Scientists of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have found a new species of Zingiber (commonly referred as Ginger) **from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.

The species Zingiber pseudosquarrosum, new to science, belonging to genus Zingiber, was already used by the local Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of the Andamans for its medicinal values.

During an expedition to north and middle Andaman, one of local guides, who was a Nicobarese, shared his traditional knowledge about this species, which was so far hidden from science.

After collecting and systematically analysing the species, scientists found that the new species indeed possesses ethno-medicinal uses.

“The fresh extract [juice] of fleshy tuberous roots is used to treat abdominal pain and anti-helminthic troubles by Nicobarese and certain other tribal communities,”.

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/New-Ginger-species-with-medicinal-properties-found-in-Andamans/article17009348.ece>

Q.5) In a major breakthrough in eco-conservation, forest officials in Munnar have spotted two critically endangered impatiens plant species on the peripheries of the Eravikulam National Park. Consider the statements regarding ‘Impatiens Plant Species’:

1. They are also called as jewel weeds
2. All Impatiens taste bitter and seem to be slightly toxic upon ingestion, causing intestinal ailments like vomiting and diarrhea.
3. Impatiens are non-invasive species

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 2
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.5) Solution (c)

Impatiens, also called jewel weeds, are seen in pristine forests where moisture content and relative humidity are high.

They belong to The Balsaminaceae (commonly known as the **Balsam family**) are a family of dicotyledonous plants, comprising two genera: **Impatiens**, which consists of 1000+ species, and **Hydrocera**, consisting of 1 species

One of the impatiens, Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is an invasive terrestrial plant species.

All Impatiens taste bitter and seem to be slightly toxic upon ingestion, causing intestinal ailments like vomiting and diarrhea. The toxic compounds have not been identified but are probably the same as those responsible for the bitter taste, likely might be glycosides or alkaloids.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/two-endangered-plant-species-spotted/article17370078.ece>

Q.6) The India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) Project is a multi-institutional effort aimed at building a world-class underground laboratory with a rock cover of approx.1200 m for non-accelerator based high energy and nuclear physics research in India. It is located in

- a) The Bodi West Hills region
- b) The Anamalai Hills region
- c) The Nilgiri Hills region
- d) The Kalrayan Hills region

Q.6) Solution (a)

The proposed site for INO is located in the Bodi West Hills region, about 2 km from the nearest village Pudukottai in Pottipuram Panchayat, Theni District of Tamil Nadu. The nearest major city is Madurai about 110 km away. It is also the nearest airport and a major railway station.

Q.7) Consider the following statements

1. Core zone of biosphere consists of an undistributed and legally protected ecosystem
2. Buffer zone of a biosphere reserve is an area of active cooperation between the management and local people

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.7) Solution (a)**Core Zone**

Core zone must contain suitable habitat for numerous plant and animal species, including higher order predators and may contain centres of endemism. Core areas often conserve the wild relatives of economic species and also represent important genetic reservoirs having exceptional scientific interest. A core zone being National Park or Sanctuary/protected/regulated mostly under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Whilst realizing that perturbation is an ingredient of ecosystem functioning, the core zone is to be kept free from human pressures external to the system.

Buffer Zone

The buffer zone, adjoins or surrounds core zone, uses and activities are managed in this area in the ways that help in protection of core zone in its natural condition. These uses and activities include restoration, demonstration sites for enhancing value addition to the resources, limited recreation, tourism, fishing, grazing, etc; which are permitted to reduce its effect on core zone. Research and educational activities are to be encouraged. Human activities, if natural within BR, are likely to continue if these do not adversely affect the ecological diversity.

Transition Zone

The transition area is the outermost part of a biosphere reserve. This is usually not delimited one and is a zone of cooperation where conservation knowledge and management skills are applied and uses are managed in harmony with the purpose of the biosphere reserve. This includes settlements, crop lands, managed forests and area for intensive recreation and other economic uses characteristics of the region.

Q.8) Consider the following regarding Seemai Karuvelam

1. It is an invasive species of plant which is harmful for environment
2. It is native to Indian subcontinent
3. It has one of the deepest roots

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.8) Solution (c)

In news: The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, directed the State government to bring an Act with Prohibitory and Penal clauses to eradicate **seemai karuvelam (Prosopis Juliflora) trees** within two months.

