

Q.1) Since 1970, Earth Day is celebrated every year on 22nd April. Which of the following statements are correct about Earth Day?

1. It aims to encourage people to carry out activities that will benefit the Earth, such as recycling more, using solar power or plant trees.
2. People voluntarily switch off all electrical appliances from 8:30 – 9:30 pm to reduce carbon footprint.

Select the code from below:

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

Q.1) Solution (a)

Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22. It was first celebrated in 1970, and since then it is celebrated in more than 193 countries by over a billion people every year. Earth Day celebrations are coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network. Earth Day 2017's Campaign is Environmental & Climate Literacy. Environmental and climate literacy was chosen as it is important for creating green voters and advancing environmental and climate laws and policies across the globe as well as to accelerate green technologies and jobs.

It aims to encourage people to carry out activities that will benefit the Earth, such as recycling more, using solar power or plant trees.

Note: Switching off appliances is done during earth hour. Earth day and Earth hour are two different events. Don't get confused between the two.

Q.2) Which of the following countries became the first country to ban all kinds of metal mining in the country?

- a) Papua New Guinea
- b) El Salvador
- c) Peru
- d) Cuba

Q.2) Solution (b)

Central America's smallest nation El Salvador became first country in the world to ban metal mining nationwide. In this regard, it has passed a law that bans all mining for gold and other

metals. The law imposes broad prohibition on the extraction of minerals to protect the nation's allegedly quite fragile environment, water reservoirs and reduce social tensions.

The new law bans all exploration, extraction and processing of metals both in open pits and mines. It bans the use of cyanide and mercury for mining. It does not apply to quarrying or the mining of coal, salt and other non-metallic resources.

Q.3) Kanha Tiger reserve is the first ever reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot to create a better connect with the visitors. The mascot has been named 'Bhoorsingh'. Which animal does Bhoorsingh represent?

- a) Tiger
- b) Stag
- c) Elephant
- d) Rhinoceros

Q.3) Solution (b)

Kanha in Madhya Pradesh became first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot named Bhoorsingh the Barasingha, to create a better connect with its visitors, especially the younger generation. The mascot Bhoorsingh will soon feature in more artwork, posters and merchandise for the park management at Kanha.



Barasingha (Stag) is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh.

Q.4) Environmental Activists across the world focused on a grave but less discussed issue of Photo Pollution (Light Pollution). Which of the following statements are correct about 'Photo Pollution'?

1. Photo Pollution refers to blocking of natural light of moon at night due to dust and smoke in Urban Areas.
2. It disturbs migratory pattern of birds which use stars to navigate.

Select the code from below:

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

Q.4) Solution (b)

Light pollution is artificial brightening of the night sky caused by man-made lightening sources, which has a disruptive effect on natural cycles and inhibits the observation of stars and planets. It is also known as photo pollution or luminous pollution and basically is the misdirected or obtrusive of natural light by excessive artificial light. More than 80% of humanity lives under skies saturated with artificial light.

There are different components of Light pollution:

Glare: excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort.

Skyglow: brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas.

Clutter: bright, excessive and confusing groupings of light sources.

Light trespass: light falling where it is not intended or needed.

Effects:

- Disturbs the reproductive cycles of some animals.
- Disturbs migration of birds that navigate using the stars and to disorient night-flying insects.
- In humans, it disturbs circadian rhythms that regulate hormones and other bodily functions.
- Excessive blue light emitted from LEDs directly affects sleep pattern in Human by suppressing the production of the hormone melatonin, which mediates the sleep-wake cycle in humans.

Q.5) The theme for World's Wetland Day is 'Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction'. Mangroves are important wet lands, which of the following roles are played by Mangroves?

1. Help in reducing coastal erosion.
2. Acts as a buffer zone between sea surges and land during storms.
3. Reduces the intensity of Tsunami waves.

