

Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'INS Karanj'

1. It is a Scorpene class submarine
2. It is built by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in collaboration with French Naval Group (formerly DCNS).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (c)

The Navy's third state-of-the-art Scorpene class submarine, INS Karanj, was launched. The new submarine is named after the earlier Kalvari class INS Karanj, which was decommissioned in 2003.

Six Scorpene class submarines are being built under Project 75 by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), Mumbai, under a \$3.75 billion technology transfer signed in October 2005 with the Naval Group of France.

The Scorpene class is the Navy's first modern conventional submarine series in almost two decades, since INS Sindhushastra was procured from Russia in July 2000.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ins-karanj-boosts-navys-firepower/article22613449.ece>

Q.2) Consider the following statement about 'Nilgiri marten'

1. It is endemic to the Western Ghats of India
2. It is listed in Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

The Nilgiri marten (*Martes gwatkinsii*) is the only species of marten found in southern India. It occurs in the hills of the Nilgiris and parts of the Western Ghats.

Nilgiri Marten is listed in Schedule II part II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and has been placed on Appendix III of CITES by India.

IUCN Status - Vulnerable

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/pampadum-shola-has-significant-population-of-evasive-nilgiri-marten/article22597494.ece>

Q.3) Recently the creation of the Indian Enterprise Development Services (IEDS) was approved. It will be under the

- a) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c) Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises
- d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Q.3) Solution (c)

Formation of a new service in the name of Indian Enterprise Development Service (IEDS) in the Office of Development Commissioner (MSME), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). The creation of the new cadre and change in structure will not only strengthen the organization but will also help to achieve the vision of "Startup India", "Stand-up India" and "Make in India".

The measure will enhance the capacity and efficiency of the organization and also help in achieving growth in MSME sector through a focussed and dedicated cadre of technical officers.

Q.4) Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) is under the jurisdiction of

- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Q.4) Solution (d)

SFIO is a multi-disciplinary organization under Ministry of Corporate Affairs, consisting of experts in the field of accountancy, forensic auditing, law, information technology, investigation, company law, capital market and taxation for detecting and prosecuting or recommending for prosecution white-collar crimes/frauds.

SFIO has head office in New Delhi and regional offices in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Q.5) Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan was an organisation in

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Rajasthan

Q.5) Solution (d)

Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan

- The Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (Association for the Empowerment of Workers and Peasants) is an Indian social movement and grassroots organisation best known for its successful struggle and demand for the Right to Information Act (RTI) which grew out of the demand for minimum wages for workers.
- It is one of the forefront civil rights movements in India, and can cite legislation of the RTI as its major achievement.
- It was formed in 1990, working in rural Rajasthan. Its objective was to use modes of struggle and constructive action for changing the lives of its primary constituents — the rural poor.

Q.6) Medaram Jatara is a tribal festival from

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

Q.6) 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.7) 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.7) Solution (a)

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.8) 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.8) 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.9) 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.9) 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.

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.10) 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.10) 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.

Q.11) 'CriSidEx' is associated with

- a) MSMEs
- b) Housing
- c) NPAs
- d) Power and Energy

Q.11) Solution (a)

CriSidEx is India's first sentiment index for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) developed jointly by credit rating body CRISIL and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

CriSidEx is a composite index based on a diffusion index of eight parameters and measures MSE business sentiment on a scale of zero (extremely negative) to 200 (extremely positive).

CriSidEx will have two indices, one for the survey quarter and another for the next quarter once a trend emerges after few rounds of the survey, providing independent time series data.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/msmes-get-a-boost-jaitley-launches-india-s-first-sentiment-index-crisidex-118020400064_1.html

Q.12) Sheen Khalai has origin in

- a) Cambodia
- b) Mongolia
- c) Myanmar
- d) None of the above

Q.12) Solution (d)

'Sheen Khalai' (blue skin) fled with their families from the tribal areas between Afghanistan and Pakistan during the Partition in 1947.

They are part of a community of Pushtun Hindus that lived in the Baloch areas of Quetta, Loralai, Bori and Maikhter, and belong to the Kakari tribes still living there.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tattooed-blue-skinned-hindu-pushtuns-look-back-at-their-roots/article22645932.ece>

Q.13) Consider the following statements about 'International Kala Mela'

1. The inaugural 'International Kala Mela' was held in 2015
2. It is organised by the Lalit Kala Akademi in partnership with IGNC A of the Ministry of Culture

Select the correct statements

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

Q.13) Solution (b)

The first ever International Kala Mela has been organised by the Lalit Kala Akademi in partnership with IGNC A of the Ministry of Culture.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176160>

Q.14) 'Shigmo' is a spring festival celebrated in

- a) Sikkim
- b) Nagaland
- c) Goa
- d) Odisha

Q.14) Solution (c)

Shigmo is the traditional spring festival celebrated by farmers in rural Goa.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/goas-shigmo-parade-to-start-on-march-3/article22639583.ece>

Q.15) Consider the following statements about National Health Protection Scheme

1. It will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families providing coverage upto 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization
2. It is a flagship programme under Ayushman Bharat

Select the correct statements

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

Q.15) Solution (c)

The Government announced two major initiatives in health sector, as part of Ayushman Bharat programme. It is aimed at making path breaking interventions to address health holistically, in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems, covering both prevention and health promotion.

Health and Wellness Centre

- The National Health Policy, 2017 has envisioned Health and Wellness Centres as the foundation of India's health system.
- Under this 1.5 lakh centres will bring health care system closer to the homes of people.
- These centres will provide comprehensive health care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services.
- These centres will also provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services.
- The Budget has allocated Rs.1200 crore for this flagship programme.
- Contribution of private sector through CSR and philanthropic institutions in adopting these centres is also envisaged.

National Health Protection Scheme

- The second flagship programme under Ayushman Bharat is National Health Protection Scheme, which will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage upto 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

- This will be the world's largest government funded health care programme. Adequate funds will be provided for smooth implementation of this programme.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176049>

Q.16) Consider the following statements about Global Terrorism Index (GTI)

1. It is released by Institute for Economics & Peace
2. India is ranked 8th on GTI 2017

Select the correct statements

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

Q.16) Solution (c)

The GTI report is released annually by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics & Peace.

India is ranked 8th. India still has the lowest rate of deaths per attack among the top 10 countries that are most impacted by terror-related violence. India had an average of 0.4 deaths per attack compared to 2.7 deaths per attack for the rest of the other countries that figure in the top 10.

Most of the non-lethal explosions were designed to attract people and the government's attention and aimed at evoking a shock-and-awe effect. In fact, such blasts were intentionally carried out some distance away from crowded places to lessen the impact.

Maoist rebels, operating in the 'red corridor' in central and eastern India, remained the biggest challenge for India's security apparatus. According to the report, Maoist groups were behind the highest number of blasts and were responsible for over 50% terror-related deaths.

On the issue of Islamist terrorism in the country, the report cited dispute with Pakistan over Jammu & Kashmir as the primary reason behind a spike in violence.

Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria, Pakistan, Yemen and Somali are ranked first to seventh, respectively, in the 2017 terror index.

Q.17) Which of the following is nearest to Maldives?

- a) Colombo
- b) Mauritius
- c) Seychelles
- d) Christmas Island

Q.17) Solution (a)

Christmas Island to Maldives - 3,899 km

Seychelles to Maldives - 2,154 km

Mauritius to Maldives - 3,125 km

Colombo to Maldives - 843 km

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/crisis-in-male/article22651497.ece>

Q.18) United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) manages which of the following?

1. India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation
2. India-UN Development Partnership Fund

Select the correct code:

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

Q.18) Solution (c)

It manages the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation, and the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

Source:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2017/07/14/india-intensifies-south-south-collaboration-through-the-united-nations.html>

Q.19) Consider the following statements

1. Article 29 protects the interests of the minorities by making a provision that any citizen / section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture have the right to conserve the same.
2. The Parliament has the power to regulate the right of citizenship in India

Select the correct code:

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

Q.19) Solution (c)

Article 29 in the Constitution Of India 1949 - Protection of interests of minorities

(1) Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same

(2) No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them

Article 11 deals with power of Parliament to regulate the right of citizenship by law and states that nothing in the foregoing provisions of this Part shall derogate from the power of Parliament to make any provision with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizenship and all other matters relating to citizenship.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/new-constitution-bench-to-examine-citizenship-act/article22663093.ece>

Q.20) The terms 'Agreement on Agriculture', 'Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures' and Peace Clause' appear in the news frequently in the context of the affairs of the

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization
- b) United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change
- c) World Trade Organization
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

Q.20) Solution (c)

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/food-procurement-at-wto-india-for-legal-status-to-peace-clause-4981607/>

Q.21) Consider the following statements about World Food Programme (WFP)

1. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group
2. It is directed to fight micronutrient deficiencies, reduce child mortality and improve maternal health
3. FITTEST is a small, elite, technical team of emergency responders within the IT division of the World Food Programme (WFP)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.21) Solution (d)

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security. According to the WFP, it provides food assistance to an average of 80 million people in 76 countries each year. From its headquarters in Rome and from more than 80 country offices around the world, the WFP works to help people who cannot produce or obtain enough food for themselves and their families. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and part of its Executive Committee.