It is native to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean. It has become established as an invasive weed in Africa, Asia, Australia and elsewhere

Its roots are able to grow to a great depth in search of water: in 1960, they were discovered at a depth of 53 meters (175 feet) at an open-pit mine near Tucson, Arizona, putting them among the deepest known roots.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/a-saviourturnedvillain-whose-tentacles-spread-far-and-wide/article17379253.ece>

Q.9) Consider the following statements

1. Egg laying mammals are known as monotremes
2. The only surviving examples of monotremes are all indigenous to Australia and New Guinea
3. Monotremes are cold-blooded

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 2
- b) 1, 2 and 3
- c) Only 3
- d) None

Q.9) Solution (c)

Mammals are always thought of giving birth to young ones but sometimes it can be different too. Can you ever think of mammals laying eggs instead of giving birth to babies? Yes, there are egg laying mammals and they are known as monotremes.

As suggested by egg laying mammal facts, only five species of monotremes are extant, one of which is duck billed platypus and remaining four belong to the echidna family. These echidnas are also called as spiny anteaters because they like to have ants and termites in their diet. Also, due to their pointing spines, they are called spiny anteaters. They are quite

similar with other mammals in few things, but differ in most of the characteristics. Sometimes, they behave like reptiles, while at other times; they show the characteristics of birds.

Like other mammals, monotremes are warm-blooded.

The existing monotreme species are the platypus and four species of echidnas (Total 5)

Differences between Platypus and Echidna

Though the echidnas and platypuses share similarities as they both are monotremes, but there do exist certain differences between them. A female platypus lays eggs in the special holes or burrows while a female echidna, on the other hand, lays egg in her pouch. Female platypus can lay two eggs at a time while an echidna can lay only one egg at a time. There are many other differences in their body structure, feeding habits, diet and so on.

Q.10) Scientists have discovered a new species named Kani maranjandu after the Kani tribe in Kerala. Identify the species?

- a) Lizard
- b) Frog
- c) Tree-living crab
- d) Forest Cat

Q.10) Solution (c)

Scientists have discovered a new species of long legged, tree-dwelling crabs in Western Ghats of Kerala.

The new species named Kani maranjandu after the Kani tribe in Kerala, are substantially different from other congeners.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/new-tree-living-crab-species-found-in-kerala/article17809088.ece>

Q.11) Consider the following regarding Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)

1. The rules of Eco- Sensitive Zones are declared under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
2. Flying over protected areas in an aircraft or hot air balloon is prohibited
3. Felling of trees and Rainwater harvesting are regulated around ESZ

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 3
- b) 1 and 3
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

Q.11) Solution (b)

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has come out with new guidelines to create eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) around Protected Areas to prevent ecological damage caused due to developmental activities around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

The guidelines include a broad list of activities that could be allowed, promoted, regulated or promoted. This is an important checklist for conservationists to keep in mind while identifying threats in ESZs.

ESZs are based on the rules of Environment Protection Act, 1986

The guidelines said activities, including commercial mining, setting of saw mills and industries causing pollution, commercial use of firewood and major hydro-power projects, are prohibited in such areas.

It also prohibits tourism activities like flying over protected areas in an aircraft or hot air balloon, and discharge of effluents and solid waste in natural water bodies or terrestrial areas.

Felling of trees, drastic change in agriculture systems and commercial use of natural water resources, including groundwater harvesting and setting up of hotels and resorts, are the activities regulated in the areas.

Activities permitted in the areas include ongoing agriculture and horticulture practices by local communities, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, adoption of green technology and use of renewable energy sources.

The width of the ESZ and type of regulation may vary from protected area to area. However, as a general principle, the width of the ESZ could go up to 10 kms around the protected area. The ministry said all states and union territories were asked to forward site-specific proposals to set up ESZs. But only few states have forwarded the proposals. "This ministry after careful consideration, has therefore, decided to frame guidelines to facilitate the state/union territory for declaration of eco-sensitive zones around national parks and wild life sanctuaries."

