

Q.1) The Barak River flows through

1. Assam
2. Manipur
3. Nagaland

Select the correct code:

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

Q.1) Solution (a)

The Barak River is one of the major rivers of South Assam and is a part of the Surma-Meghna River System. It rises in the hill country of Manipur State, where it is the biggest and the most important of the hill country rivers. After Manipur it flows through Mizoram State and into Assam, ending after 564 kilometres (350 mi) just after it enters Bangladesh where it forks into the Surma and Kushiya rivers.

The Barak Valley is located in the southern region of the Indian state of Assam. The main city of the valley is Silchar. The region is named after the Barak river. The Barak valley mainly consists of three administrative districts of Assam State - namely Cachar, Karimganj, and Hailakandi. Among these three districts, North Cachar belonged to the Kachari Kingdom before the British Raj now Dima Hasao rules here, whereas Karimganj and Hailakandi belonged to the Sylhet district of then Bangladesh. Karimganj was separated from Sylhet after the 1947 referendum; with the rest of Sylhet falling under East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and Karimganj under India.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/assams-barak-valley-can-be-hub-for-international-trade-ram-nath-kovind/articleshow/61727003.cms>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about International Court of Justice (ICJ)

1. It is the judicial arm of the United Nations.
2. The UN Security Council is authorised by to enforce Court (ICJ) rulings.
3. The ICJ has a total strength of 15 judges who are elected to nine-year terms of office.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (d)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) started work in 1946, after half a century of international conflict in the form of two World Wars.

The ICJ has its seat at The Hague, the Netherlands, and has the jurisdiction to settle disputes between countries and examine cases pertaining to violation of human rights according to the tenets of international law. It is the judicial arm of the United Nations.

However, this was not the first effort at instituting a multilateral forum to settle trans-national disputes. The ICJ was established in 1945 by the UN Charter following its precursor, the Permanent Court of International Justice, falling into desuetude owing to the inability to enforce its mandate, especially during the intervening war years.

Subsequently, the ICJ has passed many landmark judgements, but the execution of its verdicts have often been hindered by the skewed balance of power in the United Nations. The UN Security Council is authorised by Chapter XIV of the United Nations Charter to enforce Court rulings, but enforcement is subject to veto by permanent members of the Security Council.

The ICJ has a total strength of 15 judges who are elected to nine-year terms of office. They are elected by members of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, where polling takes place simultaneously but independent of each other. In order to be elected, a candidate must have an absolute majority in both bodies, which often leads to much lobbying, and a number of rounds of voting.

In order to ensure a sense of continuity, especially in pending cases, elections are conducted triennially for a third of the 15-member Court. Judges are eligible to stand for re-election. Elections are held in New York during the autumn session of the United Nations General Assembly, and the elected judges enter office on February 6 of the subsequent year. After the Court is in session, a President and Vice-President are elected by secret ballot to hold office for three years. If a judge were to die in office, resign, or be incapacitated to perform the duties expected of her, a special election is held as soon as possible to fill the vacancy for the unexpired duration of her tenure.

The Court also adheres to a rigid ethno-cultural matrix to ensure that it is representative of the 'main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world.' This internal

arithmetic is maintained at every election to the ICJ. Of the 15 judges, it is mandated that three should be from Africa, two from Latin America and the Caribbean, three from Asia, five from Western Europe and other states, and two from Eastern Europe.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/how-are-judges-elected-to-the-international-court-of-justice/article20619816.ece>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT)

1. It was first held in 1978 by WITSA (World Information Technology & Services Alliance)
2. WCIT was held in India for the first time in 2017

Select the correct statement

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

Q.3) Solution (a)

First held in 1978 by WITSA (World Information Technology & Services Alliance), the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) has become the premier international IT forum. Bringing together over 2,500 visionaries, captains of industry, government leaders and academics from more than 80 countries, it is an event of unparalleled scope and scale. Discussion topics range from emerging markets and technologies to legal and policy issues, user perspectives, new business opportunities and developing political and economic trends. The WCIT consistently attracts high level, internationally recognized leaders from government, industry and academia.

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is a consortium of associations from the information and communications technology (ICT) industry around the world. The group claims that it represents over 90% of the world ICT market through its global membership, and has a goal of advancing the growth and development of the ICT industry. WITSA was founded in 1978 as the World Computing Services Industry Association, and participates in advocacy in international public policy that affects the "global information infrastructure". It voices the concerns of the international IT industry in

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organisations such as the World Trade Organization, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the G8.

WITSA represents IT industry associations in over 80 countries or economies. WITSA's motto is "Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age".

The World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT), a premier global forum that is to be held for the first time in India, at Hyderabad in February 2018, will focus on the technology-led disruption taking place in the industry.

With 'Amplify Digital: Disrupt the Core' as the theme, the 22nd edition of the conference would showcase latest trends, technologies, use cases and strategic discussions on building the digital future.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/global-meet-tech-disruption-to-be-focus/article20599832.ece>

Q.4) Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE) is associated with

- a) NASA's Mars 2020 mission
- b) JUNO Spacecraft
- c) ExoMars
- d) Falcon 9

Q.4) Solution (a)

NASA has completed the first test of its Mars 2020 mission's parachute-testing series, the Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE).

The Mars rover mission set to launch in 2020 will seek signs of ancient Martian life by investigating evidence in place and by catching drilled samples of Martian rocks for potential future return to Earth.

The mission will rely on a special parachute to slow the spacecraft down as it enters the Martian atmosphere at over 5.4 km per second.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/mars-2020-rover-mission-completes-first-supersonic-parachute-test-nasa-4947760/>

Q.5) A vasectomy is performed for

- a) Birth control
- b) Correction of sexual dysfunction
- c) Increased hormone production
- d) Hair growth

Q.5) Solution (a)

Vasectomy — also called male sterilization — is a surgical procedure. It is meant to protect against pregnancy permanently.

A vasectomy is a simple surgery done by a doctor in an office, hospital, or clinic. The small tubes in the scrotum that carry sperm are cut or blocked off, so sperm can't leave your body and cause pregnancy.

Vasectomies are meant to be permanent — so they usually can't be reversed.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=173581>

