## Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'Narcondam Hornbill'

- 1. It is endemic to Andaman Islands
- 2. It is a migratory bird
- 3. It is listed as 'endangered' according to IUCN

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.1) Solution (c)

This species is endemic to the tiny (6.82 km2) island of Narcondam, east of the Andaman Islands, India. It is a non-migratory resident bird. The Narcondam hornbill has the smallest home range out of all the species of Asian hornbills.

IUCN status – Endangered.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/narcondamhornbills-edge-back-from-the-brink/article22334830.ece

## Q.2) Agariyas is a group of people known for Salt Farming. They are from which of the following state?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Gujarat 🦰
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Odisha 🥌

### Q.2) Solution (b)

There is a group known as the Agariya in Gujarat that are salt makers in the desert.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/in-photos-the-rann-ofthe-agariyas/article22334079.ece

# Q.3) Consider the following statements about 'Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)'

- 1. It is an inter-governmental organisation
- 2. The Blue Flag is a certification by the FEE that a beach, marina or sustainable boating tourism operator meets its stringent standards

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.3) Solution (b)

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development through environmental education. FEE is active through five programmes; Blue Flag, Eco-Schools, Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE), Learning about Forests (LEAF) and Green Key.

The Blue Flag is a certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) that a beach, marina or sustainable boating tourism operator meets its stringent standards.

Source: <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/environment-ministry-launches-pilot-project-for-beach-clean-up/articleshow/62211880.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/environment-ministry-launches-pilot-project-for-beach-clean-up/articleshow/62211880.cms</a>

#### Q.4) Ticks and mites are actually

- a) Myriapods
- b) Crustaceans
- c) Insects
- d) Arachnids

### Q.4) Solution (d)

Arachnids are a class (Arachnida) of joint-legged invertebrate animals (arthropods), in the subphylum Chelicerata. All arachnids have eight legs, although the front pair of legs in some species has converted to a sensory function, while in other species, different appendages can grow large enough to take on the appearance of extra pairs of legs. Spiders are the

largest order in the class, which also includes scorpions, ticks, mites, harvestmen, and solifuges.

Almost all extant arachnids are terrestrial, living mainly on land. However, some inhabit freshwater environments and, with the exception of the pelagic zone, marine environments as well. They comprise over 100,000 named species.

## Q.5) The purpose of the inclusion of Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian Constitution is to establish:

- a) Political democracy
- b) Social democracy
- c) Gandhian democracy
- d) Social and economic democracy

## Q.5) Solution (d)

The idea of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) has been borrowed from Irish constitution and enumerated in Part IV (Article 36-51) of our constitution. The concept behind DPSP is to establish a 'Welfare State' rather than a 'Police State' such as of colonial era. In other words, motive behind inclusion of DPSP is to establish social and economic democracy rather than Political democracy. These are the basic principles or instructions to government while formulating laws/policies and executing them.

## Q.6) Consider the following statements about 'Nyctibatrachus'

- 1. They are called as night frogs
- 2. They are 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.6) Solution (c)

Nyctibatrachus is a genus of frogs endemic to the Western Ghats of southwestern India. Their common name is night frogs. Their scientific name also means "night frog", in reference to their habits and dark colour.

Source: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/malabar-sanctuary-home-to-new-night-frog/article22333739.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/malabar-sanctuary-home-to-new-night-frog/article22333739.ece</a>

## Q.7) Consider the following statements about 'Epiphytes'

- 1. They are parasitic on the supporting plants
- 2. Most epiphytes are found in moist tropical areas

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.7) Solution (b)

An epiphyte is an organism that grows on the surface of a plant and derives its moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, water (in marine environments) or from debris accumulating around it. Epiphytes take part in nutrient cycles and add to both the diversity and biomass of the ecosystem in which they occur like any other organism. They are an important source of food for many species. Typically, the older parts of a plant will have more epiphytes growing on them. Epiphytes differ from parasites in that epiphytes grow on other plants for physical support and do not necessarily negatively affect the host.

Epiphyte species make good houseplants due to their minimal water and soil requirements. Epiphytes provide a rich and diverse habitat for other organisms including animals, fungi, bacteria, and myxomycetes.

Assemblages of large epiphytes occur most abundantly in moist tropical forests, but mosses and lichens occur as epiphytes in almost all biomes.

### Two news ginger species discovered -

- Hedychium chingmeianum was located in Nagaland, while Caulokaempferia was found in Manipur
- Both the plants are from the family of Zingiberaceae

Hedychium chingmeianum, the species discovered in Tuensang district, is an epiphytic plant and grows on tall trees, while Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis was found growing in rock crevices, boulders and humus rich soil in the Shirui Hills

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/2-new-gingerspecies-found-in-the-northeast/article22339509.ece

## Q.8) Consider the following statements about SOFIA

- 1. It is an airborne observatory
- 2. It is a joint project of NASA and the German Aerospace Centre, DLR

### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.8) Solution (c)

The Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) is an 80/20 joint project of NASA and the German Aerospace Center (DLR)[1] to construct and maintain an airborne observatory. NASA awarded the contract for the development of the aircraft, operation of the observatory and management of the American part of the project to the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) in 1996. The DSI (Deutsches SOFIA Institut) manages the German parts of the project which are primarily science and telescope related. SOFIA's telescope saw first light on May 26, 2010. SOFIA is the successor to the Kuiper Airborne Observatory.

Source: http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/nasas-flying-telescopesofia-to-study-saturns-moon-comets-in-2018-5007609/

## Q.9) Which of the following are breeds of cattle?

- Mehsani
- 2. Sahiwal
- 3. Rathi

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.9) Solution (b)

6 indigenous breeds of cattle (Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Kankrej, Tharparkar and Hariana)

6 buffalo breeds (Murrah, Mehsani, Jaffarabadi, Nili Ravi, Pandharpuri and Banni)

Source: <a href="http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/scheme-to-promote-">http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/scheme-to-promote-</a> increase-in-milk-production-117122900612 1.html

## Q.10) The first to start a joint stock company to trade with India were the

- a) French
- b) Portuguese
- c) Dutch
- d) Danish

#### Q.10) Solution (c)

It was the Dutch East India Company to start a joint stock company to trade with India.

### Q.11) Consider the following statements about NARI portal

- 1. It is under the aegis of Ministry for Women and Child Development
- 2. It is an interactive portal allowing NGOs to contact the ministry and share their feedback, suggestions, grievances and their best practices

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.11) Solution (a)

Union Minister for Women and Child Development launched a web portal, NARI, which will provide information on all government schemes for women.

Users can log on to www.nari.nic.in to access information on different programmes offered by various state governments as well as the Centre

The NARI portal carries details on 350 different schemes for women and will be updated from time to time.

The schemes are divided into seven different categories -- education, health, employment, housing and shelter, addressing violence, decision making and social support.

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/manekagandhi-launches-nari-portal-for-schemes-for-women/articleshow/62337034.cms

## Q.12) Consider the following statements about the "e-Samvad" portal

- 1. It provides a platform for NGOs and Civil Societies to interact with various ministries
- 2. It was launched by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.12) Solution (d)

Concerned Ministry - Women and Child Development

Through the "e-Samvad" portal, NGOs and Civil Societies can provide their feedback, suggestions, put up grievances and share best practices helping in the formulation of effective policies and measures for welfare of women and children.

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/manekagandhi-launches-nari-portal-for-schemes-for-women/articleshow/62337034.cms

## Q.13) Consider the following statements about SWAYAM PRABHA

- 1. It is a project under Ministry of Human Resource Development
- 2. It is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite
- 3. It is maintained by Information and Library Network Centre

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.13) Solution (d)

The SWAYAM PRABHA is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite. Every day, there will be new content for at least (4) hours which would be repeated 5 more times in a day, allowing the students to choose the time of their convenience. The channels are uplinked from BISAG, Gandhinagar. The contents are provided by NPTEL, IITs, UGC, CEC, IGNOU, NCERT and NIOS. The INFLIBNET Centre maintains the web portal.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/more-channels-to-trainteachers/article22340444.ece

## Q.14) Consider the following statements

- 1. 'Operation Pawan' was the operation by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to take control of Jaffna from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
- 2. 'Operation Meghdoot' was the operation by the Indian Armed Forces to capture the Siachen Glacier

#### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.14) Solution (c)

Operation Meghdoot was the code-name for the Indian Armed Forces operation to capture the Siachen Glacier in the Kashmir region, precipitating the Siachen Conflict. Launched on 13 April 1984, this military operation was unique as the first assault launched in the world's highest battlefield. The military action resulted in Indian troops gaining control of the entire Siachen Glacier.

