

Q.1) The *Pattini Cult*, prevalent in Sangam age was associated with

- a) Worship of Ancestors
- b) Worship of animals
- c) Worship of Goddess Kali
- d) Worship of Kannagi

Q.1) Solution (d)

Pattini Cult which was prevalent during the sangam age was associated with the Worship of Kannagi, the ideal wife, Kannagi was the Wife of Kovalan, their story was the subject of the Tamil epic Silappadigalam (The jeweled anklet).

Legend has it that Kannagi took revenge on the King of Madurai, for a mistaken death penalty imposed on her husband Kovalan, by cursing the city with disaster.

Q.2) Which of the following statements about the Fourth Buddhist Council is/are incorrect?

- 1. It was held under the patronage of Harsha
- 2. It resulted in the division of Buddhism into Hinayanism and Mahayanism
- 3. Its proceedings were conducted in Sanskrit

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Q.2) Solution (b)

The Fourth Buddhist Council was held in Kashmir under the patronage of king Kanishka in 1st Century A.D. It was presided over by Vasumitra. Its main purpose was to settle the difference between all the 18 sects of Buddhism and to compose the commentaries.

It led to the division of Buddhism into two sects, the Hinayanism and the Mahayanism. Codification of Sarvastivadin Doctrines into Mahavibhasa.

The whole Council was conducted in Sanskrit instead of Pali as was done earlier. It led to the spread of Hinayanism to Burma and Sri Lanka and Mahayanism to Central Asia, China and Japan.

Q.3) Consider the following statements with reference to the Buddhist Tripitakas

1. Sutta Pitaka contains the records of the Buddha's teachings and sermons
2. Abhidhamma Pitaka set out the rules and guidelines for living the monastic life of the sangha
3. All the Tripitakas were composed at the First Buddhist Council

which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Q.3) Solution (b)

The Tripitaka was compiled and arranged in its present form by those Arahants who had immediate contact with the Buddha.

Immediately after the final passing away of the Buddha, 500 distinguished Arahants held a convention known as the First Buddhist Council to rehearse the Doctrine taught by the Buddha. Ananda, the faithful attendant of the Buddha who had the special privilege of hearing all the discourses the Buddha ever uttered, recited the Dhamma, whilst the Upali recited the Vinayapitaka, the rules of conduct for the Sangha.

The Tripitaka consists of three sections of the Buddha's Teachings. They are the Discipline (Vinaya Pitaka), the Discourse (Sutta Pitaka), and Ultimate Doctrine (Abhidhamma Pitaka). The Sutta Pitaka consists chiefly of discourses delivered by the Buddha Himself on various occasions.

The Abhidhamma is, to a deep thinker, the most important and interesting, as it contains the profound philosophy of the Buddha's teaching in contrast to the illuminating but simpler discourses in the Sutta Pitaka. It was Composed at a later stage than the other two Pitakas, which were compiled at the First Council itself.

Q.4) In Jainism, *Posadha* means

- a) Penance by the Jainas to confess for their sins at the end of the year
- b) Fasting by lay Jain members on full and new moon day
- c) Initiation ceremony for admitting the new members
- d) Punishment given to the violators of the code of conduct

Q.4) Solution (b)

Posadha is a fast kept by the lay followers of the Jainism, this was to be held twice in a month, once on Full moon and once on new moon. During Posadha, the layman was to lead life like a monk. He could not go outside the monastery.

Q.5) The Original Pipal tree at Boudh Gaya was cut down by

- a) Sasanka
- b) MihirKula
- c) Pushyamitra Sunga
- d) Dhanananda

Q.5) Solution (c)

Pushyamitra Sunga was the founder of Sunga Dynasty of Magadha. Pushyamitra Sunga was a military general in the Mauryan Army. He became the King by killing King Brihadratha, the last Mauryan emperor.

Pushyamitra was a staunch Hindu, a champion of Brahmanism and that is why the Buddhist texts show him as a cruel man.

The tree was again cut down by King Pushyamitra Shunga in the 2nd century BC, and by King Shashanka in 600 AD.

Q.6) The *Sulva Sutras* dealt with the subject of

- a) Astronomy
- b) Chemistry
- c) Medicine
- d) Geometry

Q.6) Solution (d)

Sulvasutras are sutra texts belonging to the Śrauta ritual and containing geometry related to fire-altar construction.

