

**Q.1) Medaram Jatara is a tribal festival from**

- a) Telangana
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Odisha
- d) Madhya Pradesh

**Q.1) Solution (a)**

Sammakka Saralamma Jatara or Medaram Jatara is a tribal Hindu festival of honouring the goddesses celebrated in the state of Telangana, India. This Jatara is known for largest people gathering in the world. The Jatara begins at Medaram in Tadvai mandal in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district.

Medaram is a remote place in the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, a part of Dandakaranya, the largest surviving forest belt in the Deccan.

Jatara is celebrated during the time the goddesses of the tribals are believed to visit them. It is believed that after Kumbha Mela, the Medaram jatara attracts the largest number of devotees in the country.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/medaram-jatara-to-draw-1-25cr-pilgrims/articleshow/62718496.cms>

**Q.2) Which of the following are members of the Ashgabat agreement?**

- 1. Turkmenistan
- 2. Uzbekistan
- 3. Tajikistan

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.2) Solution (a)**

February 2, 2018

The Ashgabat agreement is a Multimodal transport agreement between Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, India and Pakistan for creating an international transport and transit corridor facilitating transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

The objective of this agreement is to enhance connectivity within Eurasian region and synchronize it with other transport corridors within that region including the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-joins-ashgabat-agreement-5048314/>

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)**

1. It was created aftermath of the Arab Spring
2. It is the only agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.3) Solution (b)**

Created in December 1949, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is a relief and human development agency which supports more than 5 million registered Palestinian refugees, and their descendants, who fled or were expelled from their homes during the 1948 Palestine war as well as those who fled or were expelled during and following the 1967 Six Day war. Originally intended to provide jobs on public works projects and direct relief, today UNRWA provides education, health care, and social services to the population it supports. Aid is provided in five areas of operation: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; aid for Palestinian refugees outside these five areas is provided by UNHCR.

It also provided relief to Jewish and Arab Palestine refugees inside the state of Israel following the 1948 conflict until the Israeli government took over responsibility for Jewish refugees in 1952. In the absence of a solution to the Palestine refugee problem, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate, most recently extending it until 30 June 2017.

UNRWA is the only agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict and is separate from UNHCR. Formed in 1950, UNHCR is the main UN refugee agency, which is responsible for aiding other refugees all over the world. Unlike UNRWA, UNHCR has a specific mandate to aid its refugees to eliminate their refugee status by local integration in current country, resettlement in a third country or repatriation when possible. Both UNRWA and UNHCR allow refugee status to be inherited by descendants.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/indian-aid-for-palestine-diplomatic-institute/article22615319.ece>

**Q.4) Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC)**

1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.4) Solution (b)**

TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, is the leading non-governmental organization working globally on the trade of wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity and sustainable development. It was founded in 1976 as a strategic alliance of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

TRAFFIC specialises in investigating and analysing wildlife trade trends, impacts and drivers; informing and supporting action by governments to enforce effective policies and laws; providing advice to the private sector on effective approaches to sustainable sourcing of wildlife; and through developing insights into consumer attitudes to guide the design of communication interventions to dissuade purchasing of illicit wildlife goods.

February 2, 2018

TRAFFIC plays a vital role in tackling illegal wildlife trade through conducting research and analysis, advocacy and awareness work and by supporting remedial action against illegal wildlife trade.

**Q.5) The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of**

- a) Pledges made by the European countries to rehabilitate refugees from the war-affected Middle East
- b) Plan of action outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate change
- c) Capital contributed by the member countries in the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- d) Plan of action outlined by the countries of the world regarding Sustainable Development Goals

**Q.5) Solution (b)**

Countries across the globe adopted an historic international climate agreement at the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in December 2015. In anticipation of this moment, countries publicly outlined what post-2020 climate actions they intended to take under the new international agreement, known as their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). The climate actions communicated in these INDCs largely determine whether the world achieves the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement: to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C, to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C, and to achieve net zero emissions in the second half of this century.