Operation Pawan was the code name assigned to the operation by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to take control of Jaffna from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), better known as the Tamil Tigers, in late 1987 to enforce the disarmament of the LTTE as a part of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. In brutal fighting lasting about three weeks, the IPKF took control of the Jaffna Peninsula from the LTTE, something that the Sri Lankan Army had tried but failed to do.

Source: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/despite-protests-defence-ministrysticks-to-rs-10000-monthly-cap-on-tuition-hostel-fee-for-martyrschildren/articleshow/62340084.cms

## Q.15) Consider the following statements about 'Symbiodinium'

- 1. It is one of the genera of dinoflagellate
- 2. They live inside coral polyps and provide the coral with food via photosynthesis

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.15) Solution (c)

Symbiodinium is a genus that encompasses the largest and most prevalent group of endosymbiotic dinoflagellates known. These unicellular algae commonly reside in the endoderm of tropical cnidarians such as corals, sea anemones, and jellyfish, where the products of their photosynthetic processing are exchanged in the host for inorganic molecules. They are also harbored by various species of sponge, flatworms, mollusks such as the giant clams, foraminifera (soritids), and some ciliates. Generally, these dinoflagellates enter the host cell through phagocytosis, persist as intracellular symbionts, reproduce, and disperse to the environment. The exception is in most mollusks, where Symbiodinium are intercellular (between the cells). Cnidarians that are associated with Symbiodinium occur

mostly in warm oligotrophic (nutrient-poor), marine environments where they are often the dominant constituents of benthic communities. These dinoflagellates are therefore among the most abundant eukaryotic microbes found in coral reef ecosystems.

Symbiodinium are colloquially called "zooxanthellae", and animals symbiotic with algae in this genus are said to be "zooxanthellate". The term was loosely used to refer to any goldenbrown endosymbionts, including diatoms and other dinoflagellates.

Genus Symbiodinium is important to coral reefs because they live inside coral polyps and provide the coral with food via photosynthesis.

Source: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/ancient-jumping-genes-may-give-">http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/ancient-jumping-genes-may-give-</a> corals-new-lease-of-life/article22347207.ece

## Q.16) Status of classical languages has been given to which of the following languages?

- 1. Marathi
- 2. Kannada
- 3. Odia

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.16) Solution (b)

As of now, six languages i.e. Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia and Sanskrit have been given the status of classical languages.

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/classicallanguage-status-to-marathi-under-active-considerationgovernment/articleshow/62327549.cms

#### Q.17) Consider the following statements Bhima Koregaon battle

- 1. It was one of the battles of Second Anglo-Maratha War
- 2. The Peshwa faction was led by Peshwa Baji Rao II in the battle

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.17) Solution (b)

The Battle of Koregaon was fought on 1 January 1818 between the British East India Company and the Peshwa faction of the Maratha Confederacy, at Koregaon Bhima. A 28,000-strong force led by Peshwa Baji Rao II intended to attack Pune, which was held by the British. On their way, they were met by an 800-strong Company force that was on its way to reinforce the British troops in Pune.

It was during the Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817–1818).

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/battle-over-a-200-year-old-battle-was-bhima-koregaon-really-a-brahmin-dalittussle/articleshow/62349485.cms

## Q.18) Consider the following statements about 'Humpback Whale'.

- 1. They are sexually dimorphic in nature
- 2. They have been listed as endangered in IUCN red list

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.18) Solution (a)

IUCN Status – Least Concern

It is a species of baleen whale.

Humpback whales are sexually dimorphic, with females tending to be slightly longer than males. Their flippers are extremely long, about one-third of their total body length. These whales have a small dorsal fin that can be shaped like a small hump or a triangular shaped fin. Humpback whale flukes have a variable colour and have a serrated or a toothed edge. They have bumps on their heads and lower jaws that have small stiff hairs.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/humpback-whale-inkerala/article22353403.ece

## Q.19) The Prime Minister of India, at the time of his/her appointment

- a) Need not necessarily be a member of one of the Houses of the Parliament but must become a member of one of the Houses within six months
- b) Need not necessarily be a member of one of the Houses of the Parliament but must become a member of the Lok Sabha within six months
- c) Must be a member of one of the Houses of the parliament
- d) Must be a member of the Lok Sabha

## Q.19) Solution (a)

To be a PM a person need not be an MP but he has to become one within 6 months of being appointed or else his appointment become void.

## Q.20) A deadlock between the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha calls for a joint sitting of the parliament during the passage of

- 1. Money Bill
- 2. Constitution Amendment Bill

### Select the correct code:

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

#### Q.20) Solution (d)

Not all bills can be referred to a joint sitting of Parliament. There are two exceptions.

#### **Money Bill**

Under the Constitution of India, money bills require approval of the Lok Sabha only. Rajya Sabha can make recommendations to Lok Sabha, which it is not required to accept. Even if Rajya Sabha doesn't pass a money bill within 14 days, it is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses of Parliament after expiry of the above period. Therefore, a requirement to summon a joint session can never arise in the case of money bill.

#### **Constitution Amendment Bill**

 Article 368 of Indian constitution require that constitution of India can be amended by both houses of parliament by 2/3 majority. In case of disagreement between both houses, there is no provision to summon joint session of parliament.

## Q.21) Acid rain is caused by the pollution of environment by

- a) Carbon dioxide and nitrogen
- b) Carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide
- c) Ozone and carbon dioxide
- d) Nitrous oxide and sulphur dioxide

### Q.21) Solution (d)

Acid rain is a rain or any other form of precipitation that is unusually acidic, meaning that it has elevated levels of hydrogen ions (low pH). It can have harmful effects on plants, aquatic animals and infrastructure. Acid rain is caused by emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, which react with the water molecules in the atmosphere to produce acids.

### Q.22) Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in

- a) Federalism
- b) Democratic decentralisation
- c) Administrative delegation
- d) Direct democracy

#### Q.22) Solution (b)

The Local Self-government is an inevitable part of this democratic administrative system. In third world countries the matter of development is considered in the context of people's

participation and control over the administration system. The local self-government is the natural consequence of the co-ordination between democracy and democratic decentralization. The local self-government possesses political autonomy. The political ideal that exists in democratic decentralization is reflected in the local self-government. While the democratic decentralization is a political ideal of the local self-government in its institutional form. Or in other words, the theoretical basis of local self-government is democratic decentralization.

## Q.23) In which one of the following is Malta located?

- a) Baltic Sea
- b) Mediterranean Sea
- c) West Philippine Sea
- d) North Sea

## Q.23) Solution (b)

Malta is a Southern European island country consisting of an archipelago in the Mediterranean Sea.



## Q.24) Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Project is

- a) An irrigation project involving India and Myanmar
- b) A joint tourism initiative of some Asian countries
- c) A hydroelectric power project involving India, Bangladesh and Myanmar
- d) A defence and security agreement of India with its eastern neighbours

## Q.24) Solution (b)

The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) was established on November 10, 2000, at Vientiane at the First MGC Ministerial Meeting. It comprises six member countries, namely India (Look-East connectivity projects), Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The four areas of cooperation are tourism, culture, education, and transportation. The organization takes its name from the Ganga and the Mekong, two large rivers in the region.