<http://www.moef.gov.in/sites/default/files/1%20Guidelines%20for%20Eco-Sensitive%20Zones%20around%20Protected%20Areas.pdf>

Q.12) Identify the correct statement regarding Jerdon's Courser

- a) It is a nocturnal bird endemic to Western Ghats
- b) It is a nocturnal bird endemic to Eastern Ghats
- c) It is a nocturnal bird endemic to Andaman and Nicobar
- d) It is a nocturnal bird endemic to Northern Himalayas

Q.12) Solution (b)

Jerdon's courser (*Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*) is a nocturnal bird belonging to the pratincole and courser family Glareolidae endemic to India. The bird was discovered by the surgeon-naturalist Thomas C. Jerdon in 1848 but not seen again until its rediscovery in 1986. This courser is a restricted-range endemic found locally in India in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh. It is currently known only from the Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary, where it inhabits sparse scrub forest with patches of bare ground.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/extinct-birds-to-fly-from-new-habitat/articleshow/56770355.cms>

Q.13) The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

List of Indian wetlands of International importance included in the Montreux Record are:

1. Chilika Lake
2. Loktak Lake
3. Keoladeo National Park
4. Wular Lake

Select the correct code

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 4

Q.13) Solution (c)

The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

List of Indian wetlands of International importance included in the Montreux Record are

- Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan
- Loktak Lake, Manipur.

Note: Chilika Lake was removed from the register in 2002 in light of the improved conditions of the lake. In fact, Chilika lake is the first Ramsar site in Asia to be removed from the Montreux record

http://ramsar.rgis.ch/cda/en/ramsar-documents-montreux-montreux-record/main/ramsar/1-31-118%5E20972_4000_0

Q.14) Consider the following about The Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)

1. It is a statutory body established under Environment Protection Act, 1986
2. It creates data bank on Indian ornithology and natural history,
3. It was established in 1990 due to concerted efforts of Ministry of Environment and Forests and Bombay Natural History Society

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 2
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.14) Solution (b)

The necessity for the study and conservation of birds in particular, and wildlife and biodiversity in general, prompted the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India to establish the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History as a public - NGO partnership between the MoEF, and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

The Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON) is a Society registered (autonomous body) in 1990 under the Societies registration Act, with the object of establishing and developing a Centre of Excellence to assist, institute, conduct and promote scientific research in ornithology, and of species, habitats and ecosystems with and within which avifauna coexist, and developing scientific solutions to species, habitat and landscape conservation problems that are sensitive to the socio-economic realities and aspirations of the people.

The core objectives of SACON, to which all work of the organisation are directed, are:

- Design and conduct research in ornithology covering all aspects of biodiversity and natural History,
- Develop and conduct regular courses in ornithology and natural history for MSc, MPhil and PhD candidates and short-term orientation courses in the above subjects,
- Create a data bank on Indian ornithology and natural history,
- Disseminate knowledge relating to ornithology and natural history for the benefit of the community.
- To confer honorary awards and other distinctions to persons who have rendered outstanding services in the fields of ornithology and natural history.

Q.15) Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. It is developed by

- a) IUCN and UNDP
- b) IUCN and WWF
- c) UNESCO and IUCN
- d) UNEP and IUCN

Q.15) Solution (a)

The devastation caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 laid bare the vital link between coastal ecosystems and human livelihoods. It was United States President Bill Clinton's vision that rebuilding in tsunami-hit areas should improve natural infrastructure and strengthen resilience against future natural disasters.

In response to this vision, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed Mangroves for the Future in 2006.

Since then, MFF has grown to include eight institutional partners, plus a growing number of countries. At the launch of the Tsunami Legacy report* at the United Nations in New York in April 2009, Bill Clinton acclaimed MFF as one of the most positive and forward-looking developments of the post-tsunami period.

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. Co-chaired by IUCN and UNDP, MFF provides a platform for collaboration among the many different agencies, sectors and countries which are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues. The goal is to promote an integrated ocean-wide approach to coastal management and to building the resilience of ecosystem-dependent coastal communities.

Mangroves are the flagship of the initiative, but MFF is inclusive of all types of coastal ecosystem, such as coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, sandy beaches, seagrass and wetlands.

Member countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam

Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'X' tribe.

