

Q.1) Valongo Wharf Archaeological Site is located in

- a) Rio de Janeiro
- b) Valencia
- c) Florida
- d) Sylt

Q.1) Solution (a)

Valongo Wharf Archaeological Site is located in central Rio de Janeiro and encompasses the entirety of Jornal do Comércio Square. It is in the former harbour area of Rio de Janeiro in which the old stone wharf was built for the landing of enslaved Africans reaching the South American continent from 1811 onwards. An estimated 900,000 Africans arrived in South America via Valongo. The site is composed of several archaeological layers, the lowest of which consists of floor pavings in pé de moleque style, attributed to the original Valongo Wharf. It is the most important physical trace of the arrival of African slaves on the American continent.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/valongo-wharf-gets-unesco-heritage-status/article19255007.ece>

Q.2) Consider the following statements

1. A masala bond is a rupee-denominated bond issued in the overseas market
2. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) are permitted to invest in Government Securities with a minimum residual maturity of one year but have been prohibited from investing in T-Bills

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

In India, the term "Foreign Portfolio Investor" refers to FPIs or their sub-accounts, or qualified foreign investors (QFIs) who are permitted to hold upto 10% stake in a company.

The term FPI was defined to align the nomenclature of categorizing investments of foreign investors in line with international practice. FPI stands for those investors who hold a short term view on the company, in contrast to Foreign Direct Investors (FDI). FPIs generally participate through the stock markets and gets in and out of a particular stock at much faster frequencies. Short term view is associated often with lower stake in companies. Hence, globally FPIs are defined as those who hold less than 10% in a company. In India, the hitherto existing closest possible definition to an FPI was Foreign Institutional Investor.

Portfolio Investment by any single investor or investor group cannot exceed 10% of the equity of an Indian company, beyond which it will now be treated as FDI.

As part of Risk based approach towards customer identity verification (KYC), FPIs have been categorized into three major categories:

- Category I (Low Risk) which would include Government and entities like Foreign Central banks, Sovereign wealth Funds, Multilateral Organizations, etc
- Category II (Moderate Risk) which would include Regulated entities such as banks, Pension Funds, Insurance Companies, Mutual Funds, Investment Trusts, Asset Management Companies, University related endowments (already registered with SEBI)
- Category III (High Risk) which would include all other FPIs not eligible to be included in the above two categories

FPIs are not allowed to invest in unlisted shares. However, all existing investments made by the FIIs/Sub-accounts/QFIs are grandfathered. In respect of those securities, where FPIs are not allowed to invest no fresh purchase shall be allowed as FPI. They can only sell their existing investments in such securities.

However, an exception has been made by permitting them to invest in unlisted non-convertible debentures/bonds issued by an Indian company in the infrastructure sector, where 'infrastructure' is defined in terms of the extant External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) guidelines;

FPIs are permitted to invest in Government Securities with a minimum residual maturity of one year. However, FPIs have been prohibited from investing in T-Bills.

FPI can invest in privately placed bonds if it is listed within 15 days.

Source: <http://www.financialexpress.com/market/as-rbi-separates-masala-bonds-from-fpi-limits-three-firms-line-up-for-issues/870741/>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Wular Lake

IASbaba's Daily Quiz

September 27, 2017

1. It is the largest fresh water lake of India
2. It is fed by the Chenab River
3. The Tulbul navigation project is located just below the exit of the Wular Lake

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

It is one of the largest fresh water lakes in Asia. It is sited in Bandipora district in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. The lake basin was formed as a result of tectonic activity and is fed by the Jhelum River.

The Tulbul Project is a "navigation lock-cum-control structure" at the mouth of Wular Lake. The lake is one of the 26 Indian wetlands designated as a Ramsar site.

Jhelum River is a river of northwestern India and eastern Pakistan. It is the westernmost of the five rivers of Punjab, and passes through Jhelum District. It is a tributary of the Chenab River.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/srinagar/bilar-dar-jammu-kashmir-wular-lake-pm-narendra-modi-praise-mann-ki-baat-4859623/>

Q.4) Graded Surveillance Measure (GSM) is introduced by

- a) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- d) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

Q.4) Solution (a)

The BSE website mentions a list of more than 900 companies that are monitored under the Graded Surveillance Measure, designed by market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

SEBI introduced the measure to keep a tab on securities that witness an abnormal price rise that is not commensurate with financial health and fundamentals of the company such as earnings, book value, price to earnings ratio among others.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/all-you-need-to-know-about-graded-surveillance-measure/article19749506.ece>

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Hyper spectral imaging

1. It can be used to calculate the nutrients as well as other minerals in the soil and be used to gauge its health
2. ISRO is going to launch the Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite or HySIS — using a critical chip it has developed

Select the correct statements

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

Q.5) Solution (c)

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) says it plans to launch a full-fledged niche Earth observation (EO) satellite — called the Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite or HySIS — using a critical chip it has developed.

ISRO is endeavouring to enter the domain of operational hyperspectral imaging from earth orbit" with a satellite that can see in 55 spectral or colour bands from 630 km above ground.

Hyperspectral or hypspx imaging is said to be an EO trend that is being experimented globally. Adding a new dimension to plain-vanilla optical imagers, it can be used for a range of activities from monitoring the environment, crops, looking for oil and minerals all the way up to military surveillance — all of which need images that show a high level of differentiation of the object or scene.

Using custom-developed algorithms, satellite-images, or those taken from low flying planes or drones, can be used to calculate the proportion of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous — the three most vital nutrients — as well as other minerals in the soil and be used to gauge its health.

IASbaba's Daily Quiz

September 27, 2017

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tech-boost-for-soil-quality-scheme/article19748267.ece>