4. Helps in reducing the salinity of coastal waters

Select the code from below:

- a) 1,2 and 3
- b) 2,3 and 4
- c) 2 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.5) Solution (a)

Mangrove forests along tropical coastlines and in salt water environments are an important category of wetlands. They are a critical component of marine ecosystems, as they serve as nursery grounds for many aquatic species, including commercially important fish species. Mangroves also serve as excellent buffer zones between coastal lands and open ocean as they reduce the impacts of storms and keep coastal erosion under control. Mangrove forests also had reduced the impact of the 2004 Southeast Asian tsunami. These rich mangroves ecosystems are threatened mostly by conversion into agriculture and aquaculture (shrimp farms), urban and resort development and rising sea levels.

Q.6) India has recently ratified the second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol. Which of the following statements are correct about Kyoto Protocol?

- 1. It was adopted in 1997 to fight Global warming.
- 2. The protocol is based on principle of Equity and Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
- 3. All the signatories of the protocol have mandatory binding targets.

Select the code from below:

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

Q.6) Solution (a)

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 to fight global warming by reducing GHGs emission and came into effect in 2005.

- The 1st commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol was from 2008-2012.
- The 2nd commitment period for the period 2013- 2020 was adopted in 2012 by the Doha Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol.

- The protocol is based on principle of Equity and Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR).
- It places obligations on developed nations to undertake mitigation targets to reduce emissions by 5.2% of 1990 levels during 2008-2012 period) and provide financial resources and technology to developing nations.
- Developing countries like India have no mandatory mitigation obligations or targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. In Meeting of Parties (MoP) of Montreal Protocol at Kigali, HFCs have been included in the list of chemicals under Montreal Protocol.
2. HFCs are the severe Ozone depleting substances.
3. India has promised to completely stop the use and production of HFCs by 2020.

Which of the above statements are **incorrect**?

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

Q.7) Solution (b)

The Montreal Protocol of the Vienna Convention for Protection of Ozone Layer which entered force in January 1989 aimed to phase out the ozone depleting substances (ODS).

At Kigali, it was decided to include HFCs in the list of chemicals under the Montreal Protocol in order to regulate their production, consumption and phasing them out with time.

It also added mechanism to provide financial assistance from the Multilateral Fund created under the Montreal Protocol. Under it, funding for R&D and servicing sector in developing countries also was included in the agreed solutions on finance.

Kigali amendments to the Montreal Protocol also for the first time will incentivise improvement in energy efficiency in case of use of new refrigerant and technology.

Note: HFCs are not ODS but potent global warming substances and controlling them can contribute substantially to limit global temperature and advance actions for addressing climate change.

In the Kigali meet, India had successfully negotiated the baseline years within a range of 2024 to 2030 and freeze year in subsequent years for phasing down the use of HFCs.

It had two set of baselines years were agreed for developing countries. India along with nine other countries will have baseline years of 2024, 2025, 2026. India will completely phase

down of HFCs in 4 steps from 2032 onwards with cumulative reduction of 10% in 2032, 20% in 2037, 30% in 2042 and 85% in 2047

It also gives additional HCFC allowance of 65% that will be added to the Indian baseline consumption and production.

Other developing countries including China (largest producer of HFCs in the world), South Africa and Brazil opted for 2020-22 baseline.

Q.8) Pygmy hog is the smallest specie of pig found in India and is critically endangered. Which of the following statements are correct about Pygmy hog?

1. It is found in the grasslands of Rajasthan.
2. Pygmy hog sucking louse is a parasite found on Pygmy hog which is also critically endangered.
3. Pygmy Hog conservation program was started in 1995 to prevent the extinction of species.

Select the code from below:

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

Q.8) Solution (b)

The **pygmy hog** (*Porcula salvania*) is a critically endangered suid, previously spread across India, Nepal, and Bhutan, but now only found in Assam. The current world population is about 150 individuals or fewer. They are about 55 to 71 cm (21.5 to 28 in) long and stand at 20–30 cm (8–12 in), with a tail of 2.5 cm (0.98 in). They weigh 6.6–11.8 kg (15–26 lb). Their skin is dark brownish-black and the hair is dark. Piglets are born grayish-pink, becoming brown with yellow stripes along the body length. Their heads are sharply tapered and they have a slight crest of hair on their foreheads and on the back of their necks. Adult males have the upper canines visible on the sides of their mouths.

The pygmy hog is designated as a Schedule I species in India under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and offences against them invite heavy penalties.

The Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP) was established in 1995. The PHCP was established under the umbrella of a formal 'International Conservation Management and

Research Agreement' by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, the IUCN's Pigs, Peccaries and Hippo Specialist Group, the Forest Department, Government of Assam, and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

Haematopinus oliveri, known commonly as the **pygmy hog-sucking louse**, is a critically endangered species of insect in the suborder Anoplura, the sucking lice. It is an ectoparasite found only on another critically endangered species, the Pygmy hog.

Q.9) Recently World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) was inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee. Consider the following statements regarding WSDS:

1. It was organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
2. It underscored need for businesses and private sector to take lead in poverty reduction and to ensure rapid and sustained adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.9) Solution (c)

President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first edition of World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The summit was organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) with the theme Beyond 2015: People, Planet and Progress.

WSDS has replaced TERI's earlier called Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS). The first DSDS was organised in 2005.

It underscored need for businesses and private sector to take lead in poverty reduction and to ensure rapid and sustained adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It had brought together Nobel laureates, decision-makers political leaders from around the world to deliberate on issues related to sustainable development.

The aim of the summit is to provide various stakeholders a single platform in order to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of the global community.

2016 WSDS also hosted events like World CEO Sustainability Summit, Thematic Tracks, Media Colloquium, Youth Leaders and Greenovation Exhibition.

Q.10) A new species of Pika has been discovered in Sikkim. Which of the following statements are correct about Pikas?

1. Pikas are the members of rat family.
2. Since they occupy colder regions they hibernate during winters.
3. It has the longest tail with respect to body in the animal kingdom.

Select the code from below:

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

Q.10) Solution (d)

- Pikas are members of the rabbit family and look like tailless rats.
- They live in the mountains or in temperate regions.
- They are a keystone species and ecosystem engineers.
- They do not hibernate unlike other mammalian species inhabiting such cold climates.
- The common name pika is basically used for any member of the Ochotonidae family.

Q.11) According to the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), which of the following states have the highest number of flowering plants?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q.11) Solution (d)

According to the recent publication released by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Tamil Nadu accounts for the highest number flowering plants in the country.

The publication titled Endemic Vascular Plants of India also revealed that almost one of every four species of flowering plants found in India are endemic to the country.

Of the total 18,259 flowering plants reported in the country, 4,303 (over 23%) are found only in India or they are endemic to the country. Of these, Tamil Nadu accounts for the highest number of species with 410, followed by Kerala (357 species) and Maharashtra (278 species).

Q.12) Udaipur Declaration under BRICS is targeted to increase the cooperation in the field of:

- a) Disaster Management
- b) Soil Conservation
- c) Trade of Living organism
- d) Genetic Engineering

Q.12) Solution (a)

Udaipur Declaration

BRICS nations to set up a dedicated Joint Task Force for Disaster Risk Management for regular dialogue, exchange, mutual support and collaboration among them.

The meeting was a new milestone in collaboration and cooperation among BRICS countries in the field of disaster management.

The roadmap for implementation of the three-year Joint Action Plan for BRICS emergency services (2016-18) was also finalised.

It focused on two themes:

- (i) 'Flood Risk Management' and
- (ii) 'Forecasting of Extreme Weather Events in the context of Changing Climate'.

Q.13) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau was established in 2007 to fight the organized Wildlife crime in India. Which of the following statements regarding WCCB are correct?

- 1. It is a statutory body established by Amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- 2. It comes under the Ministry of Environment and Forest.
- 3. A Centralised Wildlife Crime data bank has been established by WCCB.

Select the code from below:

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

Q.13) Solution (d)

The Government of India constituted a statutory body, the **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)** on 6 June 2007, by amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, a special Act to

protect the wildlife in the country. WCCB would complement the efforts of the state governments, primary enforcers of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and other enforcement agencies of the country.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country. The Bureau has its headquarter in New Delhi and five regional offices at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Jabalpur; three sub-regional offices at Guwahati, Amritsar and Cochin; and five border units at Ramanathapuram, Gorakhpur, Motihari, Nathula and Moreh. Under Section 38 (Z) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, it is mandated to collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to State and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals; to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank; co-ordinate actions by various agencies in connection with the enforcement of the provisions of the Act; assist foreign authorities and international organization concerned to facilitate co-ordination and universal action for wildlife crime control; capacity building of the wildlife crime enforcement agencies for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assist State Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crimes; and advise the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications, relevant policy and laws. It also assists and advises the Customs authorities in inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna as per the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and EXIM Policy governing such an item.