The Shulba Sutras are part of the larger corpus of texts called the Shrauta Sutras, considered to be appendices to the Vedas. They are the only sources of knowledge of Indian mathematics from the Vedic period. Unique fire-altar shapes were associated with unique gifts from the Gods.

Q.7) Which of the following was not a feature of Indus Valley Civilization?

- a) Use of burnt bricks
- b) Grid pattern of streets
- c) Use of Horse drawn chariot
- d) Cultivation of wheat

Q.7) Solution (c)

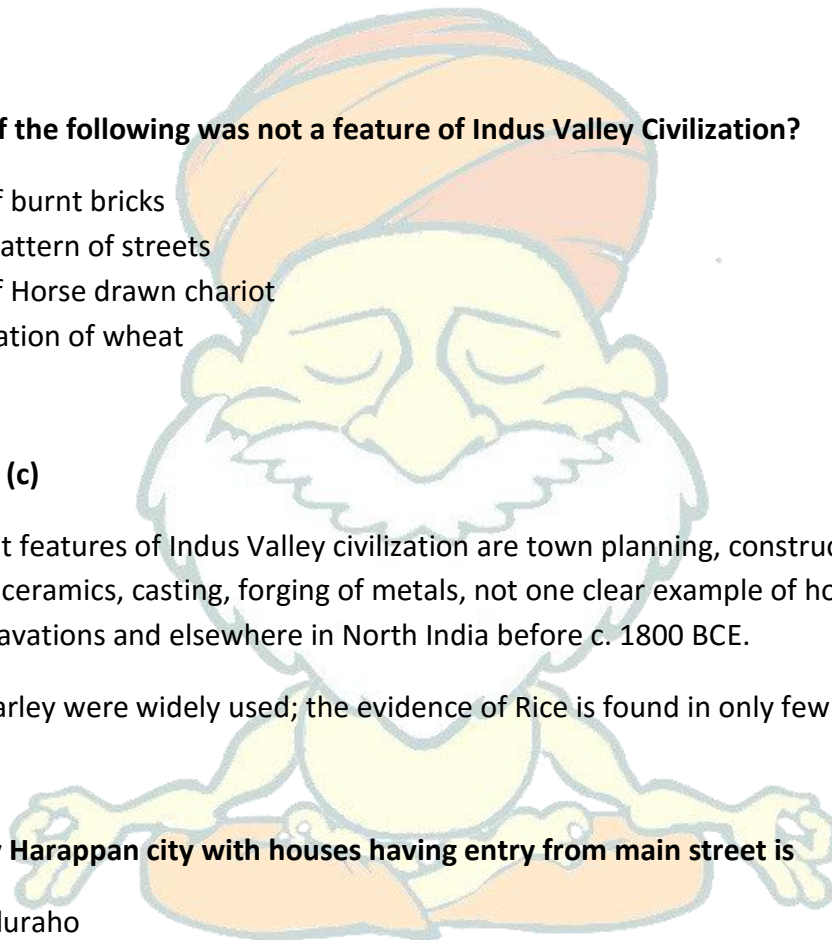
The significant features of Indus Valley civilization are town planning, construction of burnt-brick houses, ceramics, casting, forging of metals, not one clear example of horse exists in the Indus excavations and elsewhere in North India before c. 1800 BCE.

Wheat and barley were widely used; the evidence of Rice is found in only few places.

Q.8) The only Harappan city with houses having entry from main street is

- a) Chanduraho
- b) Lothal
- c) Kalibangan
- d) Mahenjodaro

Q.8) Solution (b)



Lothal is the only Harappan city which had house entries on the main street, rest all the cities had side entries. Lothal also had an artificial dockyard, a seal containing figure of a horse etc.