## Q.25) During the freedom struggle, Aruna Asaf Ali was a major woman organizer of underground activity in

- a) Civil Disobedience Movement
- b) Non-cooperation Movement
- c) Quit India Movement
- d) Swadeshi Movement

#### Q.25) Solution (c)

On 8 August 1942, the All India Congress Committee passed the Quit India resolution at the Bombay session. The government responded by arresting the major leaders and all members of the Congress Working Committee and thus tried to pre-empt the movement from success. Young Aruna Asaf Ali presided over the remainder of the session on 9 August and hoisted the Congress flag at the Gowalia Tank maidan. This marked the commencement of the movement. The police fired upon the assembly at the session. Aruna was dubbed the Heroine of the 1942 movement for her bravery in the face of danger and was called Grand Old Lady of the Independence movement in her later years. Despite absence of direct leadership, spontaneous protests and demonstrations were held all over the country, as an expression of desire of India's youth to achieve independence.

## Q.26) Consider the following statements about Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- 1. It is under the auspices of United Nations
- 2. It was developed from the Advisory Group on Greenhouse Gases set up in 1985 by the International Council of Scientific Unions

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.26) Solution (c)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a scientific and intergovernmental body under the auspices of the United Nations, set up at the request of member governments, dedicated to the task of providing the world with an objective, scientific view of climate change and its political and economic impacts. It was first established in 1988 by two United Nations organizations, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and later endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 43/53. Membership of the IPCC is open to all members of the WMO and UNEP. The IPCC produces reports that support the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is the main international treaty on climate change. The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic [i.e., human-induced] interference with the climate system". IPCC reports cover "the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation."

The IPCC developed from an international scientific body, the Advisory Group on Greenhouse Gases set up in 1985 by the International Council of Scientific Unions, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to provide recommendations based on current research.

#### Q.27) Consider the following statements about Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- 1. It is a pension scheme for unorganised sector workers
- 2. The minimum age of joining APY is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.27) Solution (c)

Atal Pension Yojana (APY), a pension scheme for unorganised sector workers such as personal maids, drivers, gardeners etc, was launched in June 2015 by the government. This social security scheme was introduced as a replacement to previous government's Swavalamban Yojana NPS Lite, which wasn't well accepted by people.

In Atal Pension Yojana, for every contribution made to the pension fund, The Central Government would also co-contribute 50% of the total contribution or ₹1,000 (US\$16) per annum, whichever is lower, to each eligible subscriber account, for a period of 5 years. The minimum age of joining APY is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years. The age of exit and start of pension would be 60 years. Therefore, minimum period of contribution by the subscriber under APY would be 20 years or more.

Read More - https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/plan/heres-everything-youwant-to-know-about-atal-pension-yojana/articleshow/54558156.cms

### Q.28) Which of the following statements about Polar vortices is/are correct?

- a) They are weakest during summer and strongest during winter
- b) They rotate counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

#### Q.28) Solution (c)

A polar vortex is an upper level low-pressure area lying near the Earth's pole. There are two polar vortices in the Earth's atmosphere, which overlie the North, and South Poles. Each polar vortex is a persistent, large-scale, low pressure zone that rotates counter-clockwise at the North Pole (called a cyclone), and clockwise at the South Pole.[discuss] The bases of the two polar vortices are located in the middle and upper troposphere and extend into the stratosphere. Beneath that lies a large mass of cold, dense arctic air. The vortices weaken and strengthen from year to year. When the vortex of the arctic is strong it is well defined, there is a single vortex and the arctic air is well contained; when weaker, which it generally

is, it will break into two or more vortices; when very weak, the flow of arctic air becomes more disorganized and masses of cold arctic air can push equatorward, bringing with it a rapid and sharp temperature drop. The interface between the cold dry air mass of the pole and the warm moist air mass further south defines the location of the polar front. The polar front is centered, roughly at 60° latitude. A polar vortex strengthens in the winter and weakens in the summer due to its dependence on the temperature difference between the equator and the poles. The vortices span less than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) in diameter within which they rotate counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, and in a clockwise fashion in the Southern Hemisphere. As with other cyclones, their rotation is driven by the Coriolis effect.

Polar cyclones are low pressure zones embedded within the polar air masses, and exist yearround. The stratospheric polar vortex develops at latitudes above the subtropical jet stream. Horizontally, most polar vortices have a radius of less than 1,000 kilometres (620 mi). Since polar vortices exist from the stratosphere downward into the mid-troposphere, a variety of heights/pressure levels are used to mark its position. The 50 millibars pressure surface is most often used to identify its stratospheric location.

Polar vortices are weakest during summer and strongest during winter. Extratropical cyclones that migrate into higher latitudes when the polar vortex is weak can disrupt the single vortex creating smaller vortices (cold-core lows) within the polar air mass. Those individual vortices can persist for more than a month.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/bomb-cyclone-weather-term-takessocial-media-by-storm/article22367875.ece

## Q.29) Consider the following statements about Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)

- 1. It regulates the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities
- 2. It is under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Famers Welfare (DAC&FW)

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.29) Solution (a)

The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) was set up in 2014-15 under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Famers Welfare (DAC&FW) to help regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, potatoes and pulses were also added subsequently. The PSF scheme was transferred from DAC&FW to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DOCA) w.e.f. 1st April, 2016.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/farm-ministry-forinclusion-of-milk-in-price-stabilisation-fund-118010600731 1.html

#### Q.30) Consider the following statements about Tobacco Control Act (COTPA, 2003)

- 1. National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) looks into the enforcement of the COTPA, 2003
- 2. The Act prohibits all direct and indirect advertisements, promotion and sponsorship
- 3. The Act prohibits smoking of tobacco in public places, except in special smoking zones in hotels, restaurants and airports and open spaces

#### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.30) Solution (d)

#### **Provisions**

- The Act prohibits smoking of tobacco in public places, except in special smoking zones in hotels, restaurants and airports and open spaces. Places where smoking is restricted include auditoriums, movie theatres, hospitals, public transport (aircraft, buses, trains, metros, monorails, taxis,) and their related facilities (airports, bus stands/stations, railway stations), restaurants, hotels, bars, pubs, amusement centres, offices (government and private), libraries, courts, post offices, markets, shopping malls, canteens, refreshment rooms, banquet halls, discothèques, coffee houses, educational institutions and parks. Smoking is allowed on roads, inside one's home or vehicle. The meaning of open space has been extended to mean such spaces which is visited by public, and includes open auditorium, stadium, bus stand.
- Advertisement of tobacco products including cigarettes is prohibited. No person shall participate in advertisement of tobacco product, or allow a medium of

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publication to be used for advertisement of tobacco products. No person shall sell video-film of such advertisement, distribute leaflets, documents, or give space for erection of advertisement of tobacco products. However, restricted advertisement is allowed on packages of tobacco products, entrances of places where tobacco products are sold. Surrogate advertisement is prohibited as well under the Act.

- Tobacco products cannot be sold to person below the age of 18 years, and in places within 100 metres radius from the outer boundary of an institution of education, which includes school colleges and institutions of higher learning established or recognized by an appropriate authority.
- Tobacco products must be sold, supplied or distributed in a package which shall contain an appropriate pictorial warning, its nicotine and tar contents. Cigarette packets are required to carry pictorial warnings of a skull or scorpion or certain prescribed pictorial warnings along with the text SMOKING KILLS and TOBACCO CAUSES MOUTH CANCER in both Hindi and English.
- The Act also gives power to any police officer, not below the rank of a sub-inspector or any officer of State Food or Drug Administration or any other officer, holding the equivalent rank being not below the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police for search and seizure of premises where tobacco products are produced, stored or sold, if he suspects that the provision of the Act has been violated.
- A person who manufactures tobacco products fails to adhere to the norm related to warnings on packages on first conviction shall be punished with up to 2 years in imprisonment or with fine which can extend to Rs. 5000, in case of subsequent conviction shall be punished with up to 5 years in imprisonment or with fine which can extend to Rs. 10000.
- A fine up to Rs. 200 can be imposed for smoking in public place, selling tobacco products to minors, or selling tobacco products within a radius of 100 metres from any educational institution.
- A person who advertises tobacco products shall on first conviction shall be punished with up to 2 years in imprisonment or with fine which can extend to Rs. 1000, in case of subsequent conviction shall be punished with up to 5 years in imprisonment or with fine which can extend to Rs. 5000.
- The Act repealed The Cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975
- The owner/manager/in-charge of a public place must display a board containing the warning "No Smoking Area - Smoking here is an offence" in appropriate manner at the entrance and inside the premises. In place where tobacco products are sold must display appropriate messages like "Tobacco Causes Cancer" and "Sales of tobacco products to a person under the age of eighteen years is a punishable offence".