The WFP strives to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, with the ultimate goal in mind of eliminating the need for food aid itself.

The objectives that the WFP hopes to achieve are to:

- "Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies"
- "Support food security and nutrition and (re)build livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies"
- "Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs"
- "Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger"

WFP food aid is also directed to fight micronutrient deficiencies, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat disease, including HIV and AIDS. Food-for-work

programmes help promote environmental and economic stability and agricultural production.

The Fast Information Technology and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) is a small, elite, technical team of emergency responders within the IT division of the World Food Programme (WFP). Covering both emergency preparedness and response, FITTEST provides a range of IT, telecommunications and power generation infrastructures and solutions to support humanitarian aid operations during emergencies and in steady-state situations.

Source: <http://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/sweden-commits-record-370m-of-aid-to-un-world-food-programme/1048546/>

Q.22) Which of the following statements about REDD+ is/are correct?

1. It is not only about reducing emission from deforestation and degradation but also include Conserving and enhancing the carbon sink
2. It was adopted at the 13th CoP held in 2007 at Bali

Select the correct statements

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

Q.22) Solution (a)

It was adopted at the 16th CoP held in 2010 at Cancun.

In 2010, at COP-16 (15) as set out in the the Cancun Agreements, REDD became REDD-plus (REDD+), to reflect the new components. REDD+ now includes:

- Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- Sustainable management of forests;
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Q.23) The Investment Dispute Settlement Navigator (IDSN) is compiled by

- a) World Trade Organization

- b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) None of the above

Q.23) Solution (b)

The Investment Dispute Settlement Navigator (IDSN), compiled by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), reviews the number of investor-state disputes arising out of investment treaties twice a year.

Q.24) Consider the following statements about Agni-1

1. It is developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program
2. It is an indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile

Select the correct statements

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

Q.24) Solution (c)

It is a short-range ballistic missile developed by DRDO of India under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program. It is a single-stage missile developed after the Kargil War to fill the gap between 250 km range of Prithvi-II and 2,500 km range of Agni-II.

It is propelled by a solid rocket propellant system and is equipped with a specialised navigation system that ensures it reaches the target with a high degree of precision.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/agni-1-test-fired-off-the-odisha-coast/article22672646.ece>

Q.25) Consider the following statements about the European Court of Justice (ECJ)

1. It is based in Luxembourg
2. It was established by the Maastricht Treaty

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.25) Solution (a)

The European Court of Justice (ECJ), officially just the Court of Justice, is the highest court in the European Union in matters of European Union law. As a part of the Court of Justice of the European Union it is tasked with interpreting EU law and ensuring its equal application across all EU member states.

The Court was established in 1952 and is based in Luxembourg. It is composed of one judge per member state – currently 28 – although it normally hears cases in panels of three, five or 15 judges.

The court was established in 1952, by the Treaty of Paris (1951) as part of the European Coal and Steel Community.

The Maastricht Treaty was ratified in 1993, and created the European Union. The name of the Court did not change unlike the other institutions. The power of the Court resided in the Community pillar (the first pillar).

The Court gained power in 1997 with the signing of the Amsterdam Treaty. Issues from the third pillar were transferred to the first pillar. Previously, these issues were settled between the member states.

Following the entrance into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December 2009, the ECJ's official name was changed from the "Court of Justice of the European Communities" to the "Court of Justice" although in English it is still most common to refer to the Court as the European Court of Justice. The Court of First Instance was renamed as the "General Court", and the term "Court of Justice of the European Union" will officially designate the two courts, as along with its specialised tribunals, taken together.

Q.26) Consider the following statements about inverted duty structure

1. The issue of inverted duty structure arises mainly because of import duty on finished products is lower than import duty on raw materials
2. The natural corollary of an inverted duty structure is that it affects the competitiveness and sustainability of the domestic manufacturing industry

Select the correct statements

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

Q.26) Solution (c)

Inverted duty structure is a situation where import duty on finished goods is low compared to the import duty on raw materials that are used in the production of such finished goods. For example, suppose the tariff (import tax) on the import of tyres is 10% and the tariff on the imports of natural rubber which is used in the production of tyres is 20%; this is a case of inverted duty structure.

When the import duty on raw materials is high, it will be more difficult to produce the concerned good domestically at a competitive price. Several industries depend on imported raw materials and components.

High tax on the raw materials compels them to raise price. On the other hand, foreign finished goods will be coming at a reduced price because of low tax advantage. In conclusion, manufactured goods by the domestic industry becomes uncompetitive against imported finished goods.

What inverted duty structure brings to the home country is that its industries are less protected as the tariff on the imported finished commodities are low. At the same time, the tariff on the import of raw materials used in the production of the finished goods domestically is high. This discourages the local production of goods using the imported raw materials as the price of imported finished goods may seem more attractive.

The disadvantage of the inverted duty structure increases with the increased use of imported raw materials. An inverted duty structure discourages domestic value addition.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-manufacturing-muddle/article22671001.ece>

Q.27) Consider the following statements about Udayagiri Caves in Madhya Pradesh

1. They are rock-cut caves
2. It has Buddhist iconography
3. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Select the correct code:

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

Q.27) Solution (a)

The Udayagiri Caves are twenty rock-cut caves near Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh from the early years of the 5th century CE. They contain some of the oldest surviving Hindu temples and iconography in India. They are the only site that can be verifiably associated with a Gupta period monarch from its inscriptions. One of India's most important archaeological sites, the Udayagiri hills and its caves are protected monuments managed by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Udayagiri caves contain iconography of Vaishnavism (Vishnu), Shaktism (Durga and Matrikas) and Shaivism (Shiva). They are notable for the ancient monumental relief sculpture of Vishnu in his incarnation as the man-boar Varaha, rescuing the earth symbolically represented by Bhudevi clinging to the boar's tusk as described in Hindu mythology. The site has important inscriptions of the Gupta dynasty belonging to the reigns of Chandragupta II (c. 375-415) and Kumaragupta I (c. 415-55). In addition to these, Udayagiri has a series of rock-shelters and petroglyphs, ruined buildings, inscriptions, water systems, fortifications and habitation mounds, all of which remain a subject of continuing archaeological studies. The Udayagiri Caves complex consists of twenty caves, of which one is dedicated to Jainism and all others to Hinduism. The Jain cave is notable for one of the oldest known Jaina inscriptions from 425 CE, while the Hindu Caves feature inscriptions from 401 CE.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/where-varaha-saves-the-earth/article22645921.ece>

Q.28) Consider the following statements about Rhododendron

1. In India they are only found in the North East
2. It is the national flower of Nepal

Select the correct statements

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

Q.28) Solution (b)

They are found in varied habitats from subtropical forest to alpine shrubs, rhododendrons range from dwarf shrubs to large trees. The smallest are *R. nivale* and *R. pumilum* at just 10 to 50 cm while the tallest species, *R. arboretum* grows over 40 metres tall.

Rhododendrons were first recorded by Captain Hardwick in Jammu and Kashmir in 1776 where he spotted the *Rhododendron arboretum*. But it was a visit by the British botanist Joseph D. Hooker to Sikkim between 1858 and 1850 that revealed the rhododendron wealth of the region.

They are native to areas from North America to Europe, Russia, and Asia, and from Greenland to Queensland, Australia and the Solomon Islands.

Only three taxa — *Rhododendron arboretum nilagiricum* found in south India and *Rhododendron colletianum* and *Rhododendron rawatti* from the western Himalayas are not found in the north-east.

Arunachal Pradesh is home to the highest number with 119 taxa (74 species, 21 sub species and 24 varieties) of the *Rhododendron*. The small State of Sikkim is home to 42 taxa (25 species, 11 sub-species and six varieties) while 10 taxa are found in Manipur, four in Mizoram and 11 in Nagaland.

Q.29) 'Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme' targets which of the following sectors?

- a) Heavy industries
- b) Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM)
- c) Automobile manufacturing and assembly
- d) Pharmaceuticals

Q.29) Solution (b)

The Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) was launched to promote large-scale manufacturing, to offset disability and to attract domestic and global investments into the Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector in India. The scheme is available for both new projects and expansion projects. The scheme provides subsidy for investments in capital expenditure – 20% for investments in SEZs and 25% in non-SEZs.

Q.30) Which one of the following pairs form part of the six systems of Indian Philosophy?