1. They are the largest ethnic group within Chittagong Hill Tracts
2. Supreme Court directed the Union of India and the State of Arunachal Pradesh to process the citizenship applications of the tribe
3. They follow the Theravada form of Buddhism

Identify the tribe

- a) Tanchangya
- b) Chamka
- c) Marma
- d) Pankho

Q.16) Solution (b)

The Chakmas, also known as the Daingnet people, are an ethnic group concentrated in Chittagong area of Bangladesh.

Within the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Chakmas are the largest ethnic group and make up half of the region's population. The Chakmas are divided into 46 clans or Gozas. They have their own language, customs and culture, and profess Theravada Buddhism. The community is headed by the Chakma Raja.

During the period from 1964-68, around 15,000 Chakmas had fled from the Chittagong Hill tracts of the then East Pakistan to escape the oppression of Pakistani rulers. After migration to India, they settled in the then Northeastern Front Agency (NEFA), currently Arunachal Pradesh.

However, the delegation members complained that not a single Chakma migrant in Arunachal Pradesh has been granted citizenship rights till date despite specific directions of the Supreme Court of India issued on January 9, 2016 in the case National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) vs. State of Arunachal Pradesh and others. Later on, following another writ petition, the Supreme Court in its judgment dated September 17, 2016 directed the Union of India and the State of Arunachal Pradesh to process the citizenship applications.

Q.17) Joint Sea-2016 naval exercise was carried out between

- a) Russia and China
- b) Japan and USA
- c) China, Russia and Pakistan
- d) India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

Q.17) Solution (a)

China and Russia have carried out joint naval exercises dubbed as Joint Sea-2016 in the resource-rich South China Sea (SCS) off China's southern Guangdong province.

The exercises follow a spike in tensions after Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague rejected China's claims in the SCS and slammed it for causing environmental damage there.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/world/world-news/china-russia-naval-drill-in-south-china-sea-to-begin-monday-3025585/>

Q.18) Consider the following statements concerning Polymetallic Nodules (PMN)

1. They are called as manganese nodules
2. It contains nickel, cobalt and copper beside manganese
3. India has contract for exploration of PMN in Central Indian Ocean Basin with the International Seabed Authority (ISA)

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 3

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

Q.18) Solution (d)

Polymetallic nodules (also known as manganese nodules) are potato-shaped, largely porous nodules found in abundance carpeting the sea floor of world oceans in deep sea. Besides manganese and iron, they contain nickel, copper, cobalt, lead, molybdenum, cadmium, vanadium, titanium, of which nickel, cobalt and copper are considered to be of economic and strategic importance. India signed a 15 year contract for exploration of Polymetallic Nodules (PMN) in Central Indian Ocean Basin with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) (an Institution set up under the Convention on Law of the Sea to which India is a Party) on 25th March, 2002 with the approval of Cabinet. India is presently having an area of 75,000 sq.km., located about 2000 km away from her southern tip for exploration of PMN.

Ministry of Earth Sciences is carrying out Survey & Exploration, Environmental Impact Assessment, Technology Development (Mining and Extractive Metallurgy) under polymetallic nodules program through various national institutes viz. National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT), National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), National Centre for Antarctica and Ocean Research (NCAOR), National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) etc., in accordance with the Contract provisions. India is fulfilling all the obligations of the contract.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/union-cabinet-approves-extension-of-contract-between-india-international-seabed-authority-for-poly-metallic-nodules-exploration-116091200439_1.html

Q.19) Consider the following statements

1. As per the government's 2006 rural electrification policy, a village is deemed 'electrified' if basic infrastructure such as distribution transformer and distribution lines has been set up in the inhabited locality, including a 'Dalit basti'.
2. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is the nodal agency to operate and monitor rural electrification

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.19) Solution (c)

As per the government's 2006 rural electrification policy, a village is deemed 'electrified' if basic infrastructure such as distribution transformer and distribution lines has been set up in the inhabited locality, including a 'Dalit basti'.

The top five states which have got largest number of unelectrified rural households are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand and Odisha. Under rural electrification scheme, the households which are below poverty line (BPL) should get free electricity connections from the government.

The top five states which have got the highest number of unelectrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households currently are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur. As per REC data, only 57 per cent of the country's rural BPL households have been electrified.