At present there is a National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) with one objective of ensuring effective implementation of the provisions under COTPA, 2003.

Source: http://www.dnaindia.com/jaipur/report-licence-to-kill-2573511

#### Q.31) Consider the following statements

- 1. AURA is a NASA scientific research satellite, studying the Earth's ozone layer
- 2. Montreal Protocol is aimed to regulate the production and use of chemicals that contribute to the depletion of Earth's ozone layer

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.31) Solution (c)

Aura (EOS CH-1) is a multi-national NASA scientific research satellite in orbit around the Earth, studying the Earth's ozone layer, air quality and climate. It is the third major component of the Earth Observing System (EOS) following on Terra (launched 1999) and Aqua (launched 2002). Aura follows on from the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite (UARS).

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (a protocol to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer) is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.

Source: http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/zhrinking-ozone-layer-montrealprotocol/1/1124942.html

#### Q.32) Nayachar is an emerged island in

- a) Brahmaputra
- b) Ganga
- c) Hooghly
- d) Godavari

#### Q.32) Solution (c)

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/barren-island-on-hooghly-<u>estuary-turns-into-bountiful-habitat/article22387348.ece</u>

## Q.33) Consider the following statements about National Programme for Organic **Production (NPOP)**

- 1. It involves the accreditation programme for Certification Bodies and standards for organic production
- 2. It is implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.33) Solution (a)

Ministry of Commerce has implemented the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) since 2001. The objectives of NPOP are as under:

- To provide the means of evaluation of certification programme for organic agriculture and products (including wild harvest, aquaculture, livestock products) as per the approved criteria.
- To accredit certification programmes of Certification Bodies seeking accreditation.
- To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the prescribed standards.
- To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the importing countries organic standards as per equivalence agreement between the two countries or as per importing country requirements.
- To encourage the development of organic farming and organic processing.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had issued regulations that required food companies selling organic produce to get certified with one of the two authorities — National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) or the Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS-India). Companies could also get a voluntary logo from the FSSAI that marked its produce as 'organic.'

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/come-july-label-mandatoryfor-food-certified-as-organic/article22380139.ece

## Q.34) Consider the following statements about Ionosphere

- 1. It is the part of the atmosphere that is ionized by solar radiation
- 2. It influences radio propagation to distant places on the Earth

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.34) Solution (c)

Ionosphere is the ionized part of Earth's upper atmosphere, from about 60 km (37 mi) to 1,000 km (620 mi) altitude, a region that includes the thermosphere and parts of the mesosphere and exosphere. The ionosphere is ionized by solar radiation. It plays an important role in atmospheric electricity and forms the inner edge of the magnetosphere.

Due to the ability of ionized atmospheric gases to refract high frequency (HF, or shortwave) radio waves, the ionosphere can reflect radio waves directed into the sky back towards the Earth. Radio waves directed at an angle into the sky can return to Earth beyond the horizon.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/nasa-to-launch-two-missions-to-explorenearest-space/article22373725.ece

#### Q.35) The seasonal reversal of winds is the typical characteristic of

- a) Equatorial climate
- b) Mediterranean climate
- c) Monsoon climate
- d) All of the above climates

#### Q.35) Solution (c)

Monsoon is traditionally defined as a seasonal reversing wind accompanied by corresponding changes in precipitation, but is now used to describe seasonal changes in atmospheric circulation and precipitation associated with the asymmetric heating of land and sea. Usually, the term monsoon is used to refer to the rainy phase of a seasonally changing pattern, although technically there is also a dry phase. The term is sometimes incorrectly used for locally heavy but short-term rains, although these rains meet the dictionary definition of monsoon.

## Q.36) The United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international treaty drawn at:

- a) United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 1972
- b) UN conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 1992
- c) World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002
- d) UN Climate Change Conference Copenhagen, 2009

## Q.36) Solution (b)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC or FCCC) is an international environmental treaty produced at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), informally known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro from June 3 to 14, 1992. The objective of the treaty is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

Source: http://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/the-paris-agreement-is-an-exampleof-what-is-wrong-with-the-current-framework/1008708/

#### Q.37) What are the official languages of the United Nations?

- a) English, French and Russian
- b) English, French, German and Russian
- c) English, French, Russian, Chinese and Hindi
- d) English, French, Chinese, Russian, Arabian and Spanish

### Q.37) Solution (d)

The official languages of the United Nations are the six languages that are used in UN meetings, and in which all official UN documents are written.

- Arabic (Modern Standard Arabic)
- English (British English with Oxford spelling)
- French
- Mandarin (Simplified Chinese characters)
- Russian
- Spanish

Source: http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/united-nations-hindi-in-unshashi-tharoor-sushma-swaraj-official-language-india-or-hindia-5016773/

## Q.38) Which one of the following does not border Panama?

- a) Costa Rica
- b) Pacific Ocean
- c) Colombia
- d) Venezuela

#### Q.38) Solution (d)

Panama is bordered by Costa Rica to the west, Colombia (in South America) to the southeast, the Caribbean Sea to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the south.

Source: http://www.livemint.com/Politics/AWNTKIDgQf9jEOxaM4hHjO/Panama-Papers-ED-to-issue-FEMA-notices-to-46-Indian-entitie.html

## Q.39) Which party was founded by Subhash Chandra Bose in the year 1939 after he broke away from the Congress?

- a) Indian Freedom Party
- b) Azad Hind Fauj
- c) Revolutionary
- d) Forward Block

#### Q.39) Solution (d)

The All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) is a left-wing nationalist political party in India. It emerged as a faction within the Indian National Congress in 1939, led by Subhas Chandra Bose. The party re-established as an independent political party after the independence of India. It has its main stronghold in West Bengal. The party's current Secretary-General is Debabrata Biswas. Veteran Indian politicians Sarat Chandra Bose (brother of Subhas Chandra Bose) and Chitta Basu had been the stalwarts of the party in independent India.

Source: <a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/india/forward-bloc-writes-to-pm-modi-">http://indianexpress.com/article/india/forward-bloc-writes-to-pm-modi-</a> demands-declaration-of-netajis-birthday-as-deshprem-divas-5001573/

## Q.40) Consider the following statements

- 1. Frictional unemployment when workers move from one job to another job
- 2. Invisible trade is a trade of the services like the banks, consulting and shipping companies

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.40) Solution (c)

An invisible trade is a business transaction that occurs with no exchange of tangible goods. An invisible trade involves the transfer of non-tangible goods and/or services, such as customer service, intellectual property and patents. The items involved in an invisible trade are associated with a value and can be exchanged for tangible goods.

By contrast, visible trade involves the exchange, or the import and export, of tangible goods. Examples of invisible trade include consulting, income from foreign investments, shipping services, insurance, banking and tourism. Invisible trade represents an increasing percentage of world trade.

Frictional unemployment is always present in the economy, resulting from temporary transitions made by workers and employers or from workers and employers having inconsistent or incomplete information. For example, a first-time job seeker may lack the resources or efficiency for finding the company that has the job that is available and suitable for him and as a result does not take other work, temporarily holding out for the betterpaying job. Another example of when frictional employment occurs is when a company

abstains from hiring because it believes there are not enough qualified individuals available for the job, when in actuality there is.

Frictional unemployment can be reduced by quickly matching prospective job seekers with job openings of interest. This is accomplished through the transmission of information. Through social media and job posting websites, individuals looking for jobs may now experience a quicker turnaround to get hired. This reduces the frictional unemployment level.

Frictional unemployment is the only form of unemployment that will not be reduced through monetary expansion. In fact, if monetary expansion occurs, more job openings will occur, thus potentially resulting in an increase of functional unemployment.

