

Q.1) Consider the following statements concerning Polymetallic Nodules (PMN)

1. They are called as manganese nodules
2. It contains nickel, cobalt and copper
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.1) 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.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/india-s-exclusive-rights-to-explore-polymetallic-nodules-from-central-indian-ocean-seabed-basin-extended-by-five-years-117082200207_1.html

Q.2) Which of the following countries are landlocked by a single country?

1. Lesotho
2. San Marino
3. Liechtenstein

Select the correct code:

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

d) Only 1

Q.2) Solution (a)

Three countries are landlocked by a single country (enclaved countries)

- Lesotho, a state surrounded by South Africa.
- San Marino, a state surrounded by Italy.
- Vatican City, a state forming part of Rome, thus surrounded by Italy.

A country is "doubly landlocked" or "double-landlocked" when it is surrounded entirely by one or more landlocked countries (requiring the crossing of at least two national borders to reach a coastline).

There are currently two such countries:

- Liechtenstein in Central Europe, surrounded by Switzerland and Austria.
- Uzbekistan in Central Asia, surrounded by Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF)

1. The funds will be raised by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) through issuance of bonds
2. These funds will be for the implementation of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) only

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (b)

The funds will be raised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through the issuance of Bonds at 6 per cent per annum as per requirement.

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These funds will be for the implementation of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) works of 99 ongoing prioritised irrigation projects along with their command area development (CAD) works under the Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

Read More - <http://www.nabard.org/auth/writereaddata/File/LTIF-material%20for%20website.pdf>

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/cabinet-approves-raising-9020-crore-for-long-term-irrigation-fund/article9820126.ece>

Q.4) Consider the following statements

1. Amazon tropical rainforests are known as Selvas
2. The majority of the Amazon rainforest is contained within Brazil

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

Amazon Rainforest also known in English as Amazonia or the Amazon Jungle, is a moist broadleaf forest in the Amazon biome that covers most of the Amazon basin of South America. This basin encompasses 7,000,000 square kilometres (2,700,000 sq mi), of which 5,500,000 square kilometres (2,100,000 sq mi) are covered by the rainforest.

This region includes territory belonging to nine nations. The majority of the forest is contained within Brazil, with 60% of the rainforest, followed by Peru with 13%, Colombia with 10%, and with minor amounts in Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. States or departments in four nations contain "Amazonas" in their names.

The Amazon represents over half of the planet's remaining rainforests, and comprises the largest and most biodiverse tract of tropical rainforest in the world, with an estimated 390 billion individual trees divided into 16,000 species.

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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1. Supreme Court held the practice of triple talaq unconstitutional.
2. In case of talaq-e-bidat, even if the man realizes that he has made a mistake, the divorce cannot be revoked

Select the correct statements

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

Q.5) Solution (c)

Triple talaq is a practice by which Muslim men divorce their wives by uttering 'talaq' thrice, over a period of three months.

It is different from instantaneous talaq — or talaq-e-bidat — in which Muslim men utter 'talaq' thrice instantly - sometimes via a written talaqnama, or even by phone or text message – while not adhering to the three-month iddat period, which is meant for reconciliation and arbitration.

The Muslim clergy which once used to consider talaq-e-bidat as bad in theology had begun to uphold the same as valid and good in law over the recent years.

In case of talaq-e-bidat, even if the man realizes that he has made a mistake, the divorce cannot be revoked. The only option before him to go back to living with his wife is through a nikah halala.

As part of nikah halala, the woman is required to get remarried, consummate the second marriage, get divorced, observe the iddat period and then come back to her original husband.