REC is the nodal agency to operate and monitor rural electrification and it receives 0.5 per cent of the total project cost as its fees.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/electricity-in-india-villages-problems-still-no-light-poverty-3030107/>

Q.20) Mangalajodi, the second largest hotspot for birds on the banks of

- a) Pulicat
- b) Wullar
- c) Loktak
- d) None of the above

Q.20) Solution (d)

Mangalajodi, the second largest hotspot for birds on the banks of Chilika Lake in Odisha, is set to be developed into an ecotourism destination.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/MANGALAJODI/article14639089.ece>

Q.21) Operation Morthor was in news recently. It is concerned with which of the following countries?

- a) Congo
- b) Somalia
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Laos

Q.21) Solution (a)

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/9D5XT497AEYYluFn3moa2H/When-Indian-troops-entered-Congo-55-years-ago.html> (Read through it once)

Q.22) Vientiane is located in which of the following countries?

- a) Laos
- b) Cambodia
- c) Thailand
- d) Malaysia

Q.22) Solution (a)

14th ASEAN-India Summit and the 11th East Asia Summit was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

It is the capital and largest city of Laos, on the banks of the Mekong River near the border with Thailand. Vientiane became the capital in 1563 due to fears of a Burmese invasion, but was later razed and looted to the ground in 1827 by the Siamese (Thai). Vientiane was the administrative capital during French rule and, due to economic growth in recent times, is now the economic centre of Laos.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=149455>

Q.23) PARAM-ISHAN is a

- a) Satellite developed by PESIT College, Bangalore which was launched by ISRO
- b) A project by Indian government in Ross Sea
- c) Supercomputer developed by IIT Guwahati
- d) Technology that will be integrated to be used at PoS terminals to facilitate seamless payments with or without credit/debit cards

Q.23) Solution (c)

PARAM-ISHAN supercomputing facility at IIT, Guwahati

PARAM-ISHAN have power of 250 Teraflops and three hundred tera bites capacity.

PARAM-ISHAN can be used in the application areas like Computational Chemistry, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Computational Electromagnetic, Civil Engineering Structures, Nano-block Self Assemble, Optimization etc. North East India receives heavy rainfall during monsoon, which leads to flooding and landslides. PARAM-ISHAN can be used for Weather, climate modeling and seismic data processing.

Developed by C-DAC and IIT Guwahati.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=150905>

Q.24) Consider the following statements about National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

1. It is under the Ministry of Law and Justice
2. It replaced the Company Law Board (CLB)
3. It is set up at Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai only

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) 1 and 2
- c) Only 2
- d) 1 and 3

Q.24) Solution (c)

The Central Government has constituted National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) w.e.f. 01st June 2016.

In the first phase the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** have set up eleven Benches, one Principal Bench at New Delhi and one each Regional Benches at New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. These Benches will be headed by the President and 16 Judicial Members and 09 Technical Members at different locations.

The National Company Law Tribunal has been constituted w.e.f. 1st June, 2016 and by virtue of Section 466(1) of Companies Act, 2013, the **Company Law Board stands dissolved**.

In News - <http://www.thehindu.com/business/no-repeat-of-2g-satyam-if-laws-are-sincerely-implemented-says-nclt-president/article9118738.ece>

Q.25) The term Levant is in news. It is concerned with which of the following countries?

1. Jordan
2. North Sudan
3. Egypt
4. Lebanon
5. Syria

Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 1, 3, 4 and 5
- c) 4 and 5
- d) 1, 4 and 5

Q.25) Solution (b)

The term is employed to refer to modern events, peoples, states or parts of states in the same region, namely Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Turkey are sometimes considered Levant countries.

It is an approximate historical geographical term referring to a large area in the eastern Mediterranean. In its widest historical sense, the Levant included all of the eastern Mediterranean with its islands, that is, it included all of the countries along the eastern Mediterranean shores, extending from Greece to Cyrenaica. The term Levant entered English in the late 15th century from French. It derives from the Italian Levante, meaning "rising", implying the rising of the sun in the east. As such, it is broadly equivalent to the Arabic term Mashriq, 'the land where the sun rises'.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-full-circle-of-reason/article9111688.ece>