Source: <a href="https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/c/cyclical-unemployment/articleshow/51841660.cms">https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/c/cyclical-unemployment/articleshow/51841660.cms</a>

### Q.41) Consider the following statements about Special Marriage Act, 1954

- 1. It extends to intending spouses who are both Indian nationals living abroad
- 2. It does not provide for divorce

#### Select the correct statements

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

## Q.41) Solution (a)

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to provide a special form of marriage for the people of India and all Indian nationals in foreign countries, irrespective of the religion or faith followed by either party.

It has 3 major objectives:

- To provide a special form of marriage in certain cases,
- To provide for registration of certain marriages and,
- To provide for divorce.

Source: <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/parsi-woman-allowed-to-perform-last-rites-sc-informed/article21665528.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/parsi-woman-allowed-to-perform-last-rites-sc-informed/article21665528.ece</a>

### Q.42) Consider the following statements about Consolidated Fund of India (CFI)

- 1. All revenues received by the government by way of direct taxes and indirect taxes, money borrowed and receipts from loans given by the government flow into the CFI
- 2. No money can be withdrawn from this fund without the Parliament's approval

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.42) Solution (c)

This term derives its origin from the Constitution of India.

Under Article 266 (1) of the Constitution of India, all revenues (example tax revenue from personal income tax, corporate income tax, customs and excise duties as well as non-tax revenue such as licence fees, dividends and profits from public sector undertakings etc. ) received by the Union government as well as all loans raised by issue of treasury bills, internal and external loans and all moneys received by the Union Government in repayment of loans shall form a consolidated fund entitled the 'Consolidated Fund of India' for the Union Government.

Similarly, under Article 266 (1) of the Constitution of India, a Consolidated Fund Of State (a separate fund for each state) has been established where all revenues (both tax revenues such as Sales tax/VAT, stamp duty etc..and non-tax revenues such as user charges levied by State governments ) received by the State government as well as all loans raised by issue of treasury bills, internal and external loans and all moneys received by the State Government in repayment of loans shall form part of the fund.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India audits these Funds and reports to the Union/State legislatures when proper accounting procedures have not been followed.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-to-hear-aadhaarpetitions-on-december-14/article21571363.ece

Q.43) International law identifies which of the following as 'Global Commons'?

- 1. High Seas
- 2. Atmosphere
- 3. Antarctica
- 4. Outer Space

#### Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

## Q.43) Solution (d)

The 'Global Commons' refers to resource domains or areas that lie outside of the political reach of any one nation State. Thus international law identifies four global commons namely: the High Seas; the Atmosphere; Antarctica; and, Outer Space. These areas have historically been guided by the principle of the common heritage of humankind - the open access doctrine or the mare liberum (free sea for everyone) in the case of the High Seas. Despite efforts by governments or individuals to establish property rights or other forms of control over most natural resources, the Global Commons have remained an exception.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/out-atsea/article22289982.ece

## Q.44) Who wrote the book-'the story of the Integration of the Indian States'?

- a) B. N. Rao
- b) C.Rajagopalachari
- c) Krishna Menon
- d) V.P. Menon

#### Q.44) Solution (d)

Source: http://indianexpress.com/article/research/how-vallabhbhai-patel-v-p-menonand-mountbatten-unified-india-4915468/

#### Q.45) Yom Kippur War was fought between which sides/countries?

- a) Turkey and Greece
- b) Serbs and Croats
- c) Israel, and Arab countries led by Egypt and Syria
- d) Iran and Iraq

## Q.45) Solution (c)

Also known as the 1973 Arab-Israeli War was a war fought by a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria against Israel from October 6 to 25, 1973. The fighting mostly took place in the Sinai and the Golan Heights, territories that had been occupied by Israel since the Six-Day War of 1967.

Read More - http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/10/arab-israeli-war-of-1973-what-happened-171005105247349.html

Source: <a href="https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/up-front/story/20180108-jerusalem-">https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/up-front/story/20180108-jerusalem-</a> donald-trump-us-israel-1117510-2017-12-29

## Q.46) Consider the following statements

- 1. Article 124 of the Indian Constitution deals with 'Establishment and Constitution of Supreme Court'
- 2. Article 217 of the Indian Constitution deals with the 'Ancillary powers of Supreme Court'

#### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.46) Solution (a)

## **Article 124: Establishment and Constitution of Supreme Court**

(1) There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges.

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(2) Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years:

Provided that in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of India shall always be consulted:

Provided further that -

- (a) a Judge may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office;
- (b) a judge may be removed from his office in the manner provide in clause (4).
- (2A) The age of a Judge of the Supreme Court shall be determined by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law provide.
- (3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is a citizen of India and -
- (a) has been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or
- (b) has been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or
- (c) is, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

Explanation I: In this clause "High Court" means a High Court which exercises, or which at any time before the commencement of this Constitution exercised, jurisdiction in any part of the territory of India.

Explanation II: In computing for the purpose of this clause the period during which a a person has been an advocate, any period during which a person has held judicial office not inferior to that of a district judge after he became an advocate shall be included.

- (4) A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
- (5) Parliament may by law regulate the procedure for the presentation of an address and for the investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a Judge under clause (4).

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- (6) Every person appointed to be a Judge of the Supreme Court shall, before he enters upon his office, make and subscribe before the President, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule.
- (7) No person who has held office as a Judge of the Supreme Court shall plead or act in any court of before any authority within the territory of India.

## Article 217: Appointment and conditions of the office of a Judge of a High Court

- (1) Every Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the State, and, in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the chief Justice, the chief Justice of the High court, and shall hold office, in the case of an additional or acting Judge, as provided in Article 224, and in any other case, until he attains the age of sixty two years Provided that
- (a) a Judge may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office;
- (b) a Judge may be removed from his office by the President in the manner provided in clause (4) of Article 124 for the removal of a Judge of the Supreme Court;
- (c) the office of a Judge shall be vacated by his being appointed by the President to be a Judge of the Supreme Court or by his being transferred by the President to any other High Court within the territory of India
- (2) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge of a High Court unless he is a citizen of India and
- (a) has for at least ten years held a judicial office in the territory of India; or
- (b) has for at least ten years been an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; Explanation For the purposes of this clause
- (a) in computing the period during which a person has held judicial office in the territory of India, there shall be included any period, after he has held any judicial office, during which the person has been an Advocate of a High Court or has held the office of a member of a tribunal or any post, under the Union or a State, requiring special knowledge of law;
- (aa) in computing the period during which a person has been an advocate of a High Court, there shall be included any period during which the person has held judicial office or the office of a member of a tribunal or any post, under the Union or a State, requiring special knowledge of law after he became an advocate;
- (b) in computing the period during which a person has held judicial office in the territory of India or been an advocate of High Court, there shall be included any period before the

commencement of this Constitution during which he has held judicial office in any area which was comprised before the fifteenth day of August, 1947, within India as defined by the Government of India Act, 1935, or has been an advocate of any High Court in any such area, as the case may be

(3) If any question arises as to the age of a Judge of a High Court, the question shall be decided by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the decision of the President shall be final

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indu-malhotra-set-to-scripthistory/article22424234.ece

## Q.47) 'Mission Raftaar' is concerned with which of the following ministries?

- a) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- b) Ministry of Power
- c) Ministry of Railways
- d) None of the above

## Q.47) Solution (c)

Mission Raftaar - Raise average speed of both passenger carrying trains and freight carrying trains.

It envisages a target of doubling of average speed of freight trains and increasing the average speed of all non-suburban passenger trains by 25 kmph in the next 5 years.

Principal routes have been identified for raising of speed under Mission Raftaar. These are six routes on Golden Quadrilateral and diagonals namely, Delhi – Mumbai, Delhi – Howrah, Howrah- Chennai, Chennai – Mumbai, Delhi – Chennai and Howrah – Mumbai. These six routes carry 58% of freight traffic and 52% of coaching traffic with a share of only 16% of the network. Golden Quadrilaterals and its Diagonal routes have been prioritized for replacement of loco hauled short distance passenger trains by MEMUs/DEMUs having better acceleration and deceleration characteristics for fast pickup and braking.