Q.9) which of the following Brahmanas describes the eastern sea and the western sea for the first time

- a) Satpatha Brahmana
- b) Aithrya Brahmana
- c) Gopatha Brahmana
- d) Jaiminiya Brahmana

Q.9) Solution (a)

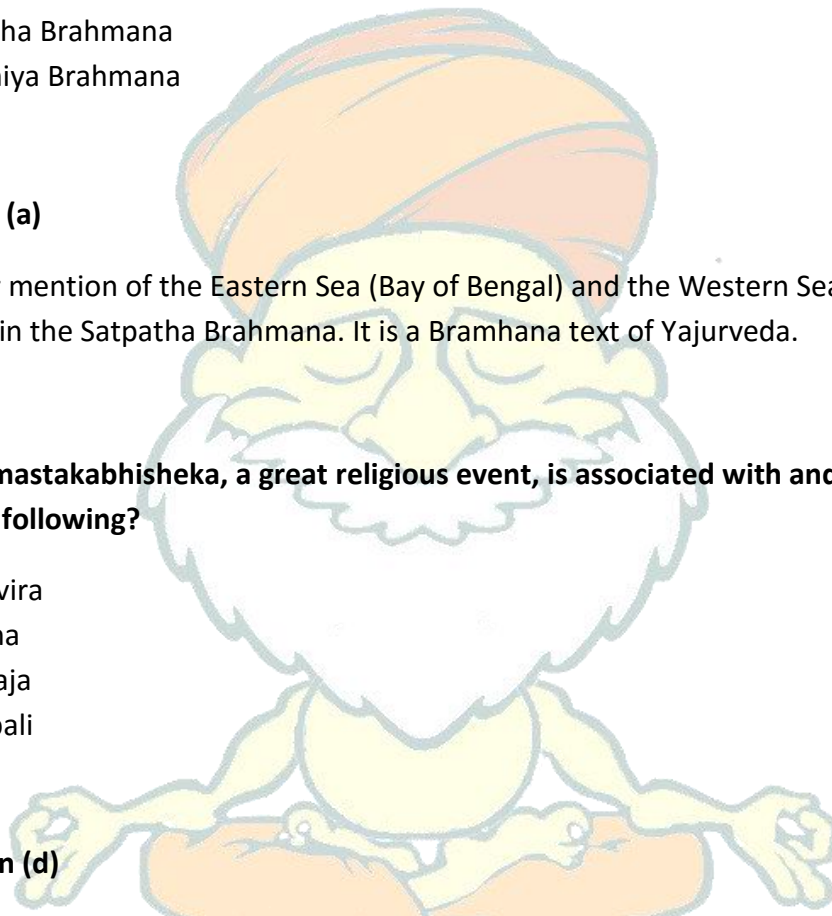
The First ever mention of the Eastern Sea (Bay of Bengal) and the Western Sea (the Arabian Sea) is found in the Satpatha Brahmana. It is a Brahmana text of Yajurveda.

Q. 10) Mahamastakabhisheka, a great religious event, is associated with and done for whom of the following?

- a) Mahavira
- b) Buddha
- c) Nataraja
- d) Bahubali

Q.10) Solution (d)

The Mahamastabhisheka (or Mahamasthak Abhishek) is an important Jain festival held once every twelve years in the town of Shravanabelagola in Karnataka state, India. The festival is held in veneration of an immense 18 meter high statue of the Bhagwan (or Saint) Gomateshwara Bahubali. The anointing last took place in February 2006, and the next ceremony will occur in 2018.



Q.11) Which of the Following pairs are correctly matched:

- | Symbol | : | Event |
|---------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Horse | : | Mahabhinishkramana |
| 2. Bodhi Tree | : | Parinirvana |
| 3. Wheel | : | Dharmachakrapravartana |

which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.11) Solution (c)

Symbol	Event
Lotus or Bull	Birth of Buddha
Horse	The Great Renunciation (Mahabhinishkramana)
Bodhi tree	Enlightenment (Nirvana)
Wheel	First Sermon (Dharmachakraparivartan)
Stupa	Death of Buddha (Mahaparinirvana)

Q.12) Consider the following statements with reference to the Pavarana ceremony in Buddhism

- 1. It is the Initiation ceremony to induct new followers into Buddhism
- 2. It is gathering of monks to Confess their misconduct during the indoor stay during the rainy season

which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Q.12) Solution (b)

Pavarana is a Buddhist holy day celebrated on Aashvin full moon of the lunar month. It marks the end of the 3 lunar months of Vassa.