1. Mimamsa and Vedanta

2. Nyaya and Vaisheshika
3. Sankhya and Yoga

Select the correct code:

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

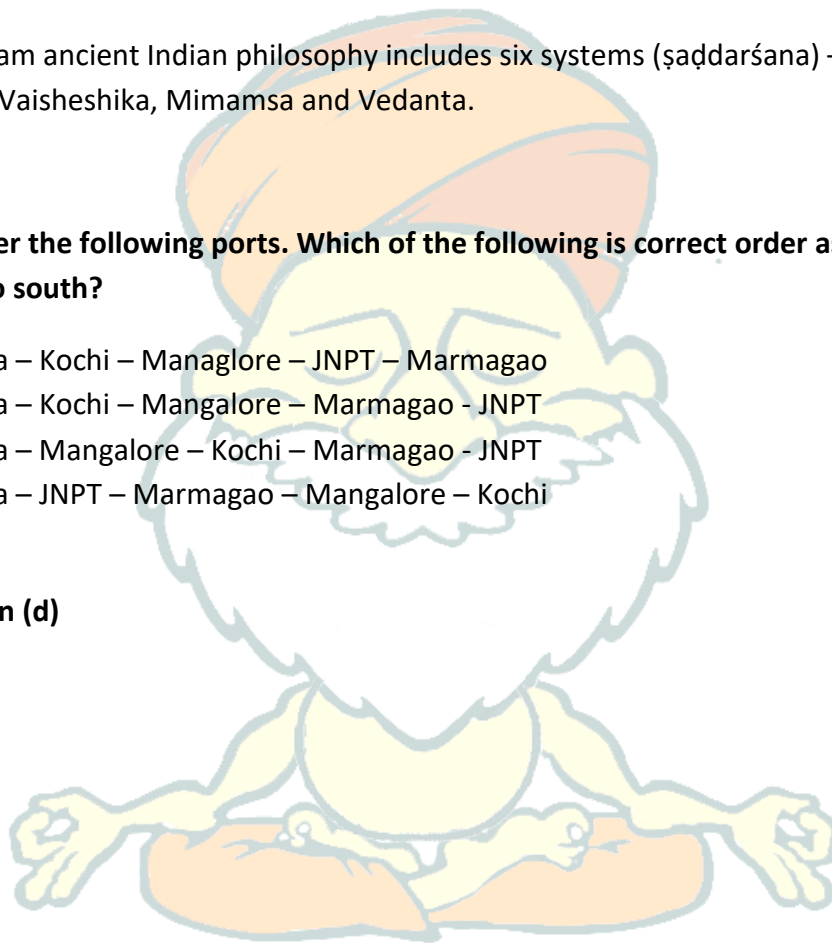
Q.30) Solution (d)

The mainstream ancient Indian philosophy includes six systems (ṣaḍdarśana) – Sankhya, Yoga, Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Mimamsa and Vedanta.

Q.31) Consider the following ports. Which of the following is correct order as we traverse from north to south?

- a) Kandla – Kochi – Mangalore – JNPT – Marmagao
- b) Kandla – Kochi – Mangalore – Marmagao - JNPT
- c) Kandla – Mangalore – Kochi – Marmagao - JNPT
- d) Kandla – JNPT – Marmagao – Mangalore – Kochi

Q.31) Solution (d)





Q.32) Consider the following statements

1. Devaluation of currency may promote exports
2. Price of country's products in international market may fall due to devaluation of currency

Select the correct statements

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

Q.32) Solution (c)

The decision to devalue a currency is made by the government issuing the currency and, unlike depreciation, it is not the result of non-governmental activities. One reason a country may devalue its currency is to combat a trade imbalance. Devaluation reduces the cost of a

country's exports rendering them more competitive in the global market. This, in turn, increases the cost of imports so that domestic consumers are less likely to purchase them, further strengthening domestic businesses.

Q.33) The scheme 'Niryat Bandhu' aims at which of the following?

- a) To train new entrepreneurs to start new business
- b) To provide vocational training to youth
- c) To provide facilitating officers for hassle free international trade
- d) To mentor new and potential exporters on the intricacies of foreign trade

Q.33) Solution (d)

Niryat Bandhu - Hand Holding Scheme for new export import entrepreneurs

DGFT is implementing the Niryat Bandhu Scheme for mentoring new and potential exporter on the intricacies of foreign trade through counselling, training and outreach programs.

Q.34) "To uphold and protect the Sovereignty, Unity and Integrity of India" is a provision made in the

- a) Preamble of the Constitution
- b) Directive Principles of State Policy
- c) Fundamental Rights
- d) Fundamental Duties

Q.34) Solution (d)

51A. Fundamental duties. — It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—

- to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;

- to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- (g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;
- to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;
- who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

Q.35) Which of the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)?

- a) It is a pension scheme exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above
- b) It provides an assured return of 8% per annum for 10 years
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.35) Solution (c)

Government has launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)' to provide social security during old age and to protect elderly persons aged 60 and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions. The scheme enables old age income security for senior citizens through provision of assured pension/return linked to the subscription amount based on government guarantee to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

The scheme provides an assured return of 8% per annum for 10 years. The differential return, i.e. the difference between return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8% per annum would be borne by Government of India as subsidy on an annual basis. Pension is payable at the end of each period during the policy tenure of 10 years as per the frequency of monthly/quarterly/ half-yearly/yearly as chosen by the subscriber at the time of purchase. Minimum purchase price under the scheme is Rs.1,50,000/- for a minimum pension of Rs. 1,000/- per month and the maximum purchase price is Rs.7,50,000/- for a maximum pension of Rs.5,000/- per month. The scheme is exempted from Goods and Services Tax (GST). The scheme is open for subscription till 3rd May 2018.

Q.36) 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' is under the aegis of

- a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Q.36) Solution (b)

The NITI Aayog has come out with a set of indicators that will be used to assess progress being made by 115 most backward districts, an initiative under the Modi government's 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme.

The set of parameters, to be used to rank the districts, include health and nutrition, education, basic infrastructure, financial inclusion, skill development, agriculture and water resources.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176389>

Q.37) Consider the following statements about 'VIVID 2018'

1. It is organised by the National Informatics Centre (NIC)
2. The Theme for VIVID 2018 is 'Cyber Security and Innovation'

Select the correct statements

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

Q.37) Solution (c)

National Informatics Centre (NIC) organised a three-day National Meet on Grassroot Informatics- VIVID 2018.

The Theme for VIVID 2018 is "Cyber Security and Innovation".

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/national-meet-on-grassroot-informatics-vivid-2018-weaving-a-digital-india-118020700804_1.html

Q.38) Which of the following statements about 'Asian Waterbird Census (AWC)'

- a) It is co-coordinated by Wetlands International- as part of global programme, the 'International Waterbird Census'
- b) In India, the AWC is annually coordinated by the Bombay Natural history Society (BNHS) and Wetlands International
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.38) Solution (c)

The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is an international programme that focuses on monitoring the status of waterbirds and wetlands. It also aims to increase public awareness on issues related to wetland and waterbird conservation. The census is carried out each January as a voluntary activity at national and local level.

The AWC is co-coordinated by Wetlands International- as part of global programme, the "International Waterbird Census".

In India, the AWC is annually coordinated by the Bombay Natural history Society (BNHS) and Wetlands International.

Read More - <https://south-asia.wetlands.org/our-approach/healthy-wetland-nature/asian-waterbird-census/>

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/citizens-for-waterfowl/article22693477.ece>

Q.39) United Arab Emirates is bordered by

- 1. Saudi Arabia
- 2. Yemen
- 3. Oman

Select the correct code:

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

Q.39) Solution (c)

UAE is a federal absolute monarchy sovereign state in Western Asia at the southeast end of the Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf, bordering Oman to the east and Saudi Arabia to the south, as well as sharing maritime borders with Qatar to the west and Iran to the north.



Q.40) Consider the following statements about RFID

1. It is a generic term for technologies that use radio waves to automatically identify people or objects
2. It has completely replaced bar codes

Select the correct code:

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

Q.40) Solution (a)

Radio frequency identification, or RFID, is a generic term for technologies that use radio waves to automatically identify people or objects. There are several methods of identification, but the most common is to store a serial number that identifies a person or object, and perhaps other information, on a microchip that is attached to an antenna (the chip and the antenna together are called an RFID transponder or an RFID tag). The antenna enables the chip to transmit the identification information to a reader. The reader converts

the radio waves reflected back from the RFID tag into digital information that can then be passed on to computers that can make use of it.

An RFID system consists of a tag, which is made up of a microchip with an antenna, and an interrogator or reader with an antenna. The reader sends out electromagnetic waves. The tag antenna is tuned to receive these waves. A passive RFID tag draws power from field created by the reader and uses it to power the microchip's circuits. The chip then modulates the waves that the tag sends back to the reader and the reader converts the new waves into digital data.

Why is RFID better than using bar codes?

RFID is not necessarily "better" than bar codes. The two are different technologies and have different applications, which sometimes overlap. The big difference between the two is bar codes are line-of-sight technology. That is, a scanner has to "see" the bar code to read it, which means people usually have to orient the bar code towards a scanner for it to be read. Radio frequency identification, by contrast, doesn't require line of sight. RFID tags can be read as long as they are within range of a reader. Bar codes have other shortcomings as well. If a label is ripped, soiled or falls off, there is no way to scan the item. And standard bar codes identify only the manufacturer and product, not the unique item. The bar code on one milk carton is the same as every other, making it impossible to identify which one might pass its expiration date first.

Will RFID replace bar codes?

Probably not. Bar codes are inexpensive and effective for certain tasks. It is likely that RFID and bar codes will coexist for many years.

Q.41) Finance Ministry formed a new panel to frame response with respect to the Bitcoin issue. It is headed by

- a) Subhash Chandra Garg
- b) Bibek Debroy
- c) Duvvuri Subbarao
- d) Amitabh Kant

Q.41) Solution (a)

It is headed by DEA Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg. RBI Deputy Governor SP Kanungo, Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi, and IT Secretary are the other members.