Source: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175373">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175373</a>

### Q.48) China is bordered with which of the following countries?

1. Uzbekistan

- North Korea
- 3. Afghanistan
- 4. Laos

#### Select the correct statements

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) 1, 2 and 4

## Q.48) Solution (b)

China also has the largest number of neighbours (14) sharing its 22,000km land borders namely: North Korea, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-to-fund-construction-ofcounter-terrorism-base-in-northern-afghanistan/article22410087.ece

## Q.49) A redistribution of income in a country can be best brought about through

- a) progressive taxation combined with progressive expenditure
- b) progressive taxation combined with regressive expenditure
- c) regressive taxation combined with regressive expenditure
- d) regressive taxation combined with progressive expenditure

## Q.49) Solution (b)

A progressive tax is a tax that takes a larger percentage from high-income earners than it does from low-income individuals.

If the government tends to spend more on poor in comparison to rich people then it is called regressive expenditure and if government tends to spend more on rich than on poor then it is called progressive expenditure.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/high-growth-does-not-necessarilymean-high-inequality-says-lucas-chancel/article21653028.ece

## Q.50) 'De-notified tribes' refers to

- a) tribes which are aboriginals
- b) nomadic tribes
- c) tribes practising shifting cultivation
- d) tribes which were earlier classified as criminal tribes

## Q.50) Solution (d)

Denotified Tribes (DNTs) are the tribes that were originally listed under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, as "Criminal Tribes" and "addicted to the systematic commission of nonbailable offences."

Read More - <a href="https://thewire.in/172802/nomadic-denotified-tribes-demands/">https://thewire.in/172802/nomadic-denotified-tribes-demands/</a>

Source: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/govt-for-relief-to-denotified-nomadictribes/articleshow/62373600.cms

## Q.51) Consider the following statements about Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

- 1. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of India
- 2. Minister of Home Affairs and Minister in-charge of the concerned Ministry is part of the committee

#### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.51) Solution (a)

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) decides appointments to several top posts under the Government of India. The committee is composed of the Prime Minister of India (who is the Chairman), the Minister of Home Affairs. Originally the Minister in-charge of the concerned Ministry was also the part of the committee but as per the new notification (as on 14.7.16) the minister of concerned ministry has been excluded from the committee.

Source: http://indianexpress.com/article/india/ib-background-checks-mandatory-forregulatory-body-heads-government-5024893/

## Q.52) Consider the following statements about Battle of Haifa

- 1. It is considered as one of the bravely-contested battles of World War II
- 2. 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade helped liberate Haifa from the clutches of the Turkish-German forces

## Select the correct statements

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

## Q.52) Solution (b)

#### **Battle of Haifa**

- Indian cavalry brigades fighting under the leadership of British General Edmund Allenby helped liberate Haifa from the clutches of the Turkish-German forces.
- The Teen Murti memorial was constructed in 1922 in the memory of the Indian soldiers from three princely states namely Jodhpur, Hyderabad and Mysore who served present day Gaza strip, Israel and Palestine during the World War I under British India Army.

#### 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade

- The 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade was a brigade-sized formation that served alongside British Empire forces in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign, during the First World War.
- Originally called the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade it was formed from Imperial Service Troops provided by the Indian Princely States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Patiala and Jodhpur, which each provided a regiment of lancers.
- A maximum of three regiments served in the brigade at any one time.
- The states of Bhavnagar, Kashmir, Kathiawar and Idar provided smaller detachments for the brigade, which was at times reinforced by other British Empire regiments and artillery batteries when on operations.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/israel-pm-bejnamin-netanyahu-visitdelhis-teen-murti-chowk-renamed-teen-murti-haifa-chowk/article22440797.ece

# Q.53) In the context of the development in Bioinformatics, the term 'Transcriptome' refers to

- a) A range of enzymes used in genome editing
- b) The full range of mRNA molecules expressed by an organism
- c) The description of the mechanism of gene expression
- d) A mechanism of genetic mutations taking place in cells

#### Q.53) Solution (b)

The transcriptome is the set of all RNA molecules in one cell or a population of cells. It is sometimes used to refer to all RNAs, or just mRNA, depending on the particular experiment. It differs from the exome in that it includes only those RNA molecules found in a specified cell population, and usually includes the amount or concentration of each RNA molecule in addition to the molecular identities.

# Q.54) Which one of the following brings out the publication called "Energy Statistics" from time to time?

- a) Central Power Research Institute
- b) Planning Commission
- c) Power Finance Corporation Ltd
- d) Central Statistical Organization

#### Q.54) Solution (d)

Energy Statistics is an integrated and updated database of reserves, installed capacity, production, consumption, import, export and whole sale prices of different sources viz. coal, crude petroleum, natural gas and electricity.

#### Source:

http://www.mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication reports/Energy Statistics 2017r. pdf.pdf

# Q.55) MCA-21 is a major initiative taken up by the Government of India in which one of the following areas?

- a) Foreign direct investment in India
- b) Attracting international tourists
- c) E-governance
- d) Modernization of airports

#### Q.55) Solution (c)

MCA21 Mission Mode Project (MCA21) is the e-governance initiative from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. It is one of the 27 Mission Mode Projects of the National e-Governance Plan.

Source: http://www.financialexpress.com/industry/non-compliance-to-be-very-costlyfor-companies-says-corporate-affairs-secretary-injeti-srinivas/990649/

# Q.56) A joint Search and Rescue exercise (SAREX-18) is between India and

- a) Japan
- b) Israel
- c) US
- d) Philippines

#### Q.56) Solution (a)

SAREX-18 is a joint search and rescue exercise between India and Japan to help increase mutual understanding in Anti-Piracy operations.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/jointexercise-to-benefit-india-japan/article22433275.ece

#### Q.57) One of the implications of equality in society is the absence of

- a) Privileges
- b) Restraints
- c) Competition
- d) Ideology

#### Q.57) Solution (a)

Equality in society is The Absence of Special Privileges. Articles under Right to Equality justifies this.

# Q.58) What is 'Galileo' which has been in news recently?

- a) An intercountry programme of missile shield developed by the United States of **America**
- b) A Project developed by India with assistance from Canada
- c) An environmental protection project being developed by Japan
- d) Global Satellite Navigation System developed by the European Union

#### Q.58) Solution (d)

Galileo is Europe's Global Satellite Navigation System (GNSS), providing improved positioning and timing information with significant positive implications for many European services and users.

Source: http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/eu-launches-galileo-gpsnavigation-system/

#### Q.59) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Molasses is a by-product of sugar production process.
- 2. Bagasse obtained in the sugar mills is used as a fuel in the boilers to generate steam for the sugar factories.
- 3. Sugar can only be produced from sugarcane as the raw material.

#### Which of these statements are correct?

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

# Q.59) Solution (a)

# IASbaba's Daily Quiz Compilation - January 2018

Molasses is a viscous product resulting from refining sugarcane or sugar beets into sugar. Molasses varies by amount of sugar, method of extraction, and age of plant. Sugarcane molasses is agreeable in taste and aroma, and is primarily used for sweetening and flavoring foods in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere, while sugar beet molasses is foulsmelling and unpalatable, so it is mainly (mostly) used as an animal feed additive in Europe and Russia, where it is chiefly produced. Molasses is a defining component of fine commercial brown sugar.

Bagasse is the fibrous matter that remains after sugarcane stalks are crushed to extract their juice. It is dry pulpy residue left after the extraction of juice from sugar cane. Bagasse is used as a biofuel and in the manufacture of pulp and building materials.

Bagasse can also be very useful to generate electricity. Dry bagasse is burnt to produce steam. The steam is used to rotate turbines to produce power.

Sugars are found in the tissues of most plants and are present in sugarcane and sugar beet in sufficient concentrations for efficient commercial extraction. Sugar beet is a plant whose root contains a high concentration of sucrose and which is grown commercially for sugar production.