During the three-month rainy season, the Monks live indoors, at the end of rainy season, Pravarana ceremony takes place where every monk irrespective of rank, accept, if any, violation of the code of conduct on their part.

Q.13) Consider the following statements about the life of Chandragupta Maurya

1. He established Muryan Empire by killing the last Nanda ruler
2. Along with Sthulabahu he went Shravanabelagola and undertook Sallekhana

which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Q.13) Solution (a)

The Maurya Empire was founded in 322 BCE by Chandragupta Maurya, who had overthrown the Nanda Dynasty and rapidly expanded his power westward across central and western India in order to take advantage of the disruptions of local powers in the wake of the withdrawal by Alexander the Great's armies.

According to Jain accounts, Chandragupta abdicated his throne in favour of his son Bindusara, embraced Jainism, and followed Bhadrabahu and other monks to South India. He is said to have ended his life at Shravanabelagola (in present-day Karnataka) through Sallekhana.

Q.14) Consider the following statements with reference to the Sangam literature

1. The main language used in Sangam literature was Telugu
2. The Sangam college flourished under the royal patronage of Cholas

which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 or 2

Q.14) Solution (d)

Sangam literature comprises some of the oldest extant Tamil literature, and deals with love, war, governance, trade and bereavement. Much of the Tamil literature belonging to the Sangam period has been lost. The literature currently available from this period is perhaps just a fraction of the material produced during this period.

In the Sangam literature, the Tamil language had reached a level of maturity and began to serve as a powerful and elegant medium of literary expression. Sangam Literature was patronized by Pandyas who had their capital in Madurai.

Q.15) Tolkappiyam is a

- a) Tamil epic
- b) Book of sacrifices
- c) Eulogy of Pandyas
- d) Book on Tamil grammar

Q.15) Solution (d)

Tolkappiam is a work on the grammar of the Tamil language and the earliest extant work of Tamil literature and linguistics.

Tolkappiyam categorises alphabet into consonants and vowels by analysing the syllables. It grammatises the use of words and syntaxes and moves into higher modes of language analysis. The Tolkāppiyam formulated thirty phonemes and three dependent sounds for Tamil.

Q.16) Consider the following statements about 'India INX'

1. It is the first international exchange from India
2. It is located in Mumbai
3. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the BSE Limited

Select the correct statements

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

Q.16) Solution (c)

The India INX is located in the country's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), which is located in GIFT City. The India INX is a wholly owned subsidiary of BSE Ltd.

India INX will be the fastest international exchange in the world in terms of order response time, with a median trade speed of four microseconds. This is better than BSE's domestic exchange at Mumbai, which has a order response time of six microseconds.

India INX operates for 22 hours a day to allow international investors and Non Residents Indians to trade from anywhere across the globe. In the first phase it proposes to commence trading in equity derivatives, currency derivatives, commodity derivatives including Index and Stocks. Subsequently, depository receipts and bonds would be offered once the required infrastructure for the same is in place. The technology offerings at India INX would facilitate co-location of members in its own Data Centre at GIFT IFSC as well as provide high frequency trading,

India International exchange will compete with other international financial centres such as Hong Kong, Singapore Dubai, London and New York. Currently RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme does not allow Indian Residents to trade in derivative products traded in exchanges other than domestic exchanges. So, effectively it will be corporate to hedge from India, which they are currently doing from outside India. It will also help Indian start-ups to raise equity from foreign investors by getting listed and provide companies incorporated outside India a platform to raise money in foreign currencies by issuance and listing of their shares on the international exchange. The stock brokers, who wish to service the rest of the world, would set up their offices and companies at Gift City. Foreign individuals, foreign trusts, foreign institutional investors all of them would be able to trade from India INX.

GIFT City, which houses India INX, is part of India but not India. It is like one country, two systems. It matches Hong Kong that helped China to earn trillions of dollars through financial transactions. Most people used Hong Kong as gateway to China, similarly, GIFT City is now be seen as gateway to India.

The exchange being located in IFSC, GIFT City, provides competitive advantage in terms of tax structure and supportive regulatory framework. These include benefits in security transaction tax, commodity transaction tax, dividend distribution tax and long-term capital gain tax waivers and no income tax.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/bse-s-india-inx-10-things-to-know-about-our-1st-international-exchange-117011000301_1.html

Q.17) Corruption Perception Index is released by

- a) Transparency International
- b) Amnesty International
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) World Bank

Q.17) Solution (a)

The Corruption Perception Index is being published since 1995 by Transparency International.