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/58AmAqm5fctlNVrQU06BFP/Govt-plans-framework-to-regulate-cryptocurrencies-by-fiscal.html>

Q.42) Consider the following statements about Standing Deposit Facility Scheme (SDF)

1. It is one of the tools for liquidity management
2. Urjit Patel proposed the introduction of the SDF as part of measures to improve the monetary-policy framework.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.42) Solution (c)

To support the operating framework, the Urjit Patel Committee recommends that some new instruments be added to the toolkit of monetary policy.

Firstly, to provide a floor for the new operating framework for absorption of surplus liquidity from the system but without the need for providing collateral in exchange, a (low) remunerated standing deposit facility may be introduced, with the discretion to set the interest rate without reference to the policy target rate.

The introduction of the standing deposit facility (analogous to the marginal standing facility for lending purposes) will require amendment to the RBI Act for which the transitional phase may be utilised.

The standing deposit facility will also be used for sterilization operations, with the advantage that it will not require the provision of collateral for absorption.

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Industry/9LwQCsqfm0xP1PZT9HMYLI/RBI-to-have-additional-instrument-for-liquidity-management.html>

Q.43) Consider the following statements about India Health Fund (IHF)

1. It is an initiative led by Tata Trusts, in collaboration with The Global Fund
2. It supports innovations and technologies designed to combat public health challenges of tuberculosis (TB) and malaria in India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.43) Solution (c)

The India Health Fund (IHF) – an initiative led by Tata Trusts, in collaboration with The Global Fund– serves as an engine for social investment to fight the grave public health challenges of tuberculosis (TB) and malaria in India.

Tuberculosis & Malaria, together, account for over 4.23 lakh (0.42 million) deaths annually in India alone. The Government of India (GoI) is committed to eradicating TB by 2025 and malaria by 2030. The India Health Fund is conceptualized to be an able private-sector partner for the GoI.

The fund endeavours to supplement and augment the GoI's efforts by optimising resources and expertise to create comprehensive solutions for the combat against TB and malaria.

IHF aims to accelerate the fight against TB and malaria by supporting causes that are aligned with national strategies. IHF is committed to:

- Advance the fight against TB and malaria through innovative solutions thereby reducing burden, costs and human suffering.
- Engage India's creative and innovative minds to create solutions for TB and malaria.
- Bring together resources and expertise through partnerships to ensure easy access to experiment with innovative solutions.
- Harness the unique energy of entrepreneurship to take innovations to scale and create impact by tapping private sector expertise and finance.
- Build an expanding network of programmes and partners to create comprehensive solutions for TB and malaria.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/india-health-fund-to-boostresearch-on-tb-malaria/article22708502.ece>

Q.44) Which of the following statements is/are correct wrt. Development Impact Bonds (DIBs)?

1. They are a performance-based investment instrument intended to finance development programmes in developing countries
2. The world's first development impact bond (DIB) in healthcare is focused on improving the quality of care among private maternity care providers in Rajasthan.

3. 10-million-dollar Development Impact Bond (DIB) to help improve education for over 200,000 children in India was launched by the British Asian Trust (BAT)

Select the correct code:

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

Q.44) Solution (d)

Development Impact Bonds (DIBs) are a performance-based investment instrument intended to finance development programmes in low resource countries, which are built off the model of social impact bond (SIB) model. The first social impact bond was originated by Social Finance UK in 2010, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, structured to reduce recidivism among inmates from Peterborough Prison.

Britain's Prince Charles has launched a new 10-million-dollar Development Impact Bond (DIB) to help improve education for over 200,000 children in India.

The DIB, the largest bond of its type in South Asia, is the latest fundraising initiative by the British Asian Trust (BAT), set up by the royal 10 years ago to fight poverty in South Asia.

The new bond has been launched by the trust with the support of the UK government's Department for International Development (DfID), Comic Relief, the Mittal Foundation and the UBS Optimus Foundation.

The concept of DIB is intended as a result-oriented way to attract new capital into development projects, with a strong emphasis on data and evidence.

Under the initiative, the DIB will provide funding to local not-for-profit delivery partners in India over four years, delivering a range of operational models including principal and teacher training, direct school management, and supplementary programmes.

It is intended to improve literacy and numeracy learning levels for primary school students from marginalised communities in the country.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/prince-charles-launches-education-impact-bond-for-india-118020701320_1.html

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched a health-impact bond to reduce maternal and neo-natal deaths in Rajasthan by improving the quality of services at private healthcare facilities.

Named the Utkrisht Impact Bond, it is the world's first health impact bond and has been developed by USAID, Merck for Mothers, the UBS Optimus Foundation, PSI, Palladium, and HLPPT. Impact bonds are an innovative way to finance development.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/usa-id-launches-health-impact-bond/article21236150.ece>

Q.45) Consider the following statements about Great Indian Bustard

1. It occurs in the Indian Subcontinent and inhabits arid and semi-arid grasslands
2. It is legally protected under Schedule 1 of Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2002

Select the correct statements

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

Q.45) Solution (c)

The species occurs in the Indian Subcontinent, with former strongholds in the Thar desert in the north-west and the Deccan tableland of the Peninsula.

It inhabits arid and semi-arid grasslands with scattered short scrub, bushes and low intensity cultivation in flat or gently undulating terrain.

Conservation Status

- CITES Appendix I
- Schedule 1 (Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2002)

IUCN Status – CR

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/a-plan-to-save-the-great-indian-bustard/article22724526.ece>

Q.46) 'Pamir Knot' is the junction of which of the following ranges?

1. Karakoram
2. Kunlun
3. Tien Shan

Select the correct code:

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

Q.46) Solution (d)

The Pamir Mountains, or the Pamirs, are a mountain range in Central Asia at the junction of the Himalayas with the Tian Shan, Karakoram, Kunlun, Hindu Kush, Suleman and Hindu Raj ranges. They are among the world's highest mountains.

Read More - <https://www.britannica.com/place/Pamirs>

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/a-corner-of-afghanistan-untouched-by-taliban/article22708431.ece>

Q.47) Duqm Port is located in

- a) Jordan
- b) Yemen
- c) UAE
- d) Oman

Q.47) Solution (d)

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/pm-modis-oman-visit-navy-can-now-access-duqm-port/articleshow/62894357.cms>

Q.48) Consider the following statements about Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC)

1. It is a statutory body
2. Bibek Debroy is the chairman of the current EAC

Select the correct statements

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

Q.48) Solution (b)

It is a non-constitutional and non-statutory, non-permanent and independent body, constituted with the prime and sole aim to analyse all critical issues, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the prime minister and advising him thereon. It is mandate to give advice to prime minister on economic matters such as inflation, GDP changes, export-import changes, creating supporting environment for increased trade and commerce.

Current Members

- Niti Aayog member Bibek Debroy - the chairman of the Council
- Niti Aayog's principal advisor and former Finance Secretary Ratan Watal as member-secretary
- Economist Surjit Bhalla
- National Institute of Public Finance and Policy director Rathin Roy
- Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research professor Ashima Goyal

Source: <http://www.financialexpress.com/economy/no-good-data-on-jobs-available-currently-pmeac-member-bibek-debroy/1060007/>

Q.49) Consider the following statements about 'Indo-HCM'

1. It is developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI)
2. It is India's first ever Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) to guide road engineers and policy makers about road expansion

Select the correct statements

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

Q.49) Solution (c)

The manual known as 'Indo-HCM' has been developed by CSIR-CRRI on the basis of an extensive, country-wide study of the traffic characteristics on different categories of roads like single lane, two-lane, multi-lane urban roads, inter-urban highways and expressways and the associated intersections on these roads.

The study involved seven academic institutions including IIT-Roorkee, Mumbai and Guwahati, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Engineering

and Science and Technology, Shibpur, Sardar Vallabhai Patel National Institute of Technology, Surat and Anna University, Chennai.

The manual lays down guidelines for when and how to expand or manage different types of roads and their intersections and the level of services to be put in place. It has been developed based on the unique nature and diversity of traffic on Indian roads.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/gadkari-releases-indias-first-highway-capacity-manual/articleshow/62889742.cms>

Q.50) With reference to 'Changpa' community of India, consider the following statements

- a) They live mainly in the State of Uttarakhand
- b) They rear the Pashmina goats that yield fine wool
- c) They are kept in the category of Scheduled Tribes

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.50) Solution (b)

The Changpa or Champa are a semi-nomadic Tibetan people found mainly in the Changtang in Ladakh and in Jammu and Kashmir. A smaller number resides in the western regions of the Tibet Autonomous Region and were partially relocated for the establishment of the Changtang Nature Reserve. As of 1989 there were half a million nomads living in the Changtang area.

For many Changpas, rearing of animals, and consuming and selling their produce (milk and its products, hair and meat) is the only - means of livelihood.

The Changpas rear the highly pedigreed and prized Changra goats (*Capra Hircus*) that yield the rare Pashmina (Cashmere) fibre. The Changra goats are not raised for their meat but for their fibre (pashm). The pashmina fibre (Pashm in Persian) is the finest fibre of all goat hair.