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/india-has-noplan-now-to-raise-import-tax-on-sugar/articleshow/62412494.cms

#### Q.60) Which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. Daman and Diu were separated from Goa by the 56th Amendment of the Constitution of India
- 2. Dadra and Nagar Haveli were under French colonial rule till 1954

#### Select the correct code:

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

#### Q.60) Solution (a)

56<sup>th</sup> Amendment – It confers Statehood on Goa and forms a new union territory of Daman and Diu.

After India attained Independence in 1947, the residents of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, with the help of volunteers of organisations like the United Front of Goans (UFG), the National Movement Liberation Organisation (NMLO), and the Azad Gomantak Dal, conquered the territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli from Portuguese India in 1954.

#### Q.61) Jasmine Revolution is concerned with

- a) Sudan
- b) Tunisia
- c) Algeria
- d) Libya

# Q.61) Solution (b)

The Tunisian revolution in which President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was forced out of the presidency by popular protests was called the "Jasmine Revolution".

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/after-the-spring-the-seventhanniversary-of-the-jasmine-revolution/article22444684.ece

#### Q.62) Consider the following statements about Tunisia

- 1. It is bordered by Algeria, Morocco and Libya
- 2. It opens up in Mediterranean Sea

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.62) Solution (b)

It is a sovereign state in North Africa. Its northernmost point, Cape Angela, is the northernmost point on the African continent.

It is bordered by Algeria to the west and southwest, Libya to the southeast, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north and east.



# Q.63) Mahanadi river flows through which of the following states?

- 1. Madhya Pradesh
- 2. Chhattisgarh
- 3. Odisha

#### Select the correct statements

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

# Q.63) Solution (b)

The Mahanadi is a major river in East Central India. It drains an area of around 141,600 square kilometres (54,700 sq mi) and has a total course of 858 kilometres (533 mi).[1] The river flows through the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The Mahanadi basin extends over states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha and comparatively smaller portions of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. It is bounded by the Central India hills on the north, by the Eastern Ghats on the south and east and by the Maikala range on the west. The Mahanadi is one of the major rivers of the country and among the peninsular rivers, in water potential and flood producing capacity, it ranks second to the Godavari. It originates from a pool, 6 km from Farsiya village of Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh. The total length of the river from origin to its outfall into the Bay of Bengal is 851 km. The Seonath, the Hasdeo, the Mand and the Ib joins Mahanadi from left whereas the Ong, the Tel and the

Jonk joins it from right. Six other small streams between the Mahanadi and the Rushikulya draining directly into the Chilka Lake also forms the part of the basin.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/politics/mahanadi-river-odisha-sdisputes-with-its-neighbours-can-t-be-watered-down-118011500026 1.html

#### Q.64) The Trade Disputes Act of 1929 provided for

- a) The participation of workers in the management of industries
- b) Arbitrary powers to the management to quell industrial disputes
- c) An intervention by the British Court in the event of a trade dispute
- d) A system of tribunals and a ban on strikes

#### Q.64) Solution (d)

The Trade Disputes Act, 1929 was codified for five years as an experimental measure. The main object of the Act was to make provisions for establishment of Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation with a view to investigate and settle trade disputes. The Act prohibited strikes or lock-outs without notice in public utility services; it also made any strike or lock-out illegal which had any object other than the furtherance of a trade dispute within the trade or industry in which the strikers or the employers locking out were engaged, and was designed or calculated to inflict severe, general and prolonged hardship upon the community and thereby compel Government to take or abstain from taking any particular course of action. The Act was amended in 1932 and was made permanent by the Trade Disputes (Extending) Act, 1934.

#### Read More -

http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/8113/12/12\_chapter%203.pdf

#### Q.65) Consider the following statements

- 1. The First Session of the Indian National Congress was held in Calcutta
- 2. The Second Session of the Indian National Congress was held under the president ship of Dadabhai Naoroji
- 3. Both Indian National Congress and Muslim League held their sessions at Lucknow in 1916 and concluded the Lucknow Pact

#### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2

- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 3 only

# Q.65) Solution (c)

The First session of Indian National Congress was held in Bombay. Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee was the first president of the Congress; the first session was held from 28-31 December 1885, and was attended by 72 delegates.

The Second session of the Indian National Congress was held in 1886 in Calcutta. The President of the session was Dadabhai Naoroji.

Lucknow Pact refers to an agreement reached between the moderates and extremists of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League at the joint session of both the parties, held in Lucknow, in December 1916. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, then a member of the Congress as well as the League, made both the parties reach an agreement to pressure the British government to adopt a more liberal approach to India and give Indians more authority to run their country, besides safeguarding basic Muslim demands. Jinnah is seen as the mastermind and architect of this pact.

#### Q.66) Malimath Committee is concerned with

- a) Judicial Appointment Reforms
- b) Railway Reforms
- c) Education Reforms
- d) Criminal Justice System

#### Q.66) Solution (d)

Justice Malimath Committee or The Committee on Reforms of the Criminal Justice System was constituted by the Home Ministry in 2000. It made recommendations on crime investigation and punishment.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/the-malimath-committeesrecommendations-on-reforms-in-the-criminal-justice-system-in-20points/article22457589.ece

#### Q.67) Consider the following statements about Sholas

- 1. They are patches of stunted evergreen tropical and sub-tropical moist broad leaf
- 2. They are found in valleys separated by grassland in the higher mountain regions of South India

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.67) Solution (c)

Sholas are the local name for patches of stunted tropical montane forest found in valleys amid rolling grassland in the higher montane regions of South India. These patches of shola forest are found mainly in the valleys and are usually separated from one another by undulating montane grassland. The shola and grassland together form the shola-grassland complex or mosaic.

The shola-forest and grassland complex has been described as a climatic climax vegetation with forest regeneration and expansion restricted by climatic conditions such as frost or soil characteristics while others have suggested that it may have anthropogenic origins in the burning and removal of forests by early herders and shifting agriculturists.

Shola forests are found in the higher altitude hill regions of the Nilgiris, Kanyakumari district, Idukki district, the Western Ghats and associated ranges in the states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Although generally said to occur above 2000 meters above sea level, shola forests can be found at 1600 meters elevation in many hill ranges.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/missing-the-grass-for-thetrees-in-western-ghats/article22452494.ece

# Q.68) Consider the following statements about Nilgiri pipit

- 1. They are endemic to Western Ghats
- 2. It is a non-migratory bird
- 3. It is listed as 'vulnerable' under IUCN Red List

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.68) Solution (d)

The Nilgiri pipit (Anthus nilghiriensis) is a distinctive species of pipit that is endemic to the high altitude hills of southern India. Richer brown in colour than other pipits in the region, it is distinctive in having the streaking on the breast continuing along the flanks. It is nonmigratory and has a tendency to fly into low trees when disturbed and is closely related to the tree pipits, Anthus hodgsoni and Anthus trivialis.

IUCN Status – Vulnerable

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/missing-the-grass-for-thetrees-in-western-ghats/article22452494.ece

# Q.69) World Development Indicators (WDI) is compiled by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) World Trade Organisation
- d) International Monetary Fund

# Q.69) Solution (b)

World Development Indicators (WDI) is the primary World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially-recognized international sources. It presents the most current and accurate global development data available, and includes national, regional and global estimates. This statistical reference includes over 800 indicators covering more than 150 economies. The annual publication is released in April of each year. The online database is updated three times a year.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/new-world-developmentindicators-reveal-indian-economy-is-improving-118011601508 1.html

#### Q.70) The concept of Eight-fold path forms the theme of

- a) Dipavamsa
- b) Divyavadana
- c) Mahaparinibban Sutta
- d) Dharma Chakara Pravartana Sutta

#### Q.70) Solution (d)

The Dhammachakkappavattana Sutta (Pali; Sanskrit: Dharmachakrapravartana Sūtra; English: The Setting in Motion of the Wheel of the Dharma Sutta or Promulgation of the Law Sutta) is a Buddhist text that is considered by Buddhists to be a record of the first teaching given by Gautama Buddha after he attained enlightenment. The main topic of this sutta is the Four Noble Truths, which refer to and express the basic orientation of Buddhism in a formulaic expression. This sutta also refers to the Buddhist concepts of the Middle Way (the Noble Eightfold Path), impermanence, and dependent origination.

