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**Q.1) Flexi fare scheme is concerned with**

- a) Broadband Internet
- b) Railways
- c) Allocation of Coal Blocks
- d) None of the above

**Q.1) Solution (b)**

The railways rolled out a flexi-fare scheme in November 2016, by which ticket prices would increase in direct correlation to how many people made bookings in a particular train. The scheme yielded additional revenues of approximately Rs 500 crore but fewer people rode in the premier Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duranto trains since its launch.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/premium-trains-run-with-empty-seats/article19786619.ece>

**Q.2) Julio Ribeiro Committee is associated with**

- a) Merger Of seven Associate Banks with State Bank of India
- b) Computerization of Banking Industry and Public Sector Disinvestment
- c) Small scale industries and Trade Policy Reform
- d) Police reforms

**Q.2) Solution (d)**

In 1995, Prakash Singh, former DGP of Uttar Pradesh filed a PIL regarding police reforms in India. This led to the government constituting a new committee under the chairmanship of Julio Ribeiro, and the Julio Ribeiro Committee was formed in 1998.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/awaiting-police-reforms/article19793527.ece>

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about Catalonia**

1. It is a geographic area in Eastern and South-eastern Europe with various and disputed borders
2. It is bordered by the Adriatic Sea on the northwest, the Ionian Sea on the southwest

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Select the correct statements

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

### Q.3) Solution (d)

Catalonia is an autonomous community of Spain located on the eastern extremity of the Iberian Peninsula. It is designated as a nationality by its Statute of Autonomy. Catalonia consists of four provinces: Barcelona, Girona, Lleida, and Tarragona. The capital and largest city is Barcelona, the second-most populated municipality in Spain and the core of the seventh most populous urban area in the European Union. Catalonia comprises most of the territory of the former Principality of Catalonia. It is bordered by France and Andorra to the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the east, and the Spanish autonomous communities of Aragon to the west and Valencia to the south. The official languages are Catalan, Spanish, and the Aranese dialect of Occitan.

Catalonia independence referendum - <http://www.independent.ie/world-news/europe/explainer-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-catalan-referendum-36186243.html>

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-day-after-catalonias-vote/article19786543.ece>

Q.4) India's first LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) laboratory will be set up in which of the following states?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Gujarat
- c) Karnataka
- d) Madhya Pradesh

### Q.4) Solution (a)

Maharashtra's Hingoli district has been chosen for carrying out experiments on the ambitious LIGO project that proved existence of gravitational waves, a major breakthrough

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in science. It would be third such laboratory in the world, first outside the United States. The existing laboratories are located in Hanford, Washington, and in Livingston, Louisiana.

LIGO India is a joint scientific collaboration between LIGO laboratories of MIT and Caltech and three leading Indian institutions - the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, and the Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/ligo-observatorys-work-to-begin-in-2018-land-acquisition-underway/articleshow/60882081.cms>

**Q.5) Which of the following statements about H1N1 virus is/are correct?**

- a) It was detected for the first time in India
- b) It does not spread from exposure to an infected person
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Q.5) Solution (d)**

H1N1 virus or swine flu is a respiratory disorder. According to WHO, the virus is a strain of influenza. It is commonly known as swine flu because it was detected in patients who were directly in contact with pig. According to WHO, genetic analyses of the virus shows that it originated from animal influenza viruses. It was detected for the first time in North America in April 2009, after which it rapidly spread all around the world. In June 2009, the disease spread across 74 countries and territories.

As per WHO, the H1N1 virus spreads just like other seasonal influenza viruses. It spreads from exposure to an infected person. When an infected person coughs or sneezes, he/she leaves behind infected droplets. Exposure to these infected droplets can contaminate hands and surfaces.

The symptoms of H1N1 are similar to season flu. The symptoms included cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, headache and bodyache. In extreme cases, the patient also feels chills and fatigue. The swine flu, like every other regular flu, can develop into serious problems such as pneumonia, lung infection and other breathing problems.

According to WHO, People are advised to seek medical care if they experience shortness of breath. They should also consult a doctor if the fever continues for more than three days. People should also wash their hands before consumption of food and avoid exposure to sick

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patient. Flu vaccine which are used to protect against seasonal flu disorders also protects against H1n1 virus strain.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/the-cold-facts/article19793514.ece>



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