In 1989 the Changpas were granted official status in India as a Scheduled Tribe.

Q.51) Consider the following statements about 'The Theatre Olympics'

1. It was established in 1993 in Delphi, Greece
2. India is hosting the 8th Edition of Theatre Olympics
3. The theme of the 8th edition is 'Beyond Borders'

Select the correct statements

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

Q.51) Solution (a)

The Theatre Olympics was established in 1993 at Delphi, Greece. Being an international theatre festival, the Theatre Olympics presents some of the greatest theatre practitioners from around the world. It is a platform for theatrical exchange, a gathering place for students and masters, where a dialogue despite ideological, culture and language differences is encouraged. Since 1993, the Theatre Olympics has been held seven times in the following countries: Japan (1999), Russia (2001), Turkey (2006), South Korea (2010), China (2014), Poland (2016). The theme of the latest edition of Theatre Olympics being held in India is "Flag of Friendship". This most awaited event of world theatre in India attempts to bring all the creative minds from across the globe to this 'NatyaMahakumbh'.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/entertainment/2018/feb/14/stage-set-for-8th-theatre-olympics-30-countries-to-participate-1773130.html>

Q.52) Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves (ISPR) are located in

1. Mumbai
2. Mangalore
3. Chennai

Select the correct code:

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

Q.52) Solution (c)

The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve (ISPR) is an emergency fuel store of total 5 MMT (million metric tons) or 36.92 MMbbl of strategic crude oil enough to provide 10 days of consumption which are maintained by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited.

Strategic crude oil storages are at 3 underground locations in Mangalore, Visakhapatnam and Padur(nr Udipi). All these are located on the east and west coasts of India which are readily accessible to the refineries. These strategic storages are in addition to the existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies and serve in response to external supply disruptions.

Centre will build two more strategic oil reserves with a combined capacity of 10 million metric tonnes (MMT) — at Chandikhole in Odisha and at Bikaner in Rajasthan.

Source: <http://www.financialexpress.com/industry/india-uae-oil-deal-abu-dhabi-company-to-store-crude-oil-at-maiden-reserve-in-mangalore/1063337/>

Q.53) Hwasong-15 is an intercontinental ballistic missile developed by

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) North Korea
- d) South Korea

Q.53) Solution (c)

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-42178873>

Q.54) Consider the following statements about Super Straw Management System (Super-SMS)

1. It is a viable solution to the paddy stubble burning problem
2. It is attached to self-propelled combine harvesters, which cuts the paddy straw into small pieces and spread the same

Select the correct statements

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

Q.54) Solution (c)

Some Farmers have been harvesting paddy without resorting to burning any left-over straw by using the combine harvester which is fitted with a Super Straw Management System (Super-SMS). With the help of this attachment, the machine cuts straw into 4-5 inch pieces and spreads these uniformly in the field unlike normal combines that leave behind 10-12 inch-long stubble. The straw which is left back can be ploughed back or be kept as it is for sowing of wheat using a zero-till 'Happy Seeder'

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/straw-management-now-mandatory-in-punjab/article22751567.ece>

Q.55) The primary function of the Finance Commission in India is to

- a) Distribute revenue between the Centre and the States
- b) Prepare the Annual Budget
- c) Advise the President on financial matters
- d) Allocate funds to various ministries of the Union and State Governments

Q.55) Solution (a)

The Finance Commission was established by the President of India in 1951 under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution. It was formed to define the financial relations between the central government of India and the individual state governments.

Q.56) Consider the following statements about Tomara dynasty

- 1. They ruled parts of present-day Delhi and Haryana
- 2. They were displaced by the Chauhan (Chahamana) kingdom

Select the correct statements

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

Q.56) Solution (c)

Tomar were an Indian dynasty who ruled parts of present-day Delhi and Haryana during 9th-12th century.

Tomara dynasty, one of the minor early medieval ruling houses of northern India. The family is known from scattered sources, and it is impossible to reconstruct its history in any detail. Puranic evidence (writings of the Puranas) gives its early location in the Himalayan region. According to bardic tradition, the dynasty was one of the 36 Rajput tribes. The history of the family spans the period between the reign of Anangapala, who founded the city of Delhi in the 11th century CE, and the incorporation of Delhi within the Chauhan (Chahamana) kingdom in 1164. Although Delhi subsequently became decisively a part of the Chauhan kingdom, numismatic and comparatively late literary evidence indicates that Tomara kings such as Anangapala and Madanapala continued to rule as feudatories, presumably until the final conquest of Delhi by the Muslims in 1192–93.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/the-lake-of-the-sun/article22787311.ece>

Q.57) Forest owlet is found in which of the following states?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Kerala
- c) West Bengal
- d) Punjab

Q.57) Solution (a)

It is endemic to central India.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/ancient-climatic-changes-and-central-indias-rare-forest-owlet/article22784367.ece>

Q.58) Consider the following statements about 'Darshak' app

1. It allows real-time museum visitors gather all details about objects or artefacts simply by scanning a QR code placed near the object
2. It is developed by Centre for Development for Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.58) Solution (c)

Centre for Development for Advanced Computing (C-DAC), has developed software named "Jatan" that is set to revolutionize museum experience. The latest technology will help online visitors get a 3-Dimensional (3D) view of hundreds of artefacts displayed at the museums. The software will enable virtual tours to museums. The group has developed "Darshak", a mobile-based application, aimed at improving the museum visit experience among the differently-abled. It allows real-time museum visitors gather all details about objects or artefacts simply by scanning a QR code placed near the object.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/now-smart-museums-to-give-virtual-tours-and-3d-view-of-rare-artifacts-5064538/>

Q.59) Consider the following statements about Atal Bhujal Yojana

1. It is conceived to arrest the rampant overuse of groundwater in India
2. It is supported by the World Bank
3. It is a sub-scheme under National Groundwater Management Improvement Scheme (NGMIS)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.59) Solution (a)

Atal Bhoojal Yojana is an ambitious plan aimed at efficient management of available water resources. Atal Bhujal Yojana will focus on demand side management (how to meet requirements by minimum use of water). The emphasis of the scheme will be on recharge of ground water sources and efficient use of water by involving people at the local level. The half of the fund of 6000 crore will be supported by a world bank loan of 3000 crore and the rest will be funded by central government. It would initially be implemented with community participation in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

The ministry had initially conceptualised the National Groundwater Management Improvement Scheme (NGMIS) in response to the budget announcement of 2016-17. However, the NGMIS was shot down by the expenditure finance committee in May 2017,

recommending that the ministry recast the scheme with a composite proposal. The scheme has since been recast and renamed as Atal Bhujal Yojana.

The Centre does not have any control over groundwater. The only law that deals with groundwater – the Indian Easements Act – dates back to 1882. This law states that water below the surface belongs to the land owner. In the past several years, 13 states have bought their own law to regulate groundwater extraction but implementation has been patchy.

Source: <http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/National/2018-02-15/Centre-to-implement-Rs-6000-crore--Atal-Bhujan-Yojana-in-78-districts/359212>

Q.60) Consider the following statements about Malacidins

1. They are a class of chemicals made by bacteria found in soil
2. They target only gram-negative bacteria

Select the correct statements

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

Q.60) Solution (a)

US scientists have discovered a new family of antibiotics in soil samples. The natural compounds could be used to combat hard-to-treat infections. Tests show the compounds, called malacidins, annihilate several bacterial diseases that have become resistant to most existing antibiotics, including the superbug MRSA.

Soil is teeming with millions of different micro-organisms that produce lots of potentially therapeutic compounds, including new antibiotics. They used a gene sequencing technique to analyse more than 1,000 soil samples taken from across the US.

Malacidins only target gram-positive bacteria with a very thick cell wall. It is ineffective against gram-negative bacteria which cause cholera, pneumonia, sexually transmitted diseases, and plague. Thus, it does not make it universal cure against all bacteria.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/hunt-for-new-antibiotics-hits-pay-dirt-5064385/>

Q.61) Recently 'SWIFT' was in news. Consider the following statements

1. It provides a network that enables financial institutions worldwide to send and receive information about financial transactions in a secure, standardized and reliable environment
2. It is headquartered in Geneva

Select the correct statements

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

Q.61) Solution (a)

The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) provides a network that enables financial institutions worldwide to send and receive information about financial transactions in a secure, standardized and reliable environment.

It is headquartered in Belgium

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/17-months-before-pnb-scandal-rbi-had-cautioned-against-swift-abuse-at-union-bank-just-in-time-nirav-modi-5070570/>

Q.62) Consider the following statements about GLASS

1. It is a platform for global data sharing on antimicrobial resistance worldwide
2. It has been launched by WHO as part of the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.62) Solution (c)

The Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) is a platform for global data sharing on antimicrobial resistance worldwide. It has been launched by WHO as part of the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The data

generated will help to inform national, regional and global decision-making, strategies and advocacy.

Source: <http://www.who.int/drugresistance/surveillance/glass-enrolment/en/>

Q.63) Which of the following states borders Myanmar?

1. Manipur
2. Mizoram
3. Arunachal Pradesh
4. Nagaland

Select the correct statements

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) All of the above

Q.63) Solution (d)

Four Northeast Indian states share the border with Myanmar: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.