# Q.71) Consider the following statements about 'Sangeet Natak Akademi'

- 1. It is an Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture
- 2. The Chairman is appointed by the President of India and holds office for a term of five years

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.71) Solution (c)

The Sangeet Natak Akademi - India's national academy for music, dance and drama - is the first National Academy of the arts set-up by the Republic of India. It was created by a resolution of the (then) Ministry of Education, Government of India, dated 31 May 1952 notified in the Gazette of India of June 1952. The Akademi became functional the following year, with the appointment of its first Chairman, Dr P.V. Rajamannar, and the formation of its all-India council of representatives, the General Council. The first President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad, inaugurated it on 28 January 1953 in a special function held in the Parliament House.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi is presently an Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and is fully funded by the Government for implementation of its schemes and programmes.

#### Chairman

- The Chairman shall be appointed by the President of India and shall hold office for a term of five years.
- The Chairman shall have the powers to take decisions on behalf of the General Councillor Executive Board when circumstances so warrant subject to the condition that the decision taken by the Chairman would need to be ratified by the General Councillor the executive Board as the case may be at its next meeting.
- The Chairman may delegate such of his powers as he may consider necessary to the Vice Chairman or to the Secretary.

#### Vice-Chairman

- The Vice-Chairman shall be elected by the General Council of the Akademi from among its members and shall hold office for five years. But the first Vice-Chairman shall be appointed by the Government of India.
- The Vice-Chairman shall, in the absence of the Chairman for whatever reason, exercise all the functions and power of the Chairman.

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/president-ram-nathkovind-confers-sangeet-natak-akademi-awards-fellowships/articleshow/62555453.cms

# Q.72) "Cloud AutoML" is launched by

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft
- c) Adobe
- d) Amazon

#### Q.72) Solution (a)

Google has launched "Cloud AutoML", a product that enables businesses with limited Machine Learning (ML) expertise to build high quality, custom Artificial Intelligence (AI) models to improve their product or service.

"Cloud AutoML" will let businesses and developers train custom vision models for their own use cases.

Google's first "Cloud AutoML" release is "Cloud AutoML Vision", a service that makes it faster and easier to create custom ML models for image recognition.

Its drag and drop interface lets users easily upload images, train and manage models, and then deploy those trained models directly on Google Cloud.

Source: http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/google-cloud-automl-wants-tomake-ai-accessible-for-all-businesses/

## Q.73) 'Eco mark' is given to the Indian products that are

- a) Pure and unadulterated
- b) Rich in proteins
- c) Environment friendly
- d) Economically viable

#### Q.73) Solution (c)

Eco-mark is a voluntary labelling scheme for easily identifying environment friendly products. The Eco-mark scheme defines as an environmentally friendly product, any product which is made, used or disposed of in a way that significantly reduces the harm it would otherwise cause the environment. The definition factors in all aspects of the supply chain, taking a cradle-to-grave approach, which includes raw material extraction, manufacturing and disposal.

What sets eco-mark apart from other labels is that not only does the product have to meet strict environmental requirements, but it also has to meet strict quality requirements.

The scheme is one of India's earliest efforts in environmental standards, launched in 1991, even before the 1992 Rio Summit in which India participated. The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and is administered by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which also administers the Indian Standards Institute (ISI) mark quality label, a requirement for any product to gain the Eco-mark label.

# Q.74) Which one of the following elements is essential for the construction of nuclear reactors?

- a) Cobalt
- b) Nickel
- c) Zirconium

d) Tungsten

## Q.74) Solution (c)

Zirconium is used in nuclear reactors to provide the cladding, or outer covering, for the cylindrical fuel rods that power a nuclear reaction. Packed inside the zirconium cladding are pellets of uranium oxide or other fissionable materials.

# Q.75) Which one of the following is a language of Baluchistan but linguistically Dravidian?

- a) Brahui
- b) Kui
- c) Parji
- d) Pengo

# Q.75) Solution (a)

Brahui is a Dravidian language spoken primarily by the Brahui people in the central part of Balochistan province in Pakistan, and in scattered parts of Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkmenistan, and by expatriate Brahui communities in Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Iraq. It is isolated from the nearest Dravidian-speaking neighbour population of South India by a distance of more than 1,500 kilometres (930 mi). Kalat, Khuzdar, Mastung, and parts of Quetta district of Balochistan Province are predominantly Brahui-speaking.

Source: http://www.livemint.com/Sundayapp/IWColZ2K5dPycrhS1gk6nJ/A-slice-ofsouth-India-in-Balochistan.html

# Q.76) Consider the following statements about Environment Management Group (EMG)

- 1. It is a United Nations (UN) System-wide coordination body on environment and human settlements.
- 2. It is chaired by the Executive Director of UN Environment (UNEP)
- 3. IMF and ILO are members of the group

#### Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3

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

#### Q.76) Solution (d)

The Environment Management Group (EMG) is a United Nations (UN) System-wide coordination body on environment and human settlements. It was established in 2001 pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 53/242 in July 1999.

The resolution supported the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish an environmental management group contained in his report on Environment and Human Settlements (A/53/463).

The EMG membership consists of the specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the United Nations including the secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

The group is chaired by the Executive Director of UN Environment (UNEP) and supported by a secretariat provided by UN Environment. The Secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

The EMG identifies issues on the international environmental agenda that warrant cooperation, and finds ways of engaging its collective capacity in coherent management responses to those issues.

In accordance with its Terms of Reference the EMG works through technical meetings, Issue Management Groups and task forces. Representatives of intergovernmental bodies, civil society and international non-governmental organizations can be invited to contribute.

## **Members**

- CBD
- **CITES**
- **CMS**
- FAO
- **GEF**
- **IAEA**
- ICA0
- **IFAD**
- ILO
- **IMF**
- IMO
- IOM

- ITC
- ITU
- **OCHA**
- **OHCHR**
- **UNDP**
- Ramsar
- **UNCTAD**
- **UNAIDS**
- **UNCCD**
- **UNECE**
- UNEP
- **UNESCO**
- **UNFCCC**
- **UNFPA**
- UNHABITAT
- **UNHCR**
- **UNICEF**
- **UNIDO**
- **UNOPS**
- **WIPO**
- WFP
- **UNITAR**
- **UNISDR**
- UNU
- UPU
- UNWOMEN
- **UNWTO**
- WHO
- **WMO**
- World Bank
- WTO
- CEB
- **BRS**

# Q.77) Consider the following statements about 'Cyber Surakshit Bharat' initiative

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

2. It aims to conduct a series of training programs for departments in State and Union governments, Public Sector Banks, and technical arms of the Air Force, Army and Navy

#### Select the correct statements

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

# Q.77) Solution (c)

In order to strengthen cyber security practices and awareness among the government departments, the ministry of electronics and IT has launched the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative in association with the IT industry majors. An aim of the initiative is to spread awareness about cybercrime and building capacity for safe.

Cyber Surakshit Bharat aims to conduct a series of training programs in the next six months across Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai. The audience will include CISOs and technical officials from:

- The central government
- State governments and Union Territories
- Public Sector Banks
- Public Sector Units
- Defence forces, defence PSUs and technical arms of the Air Force, Army and Navy

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/meity-launches-cybersurakshit-bharat-to-strengthen-cybersecurity-118012000191 1.html

#### Q.78) Meghalaya is bordered by

- 1. Assam
- 2. Bangladesh
- 3. Tripura

#### Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3

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

#### Q.78) Solution (a)

The state is surrounded by Assam to its north and Bangladesh to its south.

#### Q.79) Consider the following statements

- 1. Basic disqualification criteria for a Member of Parliament are laid down in Article 102 of the Constitution
- 2. The word 'office' has been defined in the Representation of the People Act of 1951

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.79) Solution (a)

Basic disqualification criteria for an MP are laid down in Article 102 of the Constitution, and for an MLA in Article 191. They can be disqualified for: a) Holding an office of profit under government of India or state government; b) Being of unsound mind; c) Being an undischarged insolvent; d) