

Q.1) Global Corruption Index is released by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) Transparency International
- d) OXFAM International

Q.1) Solution (c)

India has been ranked 81st in Transparency International's Global Corruption Perception Index 2017.

Source: <https://www.transparency.org/cpi2017>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Neelakurinji

1. It blossoms only once in 12 years
2. It is endemic to Western Ghats

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

Kurinji or Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthianus*) is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats in South India. Nilgiri Hills, which literally means the blue mountains, got their name from the purplish blue flowers of Neelakurinji that blossoms only once in 12 years.

Q.3) Which of the following countries has the largest coastline?

- a) Canada
- b) Australia
- c) Norway
- d) USA

Q.3) Solution (a)

Canada also has the longest total coastline among all of the countries of the world. The country's 125,567 mile-long coastline fronts on the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and the Arctic Ocean to the north.

Read More - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_length_of_coastline

Q.4) N Gopalswami Committee is associated with

- a) Education
- b) Energy
- c) MSMEs
- d) Banking Reforms

Q.4) Solution (a)

N Gopalswami has been appointed chairperson of the empowered expert committee (EEC) that will be the final authority to select 20 "institutes of eminence", which will be free from government regulations.

The institutes of eminence scheme under the Union human resource development (HRD) ministry aims to project Indian institutes to global recognition. The 20 selected institutes will enjoy complete academic and administrative autonomy. The government will run 10 of these and they will receive special funding.

The EEC will be responsible for selecting and monitoring the institutes. It will recommend names of the chosen institutes to the University Grants Commission (UGC).

A major task of the EEC will be to monitor and review the 20 institutions and ensure quality, decide on appeals if any, liquidation of corpus fund if needed, verify compliance to financial requirements if required, assess deviations from goals and standards.

The panel will review the institutes once every three years for adherence to their implementation plan until they achieve the top 100 global ranking slot for two consecutive years. The institutes will have to inform the EEC every year about their progress and may be asked to address deficiencies or face penal action if they fail to deliver.

IASbaba's Daily Quiz

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Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/feb/20/former-cec-n-gopalswami-to-head-a-panel-that-will-select-indias-20-world-class-educational-insti-1776298.html>

Q.5) Cyclone Gita affected which of the following?

- a) Tonga
- b) Cape Verde
- c) Faroe Islands
- d) Kiribati

Q.5) Solution (a)

Severe Tropical Cyclone Gita was the most intense tropical cyclone to impact Tonga since reliable records began. The second named storm and first major tropical cyclone of the 2017–18 South Pacific cyclone season, Gita originated from a monsoon trough that was active in the South Pacific in early February 2018. First classified as a tropical disturbance on 3 February, the nascent system meandered near Vanuatu for several days with little development. After acquiring a steady east trajectory near Fiji, it organized into a Category 1 tropical cyclone on 9 February near Samoa. Arcing south in a clockwise turn, the system rapidly intensified, and became a severe tropical cyclone on 10 February near Niue.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-contributes-1-million-for-tonga-devastated-by-cyclone-gita-un/story-FykfMGAXNxKKJIPRmn7WPK.html>