Q.64) Consider the following statements about Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

1. It was established by the Treaty of Lagos
2. Western Sahara and Mauritania are not members of the grouping

Select the correct statements

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

Q.64) Solution (c)

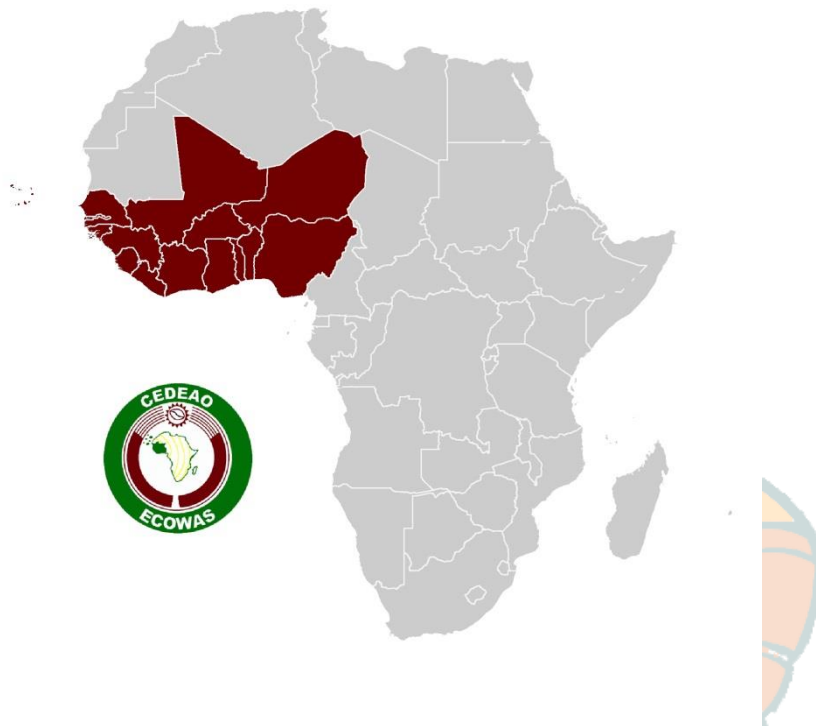
ECOWAS is a regional economic union of fifteen countries located in West Africa.

The union was established on 28 May 1975, with the signing of the Treaty of Lagos, with its stated mission to promote economic integration across the region. A revised version of the treaty was agreed and signed on 24 July 1993 in Cotonou. Considered one of the pillar regional blocs of the continent-wide African Economic Community (AEC), the states goal of ECOWAS is to achieve "collective self-sufficiency" for its member states by creating a single large trade bloc by building a full economic and trading union.

ECOWAS also serves as a peacekeeping force in the region, with member states occasionally sending joint military forces to intervene in the bloc's member countries at times of political instability and unrest. In recent years these included interventions in Ivory Coast in 2003, Liberia in 2003, Guinea-Bissau in 2012, Mali in 2013, and Gambia in 2017.

The member States of ECOWAS are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.





Q.65) The mind of the makers of the Constitution of India is reflected in which of the following?

- a) The Preamble
- b) The Fundamental Rights
- c) The Directive Principles of State Policy
- d) The Fundamental Duties

Q.65) Solution (a)

Preamble is the key to open the mind of the makers.

The Preamble to a Constitution embodies the fundamental values and the philosophy, on which the Constitution is based, and the aims and objectives, which the founding fathers of the Constitution enjoined the polity to strive to achieve.

Q.66) Afrin region is located in

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Syria
- c) Iran

d) Iraq

Q.66) Solution (b)

Afrin Region is the westernmost of the three regions of the de facto autonomous Democratic Federation of Northern Syria (DFNS, most commonly known as Rojava).

Q.67) Arabica & Robusta are varieties of

- a) Tea
- b) Coffee
- c) Jute
- d) Wheat

Q.67) Solution (b)

There are basically two types of coffee consumed most commonly worldwide - Arabica and Robusta - that grow from the two main species of coffee plants: Coffee Arabica and Coffee Robusta respectively. Although there are numerous varieties of coffee plants, Arabica and Robusta are the most important from a commercial standpoint.

Arabica coffees (or Arabicas) have a delicate flavour and balanced aroma coupled with a sharp and sweet taste. They have about half the amount of caffeine compared to Robustas. Arabicas are harvested between November to January, and are typically grown on higher altitudes ranging from 600 to 2000 metres in cool, moisture-rich and subtropical weather conditions. They require nutrient-rich soil to be able to conform to the highest international coffee standards.

Robusta coffees (or Robustas) have twice the level of caffeine compared to Arabicas. Robusta coffees have a very strong taste, a grainy essence and an aftertaste somewhat similar to that of peanuts. It is possible to grow this variety at lower heights. Robusta coffee plants are harvested from December to February, and can better withstand the onslaught of unfriendly weather and plant pests.

Robustas have a better yield and take less time to bear fruit than Arabicas. Although the Arabica variety is preferred in international markets, high quality Robustas are also highly sought after in espressos due to their strong taste and the crema¹ that they help generate.

Q.68) Consider the following statements about Nagarjunsagar-Srisaïlam Tiger Reserve

1. It is located at the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border
2. The area consists mostly of Nilgiri Hills

Select the correct statements

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

Q.68) Solution (d)

Nagarjunsagar-Srisaïlam Tiger Reserve is the largest tiger reserve in India . The reserve spreads over five districts, Kurnool District, Prakasam District, Guntur District, Nalgonda District and Mahbubnagar district.

Q.69) Cassowary is found in which of the following places?

1. Papua New Guinea
2. Indonesia
3. Australia

Select the correct code:

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

Q.69) Solution (d)

Cassowaries, genus *Casuarius*, are ratites (flightless birds without a keel on their sternum bone) that are native to the tropical forests of New Guinea (Papua New Guinea and Indonesia), nearby islands, and northeastern Australia.

Q.70) Great Indian Hornbill is found in

1. Bhutan
2. Thailand
3. Mongolia

Select the correct code:

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

Q.70) Solution (a)

Great Indian Hornbill has a wide distribution, occurring in China (rare resident in west and south-west Yunnan and south-east Tibet), India (locally fairly common, but declining), Nepal (local and uncommon, largely in protected areas), Bhutan (fairly common), Bangladesh (vagrant), Myanmar (scarce to locally common resident throughout), Thailand (widespread, generally scarce but locally common), Laos (formerly common; currently widespread but scarce and a major decline has occurred), Vietnam (rare and declining resident), Cambodia (rare), peninsular Malaysia (uncommon to more or less common) and on Sumatra, Indonesia (now rare).

The bulk of the population is found in India, where it is restricted to the Himalayan foothills, hill forests in northeast India and, disjunctly, the wet evergreen forests of west India. In the north and northeast there continue to be records from Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram, while in the wet western forests it occurs in Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu

Q.71) Patagonia region is shared between

- a) Israel and Palestine
- b) Indonesia and Papua New Guinea
- c) Chile and Argentina
- d) Norway and Sweden

Q.71) Solution (c)

Patagonia is a sparsely populated region located at the southern end of South America, shared by Argentina and Chile. The region comprises the southern section of the Andes mountains as well as the deserts, pampas and grasslands east of this southern portion of the Andes. Patagonia has two coasts: western facing the Pacific Ocean and eastern facing the Atlantic Ocean.



Q.72) Yucatan Peninsula comprises of which of the following countries?

1. Belize
2. Guatemala
3. Mexico

Select the correct code:

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

Q.72) Solution (d)

The peninsula comprises the Mexican states of Yucatán, Campeche, and Quintana Roo; the northern part of the nation of Belize; and Guatemala's northern El Petén Department.

The Yucatan Peninsula is an area in south-eastern Mexico that separates the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Yucatan is known for its tropical rainforests and jungles, as well as its being the home of the ancient Maya people. Because it is located in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, the Yucatan Peninsula is prone to hurricanes which usually hit during the Atlantic hurricane season from June through November.



Q.73) Consider the following statements about 'Opioid substitution therapy'

1. It supplies illicit drug users with a replacement drug
2. The driving principle behind this therapy is that the patient experiences reduced symptoms of drug withdrawal and less intense drug cravings

Select the correct statements

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

Q.73) Solution (c)

Opioid replacement therapy (ORT), also called opioid substitution therapy or opioid maintenance therapy, is a drug therapy that involves replacing an opioid, such as heroin, with a longer acting but less euphoric opioid. Commonly used drugs for ORT are methadone or buprenorphine which are taken under medical supervision.

The driving principle behind ORT is the program's capacity to facilitate a resumption of stability in the user's life, while the patient experiences reduced symptoms of drug withdrawal and less intense drug cravings; a strong euphoric effect is not experienced as a result of the treatment drug.

Opioids are substances that act on opioid receptors to produce morphine-like effects. Medically they are primarily used for pain relief, including anaesthesia.

Opioid use disorder is a medical condition characterized by a problematic pattern of opioid use that causes clinically significant impairment or distress. It often includes a strong desire

to use opioids, increased tolerance to opioids, and withdrawal syndrome when opioids are abruptly discontinued. Addiction and dependence are components of a substance use disorder and addiction represents the most severe form of the disorder. Opioid dependence can manifest as physical dependence, psychological dependence, or both.

Opioids include substances such as morphine, heroin, codeine, and oxycodone.

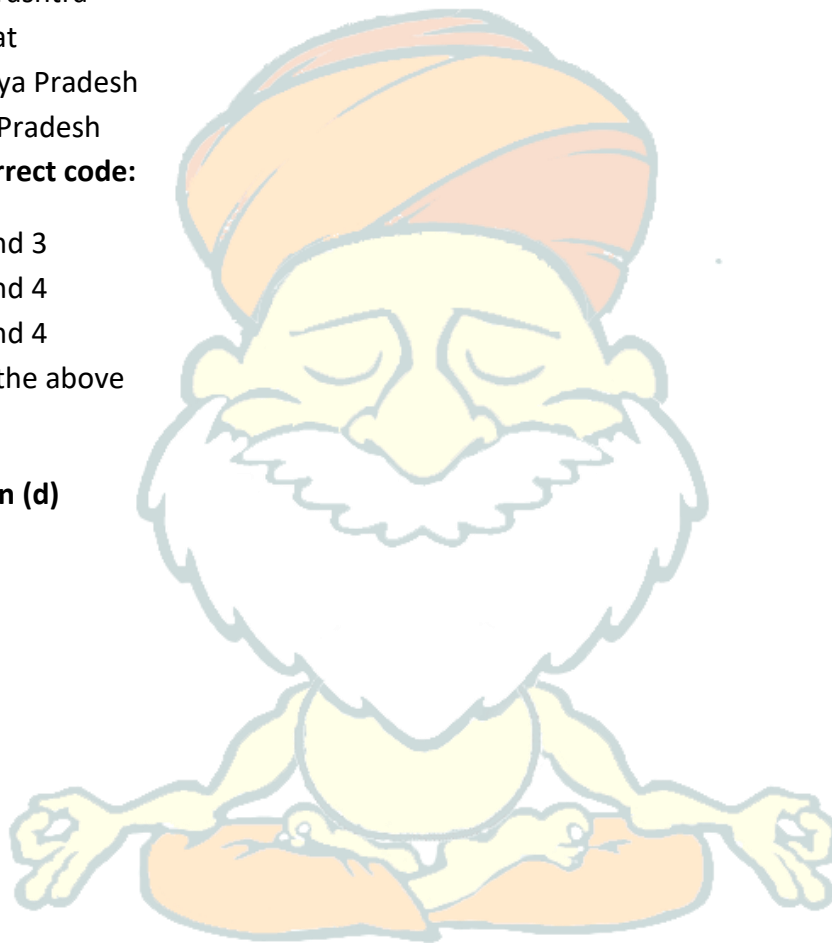
Q.74) Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor passes through which of the following states?

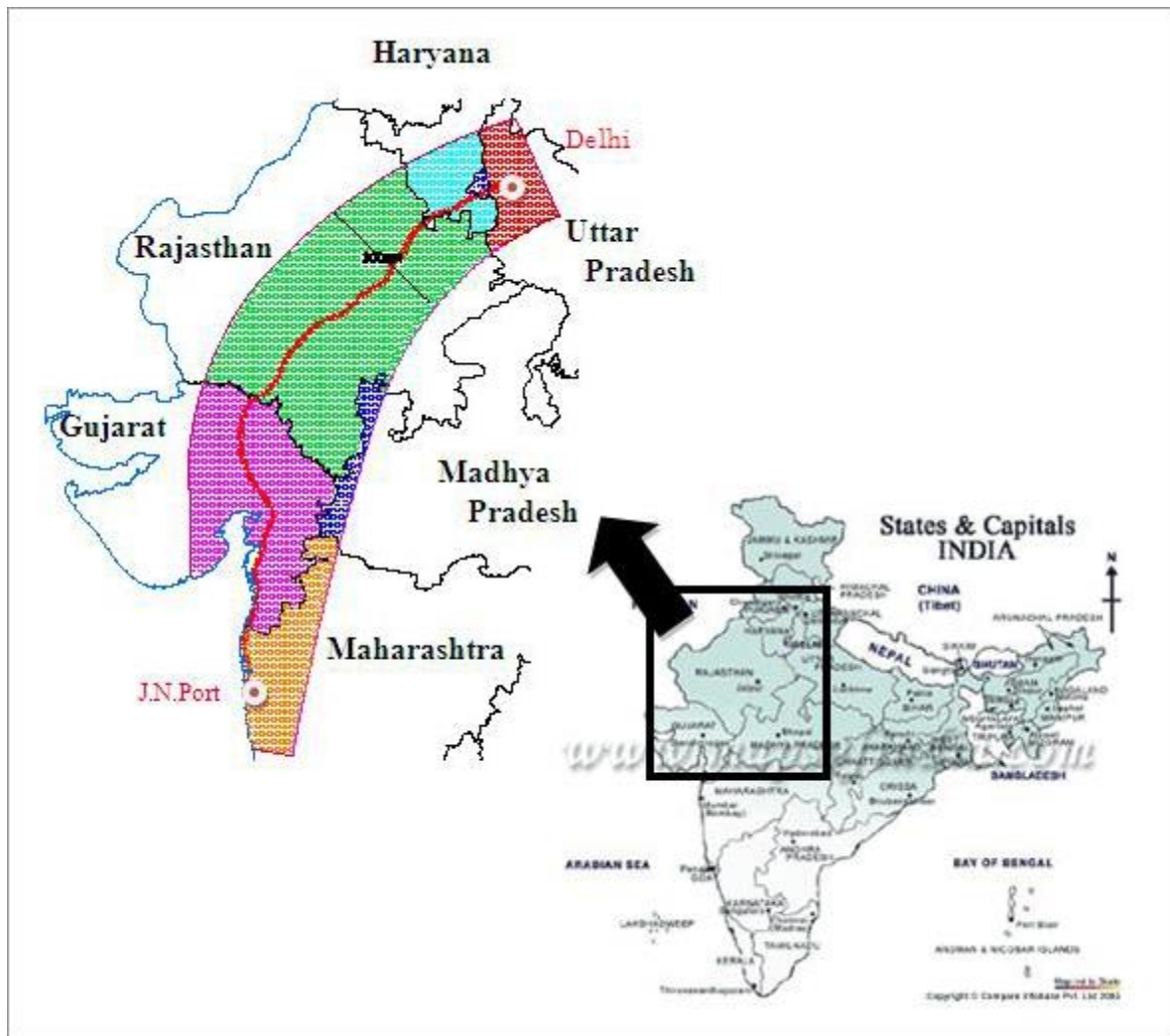
1. Maharashtra
2. Gujarat
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Uttar Pradesh

Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 1, 2 and 4
- c) 2, 3 and 4
- d) All of the above

Q.74) Solution (d)





Q.75) 'BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustain-able Forest Landscapes' is managed by the

- a) Asian Development Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) United Nations Environment Programme
- d) World Bank

Q.75) Solution (d)

The BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL) is a multilateral fund, supported by donor governments and managed by the World Bank. It seeks to promote reduced greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector, from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+), and from sustainable agriculture, as well as smarter land-use planning, policies and practices.

Q.76) Global Corruption Index is released by

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

Q.76) Solution (c)

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

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

Q.77) 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.77) 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.78) Which of the following countries has the largest coastline?

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

Q.78) 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.79) N Gopalswami Committee is associated with

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

Q.79) 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.

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.80) Cyclone Gita affected which of the following?

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

Q.80) 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>

Q.81) Consider the following statements about naval exercise MILAN

1. It is conducted under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command
2. All the members of Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IORARC) participate in the exercise

Select the correct statements

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

Q.81) Solution (a)

MILAN is a congregation of littoral navies conducted biennially by the Indian Navy under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command.

The participating nations include Australia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Vietnam, Thailand, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya and Cambodia.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-to-host-naval-exercise-amid-chinas-manoeuving-in-high-seas/articleshow/63070198.cms>

Q.82) Consider the following statements about Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IORARC)

1. It is the brainchild of South Africa and India
2. Maldives is not a member state

Select the correct code:

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

Q.82) Solution (c)

The Indian Ocean Rim Association is an inter-governmental organisation which was established on 7 March 1997. The vision for IORA originated during a visit by late President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to India in 1995.

Members - Commonwealth of Australia, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Union of Comoros, Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Madagascar, Malaysia, Republic of Mauritius, Republic of Mozambique, Sultanate of Oman, Republic of Seychelles, Republic of Singapore, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of South Africa, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Kingdom of Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Republic of Yemen.

Q.83) Consider the following statements about Ruttom-2

1. It is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance drone (MALE)
2. It is being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation
3. It can fly missions on manual as well as autonomous modes

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2

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

Q.83) Solution (d)

Rustom 2 can fly missions on manual as well as autonomous modes. The onboard way-point navigation system allows the drone to conduct missions autonomously.

The medium-altitude prototype can fly at over 22,000 ft and is a long-endurance (MALE) UAV that has an approximate flight time of 20 hours.