Q.14) Consider the following statements about West Nile fever

1. It is a mosquito-borne infection
2. West Nile Virus (WNV) was first identified in Uganda

Select the correct statements

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

Q.14) Solution (c)

West Nile fever is a mosquito-borne infection by the West Nile virus. Approximately 80% of West Nile virus infections in humans have few or no symptoms. In the cases where symptoms do occur—termed West Nile fever in cases without neurological disease—the time from infection to the appearance of symptoms is typically between 2 and 15 days. Symptoms may include fever, headaches, feeling tired, muscle pain or aches, nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, and rash.

WNV is found in temperate and tropical regions of the world. It was first identified in the West Nile subregion in Uganda in 1937. Prior to the mid-1990s, WNV disease occurred only sporadically and was considered a minor risk for humans, until an outbreak in Algeria in 1994, with cases of WNV-caused encephalitis, and the first large outbreak in Romania in 1996, with a high number of cases with neuroinvasive disease. WNV has now spread globally, with the first case in the Western Hemisphere being identified in New York City in 1999; over the next five years, the virus spread across the continental United States, north into Canada, and southward into the Caribbean islands and Latin America. WNV also spread to Europe, beyond the Mediterranean Basin, and a new strain of the virus was identified in Italy in 2012. WNV spreads on an ongoing basis in Africa, Asia, Australia, the Middle East, Europe, Canada and in the United States. In 2012 the US experienced one of its worst epidemics in which 286 people died, with the state of Texas being hard hit by this virus.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/scientists-discover-a-way-to-predict-the-time-and-intensity-of-the-west-nile-virus-4544592/>

Q.15) Consider the following statements

1. Blue carbon is the carbon captured by the world's oceans and coastal ecosystems.
2. Blue Carbon Initiative is coordinated by Conservation International (CI), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) only
3. Coastal blue carbon ecosystems are found along the coasts of every continent except Antarctica

Select the correct statements

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

Q.15) Solution (c)

Blue carbon is the carbon captured by the world's oceans and coastal ecosystems. The carbon captured by living organisms in oceans is stored in the form of biomass and sediments from mangroves, salt marshes, seagrasses and potentially algae.

Coastal blue carbon ecosystems are found along the coasts of every continent except Antarctica. Mangroves grow in the intertidal zone of tropical and subtropical shores. Countries with the highest areas of mangroves include Indonesia, Australia, Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Cuba, India, Bangladesh, and Mozambique.

Tidal marshes are intertidal ecosystems occurring on sheltered coastlines ranging from the sub-arctic to the tropics, though most extensively in temperate zones, mainly in Europe, North-America, Australia and in the higher latitudes of South-America and Africa.

Seagrass meadows are communities of underwater-flowering plants found in coastal waters of all continents except Antarctica. More than 60 seagrass species are known to exist, and as many as 10 to 13 of them may co-occur in tropical sites.

While several countries are embarking on efforts to better map and quantify these systems, regional, and global maps of coastal blue carbon hot spots currently do not exist.

Global Distribution of Blue Carbon Ecosystems



Figure 4. Global distribution of the blue carbon ecosystems

Q.16) Consider the following statements about National Regulatory Authority of India (NRA)

1. NRA of India comprises of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), State Drug Regulatory Authorities, Pharmaco-vigilance Programme of India (PvPI) and Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) structures at the Central and States levels
2. Indian NRA has been declared 'functional' with a maturity level of 4
3. A fully functional NRA is a pre-requisite for WHO pre-qualification of vaccines

Select the correct statements

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

Q.16) Solution (d)

NRA of India comprises of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), State Drug Regulatory Authorities, Pharmaco-vigilance Programme of India (PvPI) and Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) structures at the Central and States levels.

A fully functional NRA is a pre-requisite for WHO pre-qualification of vaccines.

WHO Pre-qualification Programme facilitates access to vaccines that meet the unified standards of quality, safety and efficacy as well as programme needs.