The parameters for the index ranking are functioning of public institutions like police and judiciary, press freedom, access to information about public expenditure, stronger standards of integrity for public official.

It has put India at rank 76 out of 168 countries.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/India-ranks-76-in-Corruption-Perception-Index/article14022729.ece>

Q.18) Tangalia Weaving is associated with which of the following states?

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

Q.18) Solution (d)

Tangaliya a dotted woven textile of Surendranagar district, Saurashtra is found only in Gujarat, is usually worn as a wraparound skirt by the women of the Bharwad shepherded community. Tangalia designs are used for preparing Shawl, Dupatta, Dress material and products of Home décor & accessories such as bedsheets, pillow covers etc. The patterns formed during weaving process to create design in dots for floral and geometrical motifs by using cotton or woolen yarn.

Read More - http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/newsdetails.aspx?news_id=79823

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/government-to-support-tangaliya-weavers-in-purchasing-looms-textiles-minister-117012000524_1.html

Q.19) Consider the following statements

1. She along with her husband founded the first women's school at Bhide Wada in Pune
2. She opened a care centre called "Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha" for pregnant rape victims and helped deliver their children

Identify the person

- a) Tarabai Shinde
- b) Savitribai Phule
- c) Ramabai Ranade
- d) Lakshmibai Tilak



Q.19) Solution (b)

Savitribai Jyotirao Phule, born on 3 January 1831, was a social reformer and poet. She played an important role in fighting for women's rights in India during British rule and is described as "one of the first-generation modern Indian feminists".

Phule along with her husband founded the first women's school at Bhide Wada in Pune in 1848.

Born into a family of farmers in Naigaon, Maharashtra, she was married to 12-year-old Jyotirao Phule at the age of nine.

The practice of child marriage was prevalent in the 19th century and since the mortality rate was high at the time, many young girls often became widows even before attaining puberty.

Such widows used to shave their heads, wear a simple red sari and live a life of austerity. It was Savitribai who decided to stand up against this practice and organized a strike against the barbers in order to persuade them to stop shaving the heads of the widow.

She noticed the plight of women who after falling prey to sexual exploitation, and becoming pregnant, either committed suicide or killed the newborn due to fear of banishment by the society. To cater to such women she opened a care center for pregnant rape victims and helped deliver their children.

The care center was called "Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha" (Infanticide prohibition house).

Phule also worked to abolish discrimination and unfair treatment of people based on caste and gender.

She found the treatment of the untouchables problematic and opened a well in her house in 1868 so that, people who were refused drinking water by the upper caste can use it.

She died while taking care of the patients suffering during the worldwide Third Pandemic of the bubonic (bacterial infection) plague.

Source: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/who-is-savitribai-phule-what-did-she-do-for-womens-right-in-india/1/561392.html>

Q.20) Consider the following statements about 'Iberian Peninsula'

1. Gibraltar is a French Overseas Territory located on the southern end of the Iberian Peninsula
2. The Iberian Peninsula is divided between Portugal, Spain, Algeria and Andorra
3. It is the largest European Peninsula

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 3
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) All the statements are wrong

Q.20) Solution (d)

The Iberian Peninsula is located in the southwest corner of Europe. The peninsula is principally divided between Portugal and Spain, comprising most of their territory. It also includes Andorra and a small part of France along the peninsula's northeastern edge, as well as Gibraltar on its south coast, a small peninsula which forms an overseas territory of the United Kingdom. With an area of approximately 582,000 km² (225,000 sq mi), it is the second largest European peninsula, after the Scandinavian.

The Gibraltar Arc is a geological region corresponding to an arcuate orogen surrounding the Alboran Sea, between the Iberian Peninsula and Africa. It consists of the Betic Cordillera (south Spain), and the Rif (North Morocco). The Gibraltar Arc is located at the western end of the Mediterranean Alpine belt and formed during the Neogene due to convergence of the Eurasian and African plates.



Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/Demystifying-Science/article17111165.ece>

Q.21) Kanishka stupa is located in

- a) Bodhgaya
- b) Sarnath
- c) Gangtok
- d) None of the above

Q.21) Solution (d)

The Kanishka stupa was a monumental stupa established by the Kushan king Kanishka during the 2nd century CE in today's Shaji-ki-Dheri on the outskirts of Peshawar, Pakistan.

The magnificent stupa was built during the Kushan era to house Buddhist relics, and would become perhaps the tallest buildings in the ancient world.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/Pakistan-govt-urged-to-ensure-8th-wonder-tag-to-Kanishka-Stupa/article17101715.ece>

Q.22) N K Singh committee is associated with

- a) Amendments to FRBM Act
- b) Promotion of digital payments
- c) Special economic zones
- d) Enhancing solar energy capacity

Q.22) Solution (a)

News: The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee has submitted its 4 volume report on changes in FRBM Act, 2013

Committee -

The 5 member committee was headed by N.K. Singh, former Revenue and Expenditure Secretary and former MP.

Its member included RBI Governor Urjit Patel, Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian, former Finance Secretary Sumit Bose, and National Institute of Public Finance and Policy Director Rathin Roy.

Highlights

- The panel considered the possibility of replacing absolute fiscal deficit targets with a target range that may be adjusted in line with the overall credit trends in the economy.
- The ambit of the committee included reviewing “the working of the FRBM Act over last 12 years and to suggest the way forward, keeping in view the broad objective of

fiscal consolidation and prudence and the changes required in the context of the uncertainty and volatility in the global economy”.

- The Committee examined the feasibility of having a ‘fiscal deficit range’ as the target instead of the existing fixed numbers.
- The Committee also examined “the need and feasibility of aligning the fiscal expansion or contraction with credit contraction or expansion respectively in the economy”.

The Report

- The first volume of the report addresses the issue of the fiscal roadmap, fiscal policy, international experience and recommendations therein.
- The second volume refers to international experience especially from a lot of international organisations particularly OECD, the World Bank, ILO.
- The third volume deals with Centre-State issues. The fourth volume deals with views of domain experts both from national and international appropriate for fiscal policy

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/N.K.-Singh-panel-submits-report-on-FRBM-Act/article17083134.ece>

Q.23) _____ is in charge of financial policy in regard to the utilisation of the proceeds of disinvestment channelized into the National Investment Fund.

- a) Department of Economic Affairs
- b) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)
- c) Department of Expenditure
- d) Department of Financial Services

Q.23) Solution (a)

The government transferred the role of advising the government on how to utilise the proceeds from disinvestment from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) to the Department of Economic Affairs.

According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat changing the Allocation of Business rules, the Department of Economic Affairs in the Finance Ministry will now be in charge of “financial policy in regard to the utilisation of the proceeds of disinvestment channelised into the National Investment Fund.”

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Centre-shifts-disinvestment-advice-to-new-department/article17069491.ece>

Q.24) Development Administration Partnership (DPA) is under

- a) Ministry of External Affairs
- b) Ministry of Finance
- c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- d) Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

Q.24) Solution (a)

Development Administration Partnership (DPA) was created in the Ministry of External Affairs in January 2012 to effectively handle India's aid projects through the stages of concept, launch, execution and completion.

DPA has three Divisions. Currently, DPA I deals with project appraisal and lines of credit; DPA II deals with capacity building schemes, disaster relief, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme and DPA III deals with project implementation.

Read More - <https://www.mea.gov.in/development-partnership-administration.htm>

In News - <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-us-sign-mou-for-collaboration-in-third-world-countries-4473555/>

Q.25) Recently, a place called 'Aswan' was in news. It is located in which of the following countries?

- a) Morocco
- b) Egypt
- c) Algeria
- d) Armenia

Q.25) Solution (b)

12 ancient Egyptian cemeteries discovered near Aswan by Swedish archaeologists

Human and animal remains were found in the cemeteries, which were discovered in the Gabal al-Silsila or Chain of Mountains area 65 km (40.3 miles) north of Aswan.

IASbaba's Prelims 60 Day Plan – Day 32 | 2017 (History)

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Science/g2lImmYaTQtsityQDhL8bO/12-ancient-Egyptian-cemeteries-discovered-near-Aswan.html>