It is being developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation for the three services, Indian Army, Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force of the Indian Armed Forces.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rustom-2-uav-successfully-test-flown/article22852178.ece>

Q.84) 'Samruddhi Corridor' connects which of the following cities?

- a) Mumbai and Ahmedabad
- b) Mumbai and Nagpur
- c) Bengaluru and Chennai
- d) Delhi and Jaipur

Q.84) Solution (b)

The project, called Samruddhi Corridor, is a 700-km expressway connecting Mumbai with Nagpur.

Officially called the Nagpur Mumbai Super Communication Expressway (NMSCE), the project is estimated to cost Rs 46,000 crore and will pass through Nagpur, Buldhana, Amravati, Wardha, Washim, Thane, Aurangabad, Akola, Bhiwandi and Nashik districts.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/spv-to-accelerate-nagpur-mumbai-samruddhi-corridor/article22614376.ece>

Q.85) Consider the following statements about 'Heavy Water'

1. It is water composed of the hydrogen isotope with a mass double that of ordinary hydrogen, and oxygen.
2. Heavy Water Board (HWB) is a constituent unit under the Department of Atomic Energy
3. It is used as a moderator of neutrons in nuclear power plants

Select the correct statements

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

Q.85) Solution (d)

Heavy water (D₂O), also called deuterium oxide, water composed of deuterium, the hydrogen isotope with a mass double that of ordinary hydrogen, and oxygen. (Ordinary water has a composition represented by H₂O.) Thus, heavy water has a molecular weight of about 20 (the sum of twice the atomic weight of deuterium, which is 2, plus the atomic weight of oxygen, which is 16), whereas ordinary water has a molecular weight of about 18 (twice the atomic weight of ordinary hydrogen, which is 1, plus oxygen, which is 16).

Heavy Water Board (HWB) is a constituent unit under the Department of Atomic Energy in the Government of India. The organisation is primarily responsible for production of Heavy Water (D₂O) which is used as a 'moderator' and 'Coolant' in nuclear power as well as research reactors. Other than Heavy Water, HWB is also engaged with production of different types of nuclear grade solvents and extraction of rare materials. India is one of the largest manufacturers of heavy water in the world.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176760>

Q.86) We live in an era called

- a) Paleozoic
- b) Mesozoic
- c) Cenozoic
- d) Mesoproterozoic

Q.86) Solution (c)

The Cenozoic Era is the current geological era, covering the period from 66 million years ago to the present day.

The Cenozoic is also known as the Age of Mammals, because of the large mammals that dominate it. The continents also moved into their current positions during this era.

The Cenozoic Era is generally divided into three periods: the Paleogene (66 million to 23 million years ago), the Neogene (23 million to 2.6 million years ago), and the Quaternary (2.6 million years ago to the present); however, the era has been traditionally divided into the Tertiary and Quaternary periods.

Q.87) 'Bengal Florican' is found in which of the following countries?

1. India
2. Vietnam
3. Cambodia

Select the correct code:

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

Q.87) Solution (d)

Native: Cambodia; India; Nepal; Viet Nam

Possibly extinct: Bangladesh

Bengal florican, also called Bengal bustard, is a bustard species native to the Indian subcontinent, Cambodia and Vietnam.

It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List because fewer than 1,500 individuals were estimated to be alive as of 2013. It is the only member of the genus *Houbaropsis*.

It has two disjunct populations, one in the Indian subcontinent, another in Southeast Asia. The former occurs from Uttar Pradesh (India) through the Terai of Nepal to Assam (where it is called ulu mora) and Arunachal Pradesh in India, and historically to Bangladesh. The South East Asian population occurs in Cambodia and perhaps adjacent southern Vietnam.

Q.88) Consider the following statements about 'Heavy water'

1. It is radioactive
2. It is a form of water that contains Hydrogen-3 (tritium)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.88) Solution (d)

Heavy Water is a form of water that contains a larger than normal amount of the hydrogen isotope deuterium (2H or D , also known as heavy hydrogen), rather than the common hydrogen-1 isotope (1H or H , also called protium) that makes up most of the hydrogen in normal water.

Heavy water is not radioactive. Hydrogen (1H) has three naturally occurring isotopes, sometimes denoted 1H , 2H , and 3H . The first two of these are stable while 3H has a half-life of 12.32 years.

Q.89) United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267 is concerned with which of the following countries?

- a) Syria
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Libya
- d) Iraq

Q.89) Solution (b)

United Nations Security Council resolution 1267 was adopted unanimously on 15 October 1999. After recalling resolutions 1189 (1998), 1193 (1998) and 1214 (1998) on the situation in Afghanistan, the Council designated Osama bin Laden and associates as terrorists and established a sanctions regime to cover individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden and/or the Taliban wherever located.

Q.90) Consider the following statements about SARAS

1. It is India's indigenous light transport aircraft
2. It is designed and developed by the CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories
3. It will only be used for military purposes

Select the correct statements

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

Q.90) Solution (a)

It is the first Indian multi-purpose civilian aircraft in the light transport aircraft category as designed by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL).

The HAL has been identified as the production agency for the military version of Saras, while production of the civil version will be given to identified private industries.

It will be ideal for commuter connectivity under the Centre's UDAAN Scheme for variety of applications like air taxi, aerial search and survey, executive transport, disaster management, border patrol, coast guard, ambulance and other community services

Q.91) Consider the following statements about 'Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves'

1. It is a public-private partnership hosted by the UN Foundation
2. Alliance's focus countries are all located in Asia and Africa

Select the correct statements

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

Q.91) Solution (a)

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a non-profit organization operating under the support of the United Nations Foundation. It is a public-private partnership hosted by the UN Foundation. Their work focuses on improving health and environment through encouraging changes in cooking methods and types of stoves used in developing countries to pollute less and reduce indoor air pollution.

The Alliance's 100 by '20 goal calls for 100 million households to adopt clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels by 2020. We are working with a strong network of public, private and non-profit partners to accelerate the production, deployment, and use of clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels in developing countries.

Focus Countries - Bangladesh, China, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda

Q.92) Consider the following statements about 'Starlink Constellation'

1. It is a proposed constellation of approximately 882 satellites WorldVu Satellites and Samsung
2. It is expected to provide global Internet broadband service

Select the correct statements

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

Q.92) Solution (b)

Starlink is a satellite constellation development project underway by SpaceX, to develop a low-cost, high-performance satellite bus and requisite customer ground transceivers to implement a new space-based Internet communication system.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/spacex-deploys-satellites-to-bring-internet-to-all-5074775/>

Q.93) Consider the following statements

1. Letter of undertaking (LOU) are used by a bank's customer to avail short-term credit in a foreign country
2. Nostro account refers to an account that a bank holds in a foreign currency in another bank

Select the correct statements

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

Q.93) Solution (c)

LoU is a widely accepted provision of bank guarantees known as a letter of undertaking (LOU) under which a bank can allow its customer to raise money from another Indian bank's foreign branch in the form of a short term credit. The LOU serves the purpose of a bank guarantee for a bank's customer for making payment to its offshore suppliers in the foreign currency.

Nostro account refers to an account that a bank holds in a foreign currency in another bank.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/business/what-is-an-lou-letter-of-undertaking-five-things-to-know-1814314>

Q.94) Svalbard is an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean under the full sovereignty of

- a) Sweden
- b) Finland
- c) Greenland
- d) Norway

Q.94) Solution (d)

Svalbard is a Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. Situated north of mainland Europe, it is about midway between continental Norway and the North Pole. The largest island is Spitsbergen, followed by Nordaustlandet and Edgeøya.

Svalbard is an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean under the full sovereignty of Norway, but is subject to the special status granted by the Svalbard Treaty.

The Svalbard Treaty or the Spitsbergen Treaty, recognises the sovereignty of Norway over the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, at the time called Spitsbergen. The exercise of sovereignty is, however, subject to certain stipulations, and not all Norwegian law applies. The treaty regulates the demilitarisation of the archipelago. The signatories were given equal rights to engage in commercial activities (mainly coal mining) on the islands. As of 2012, Norway and Russia are making use of this right.

Uniquely, the archipelago is an entirely visa-free zone under the terms of the Svalbard Treaty.

The treaty was signed on 9 February 1920 and submitted for registration in the League of Nations Treaty Series on 21 October 1920. There were 14 original High Contracting Parties,

including: the United States, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (including British overseas dominions of Canada, Australia, India, South Africa and New Zealand). Several additional nations signed within the next five years before the treaty came into force, including the Soviet Union in 1924 and Germany and China in 1925.

Of the original signatories, Japan was the last to ratify the treaty on 2 August 1925. On 14 August 1925, the treaty came into force.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/whats-inside-the-svalbard-global-seed-vault/article22858978.ece>

Q.95) The Investment Dispute Settlement Navigator (IDSN) is compiled by

- a) World Trade Organization
- b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- c) World Fair Trade Organisation
- d) None of the above

Q.95) Solution (b)

The Investment Dispute Settlement Navigator (IDSN), compiled by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), reviews the number of investor-state disputes arising out of investment treaties twice a year.

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/1L1GGswm0w2c7qfmiVfrZN/Have-treaty-arbitration-cases-hurt-Indias-investmentfriend.html>