The vaccine manufacturers can only apply for WHO vaccine pre-qualification if the NRA meets the standards of the WHO. NRA published indicators i.e. WHO Global benchmarking Tool on functional regulatory system for vaccines.

WHO has completed the assessment of the status of the Indian vaccine regulatory system.

The country's NRA being declared "functional' with a maturity level of 4, i.e., the highest level as per currently evolved definitions in respect of 5 functions, and maturity level 3 in respect of 4 functions.

Source:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158543>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158598>

Q.17) Consider the following statements about Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)

1. Assam Rifles and the Coast Guard are outside the AFT's purview
2. The Judicial Members are retired High Court Judges
3. Administrative Members are retired Members of the Armed Forces who have held rank of Major General for a period of three years or more or Judge Advocate General (JAG), who have held the appointment for at least one year

Select the correct statements

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

Q.17) Solution (d)

The Armed Forces Tribunal Act 2007, was passed by the Parliament and led to the formation of AFT with the power provided for the adjudication or trial by Armed Forces Tribunal of disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointments, enrolments and conditions of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act, 1950, The Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950. It can further provide for appeals arising out of orders, findings or sentences of courts-martial held under the said Acts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Besides the Principal Bench in New Delhi, AFT has Regional Benches at Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Kochi, Mumbai and Jaipur.

With the exception of the Chandigarh and Lucknow Regional Benches, which have three benches each, all other locations have a single bench. Each Bench comprises of a Judicial Member and an Administrative Member.

The Judicial Members are retired High Court Judges and Administrative Members are retired Members of the Armed Forces who have held rank of Major General/ equivalent or above for a period of three years or more, Judge Advocate General (JAG), who have held the appointment for at least one year are also entitled to be appointed as the Administrative Member.

The Tribunal shall transact their proceedings as per the Armed Forces Tribunal (Procedure) rules, 2008. All proceedings in the Tribunal will be in English. The Tribunal will normally follow the procedure as is practiced in the High Courts of India.

The Armed Forces Tribunal came into being in 2007, 25 years after the Supreme Court made scathing remarks about the military justice system in *Lt. Col. Prithi Pal Singh Bedi v. Union of India* (1982) for not having even one layer of judicial scrutiny, for unchecked command influence in decision-making, and for absence of recorded reasons in final judgments. In 1999, the Law Commission's 169th Report stated that disciplinary and service matters required quick resolution and proposed a special tribunal for the military and paramilitary forces. However, the Armed Forces Tribunal Bill was steered through Parliament only by the Defence Ministry, leaving paramilitary forces, even the Assam Rifles and the Coast Guard, outside the tribunal's purview.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/Don%E2%80%99t-let-messengers-shoot-themselves/article17051085.ece>

Q.18) Consider the following statements about Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)

1. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of India
2. The committee is composed of Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister in-charge of the concerned Ministry

Select the correct statements

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

Q.18) Solution (a)

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) decides appointments to several top posts under the Government of India. The committee is composed of the Prime Minister of India (who is the Chairman), the Minister of Home Affairs. Originally the Minister in-charge of the concerned Ministry was also the part of the committee but as per the new notification (as on 14.7.16) the minister of concerned ministry has been excluded from the committee.

Q.19) Which of the following statements is/are correct about Lord Dalhousie?

1. Second Anglo-Sikh War was fought when he served as Governor General of India
2. First railway line between Bombay and Thane was opened during his tenure

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)

Lord Dalhousie (Real name James Andrew Ramsay) served as Governor General of India from 1848 to 1856. During this period, Second Anglo-Sikh War (1849) was fought in which the Sikhs were defeated again and Dalhousie was successful in annexing the whole of Punjab to the British administration. He annexed many states by doctrine of lapse. During his tenure, first railway line between Bombay and Thane was opened in 1853 and in the same year Calcutta and Agra were connected by telegraph. His other reforms include setting up of P.W.D. and passing of the Widow Remarriage Act (1856).

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/dalhousie-delhi-road-name-change-dara-shikoh-mughal-emperor-islam-hinduism-4512963/>

Q.20) The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi has adopted first-of-its-kind Green Building Performance Monitoring Platform - 'Arc'. Consider the following statements

1. It is developed by the US Green Building Council (USGBC)
2. Arc can be applied to both LEED-certified and non-certified buildings

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.20) Solution (c)

GBCI launched a new technology company called Arc Skoru Inc. This new venture will be the official host for Arc, a state-of-the-art digital platform that will allow any project—whether a

single building, a community or an entire city—to measure improvements and benchmark against itself and projects around it.

Arc can be applied to both LEED-certified and non-certified buildings. LEED-certified buildings can use Arc to improve and benchmark with their peers everywhere, as well as to verify LEED performance on an annual basis to keep their certification up to date. Non-certified buildings can use Arc to make incremental sustainability improvements to eventually achieve LEED certification. Arc is the first-of-its kind platform to track a building's incremental improvements through a performance score.

The adoption of "Arc" is in line with the continued focus on Environment Sustainability and is aligned to make Delhi a Smart airport. Arc facility is already operational.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a rating system devised by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) to evaluate the environmental performance of a building and encourage market transformation towards sustainable design.

Read More - <http://in.usgbc.org/articles/all-about-arc-performance-platform-no-other>

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/green-building-performance-monitoring-platform-arc-adopted-by-igja-117020900897_1.html

Q.21) Recently launched TAMRA Portal and Mobile Application is concerned with which of the following sector?

- a) Textiles
- b) Mining
- c) Steel
- d) Telecommunication

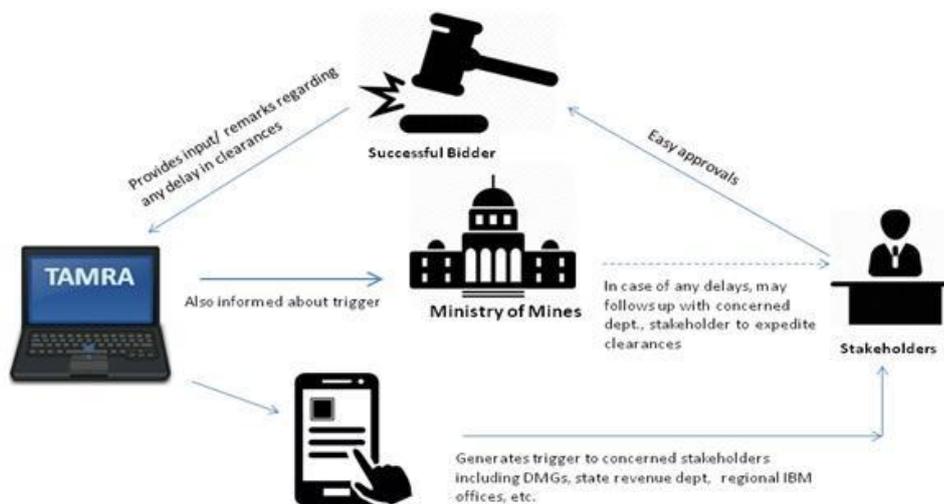
Q.21) Solution (b)

TAMRA (Transparency, Auction Monitoring and Resource Augmentation) portal and Mobile Application - a step to speed up mining activity in India and facilitate all the stakeholders to track the status of the statutory clearances associated with mining blocks for getting mines to reach till operationalisation for the same. TAMRA will be an interactive platform for all the stakeholders to compress the timelines for statutory and other clearances as it would help minimize the gestation period for commencing production.

Further, TAMRA covers block-wise, state-wise and mineral-wise information of the blocks to be auctioned, monitors various statutory clearances, and also highlights the additional

resources generated through e-Auction. In case of delay in obtaining any clearances, TAMRA will send triggers to the concerned authority so that the remedial steps can be taken immediately by those responsible. The Ministry of Mines will also receive triggers generated by TAMRA and will facilitate in expediting clearances. This portal also enables successful bidder to give suggestions/inputs.

The TAMRA Flowchart is as follows:



Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158229>

Q.22) Bajaj Committee is concerned with

- a) Krishna River water sharing
- b) Narmada River water sharing
- c) Godavari River water sharing
- d) None of the above

Q.22) Solution (a)

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/Injustice-done-to-us-since-1956-TS-tells-Bajaj-panel/article17299850.ece>