

Q.1) Which of the following are based on blockchain technology?

1. Ethereum (ETH)
2. Ripple (XRP)
3. IOTA (MIOTA)

Select the correct code:

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

Q.1) Solution (d)

Ripple (XRP)

Launched in California by former bitcoin developers in 2012, Ripple is considered by some industry experts to be bitcoin's logical successor, according to the New York Times. It's already catching on among banks as a worldwide payment and remittance system. Unlike bitcoin, Ripple is not just a currency but a system through which any currency can be transferred or traded. The Times advised to think of it as a Western Union without the heavy fees.

IOTA (MIOTA)

IOTA, with the tagline "Next Generation Blockchain," is one of the newest contenders in the increasingly crowded cryptocurrency field. Unlike its rivals, IOTA is not reliant on an underlying blockchain network, but uses an alternative, distributive ledger system called Tangle. Partnered with Microsoft, Fujitsu and several other companies, IOTA considers itself the first marketplace powered by the Internet of Things.

Ethereum (ETH)

Like bitcoin, ether "tokens" are underwritten by a blockchain network, in this case called Ethereum. Pioneered by a former Bitcoin Monthly writer, Ethereum was launched in 2014 with an aim to pursue further decentralization. It differs from bitcoin primarily in application: Ethereum is an open, decentralized software platform where ether is used to pay for transaction fees and services.

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Ka-226T choppers

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1. It will replace India's fleet of Cheetah and Chetak
2. According to the inter-governmental agreement (IGA) between Russia and India, all the choppers will be fully built in India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (a)

Under the agreement, India will buy few choppers off the shelf and remaining will be fully built in India.

The helicopters will replace India's ageing fleet of Cheetah and Chetak.

HAL will have stake of 50.5 per cent in the joint venture, while Russian Helicopters will hold 49.5 per cent of the capital. However, the Russians will be responsible for helicopter production localisation, except the components that will be imported from an OEM.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/russia-aims-to-deliver-200-ka226t-military-choppers-to-india-in-9-years/article9981845.ece>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

1. It pledged to uphold the rights of refugees, help them resettle and ensure they had access to education and jobs
2. It is legally binding in nature
3. India has signed the declaration

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)

On September 19, 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a set of commitments to enhance the protection of refugees and migrants. These commitments are known as the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The New York Declaration reaffirms the importance of the international refugee regime and represents a commitment by Member States to strengthen and enhance mechanisms to protect people on the move. It paves the way for the adoption of two new global compacts in 2018: a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

In adopting the New York Declaration, Member States:

- expressed profound solidarity with those who are forced to flee;
- reaffirmed their obligations to fully respect the human rights of refugees and migrants;
- agreed that protecting refugees and the countries that shelter them are shared international responsibilities and must be borne more equitably and predictably;
- pledged robust support to those countries affected by large movements of refugees and migrants;
- agreed upon the core elements of a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework; and
- agreed to work towards the adoption of a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Further information on the New York Declaration can be found in the documents under 'Additional resources' below.

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

The New York Declaration sets out the key elements of a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (in Annex I) to be applied to large-scale movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations.

The four key objectives of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework are to:

- Ease pressures on host countries;
- Enhance refugee self-reliance;
- Expand third-country solutions; and
- Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

UNHCR is working with governments and other stakeholders to apply the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in a number of countries – including Djibouti, Ethiopia,

Honduras, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania – and through a regional approach to the Somalia situation.

US has pulled out of the United Nations' ambitious plans to create a more humane global strategy on migration, saying involvement in the process interferes with American sovereignty, and runs counter to US immigration policies.

India has signed the declaration and it is legally non-binding in nature.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-pulls-out-of-uns-pact-on-migration/article21255030.ece>

Q.4) Consider the following statements about TIR Convention

1. It was adopted under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
2. The TIR system only covers customs transit by road

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (a)

The Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) is a multilateral treaty that was concluded at Geneva on 14 November 1975 to simplify and harmonise the administrative formalities of international road transport. (TIR stands for "Transports Internationaux Routiers" or "International Road Transports".) The 1975 convention replaced the TIR Convention of 1959, which itself replaced the 1949 TIR Agreement between a number of European countries. The conventions were adopted under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). As of July 2016, there are 70 parties to the Convention, including 69 states and the European Union.

The TIR Convention establishes an international customs transit system with maximum facility to move goods:

- in sealed vehicles or containers;

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- from a customs office of departure in one country to a customs office of destination in another country;
- without requiring extensive and time-consuming border checks at intermediate borders;
- while, at the same time, providing customs authorities with the required security and guarantees.

The TIR system not only covers customs transit by road but a combination is possible with other modes of transport (e.g., rail, inland waterway, and even maritime transport), as long as at least one part of the total transport is made by road.

India's decision to implement the TIR system will have far reaching benefits for trade and will save significant time and money by streamlining procedures at borders, reducing administration and cutting border waiting times.

The TIR Convention will also facilitate India's current national and multilateral connectivity-related initiatives to improve cross border road transport, facilitating overland trade integration with both eastern and western neighbours. It will also help India in implementing the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The Convention will help Indian traders to have access to fast, easy, reliable and hassle free international system for movement of goods by road or multi-modal means across the territories of other contracting parties

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/instc-to-be-operationalised-mid-jan-2018-game-changer-for-indias-eurasia-policy/articleshow/61926321.cms>

Q.5) According to 'Threats Predictions Report' Ransomware attacks in the cyberspace are likely to increase and become more sophisticated in 2018 targeting high net worth individuals and corporates. The report is released by

- a) Kaspersky
- b) Symantec
- c) McAfee
- d) Microsoft

Q.5) Solution (c)

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/report-predicts-explosion-in-ransomware-attacks-in-2018/article21254316.ece>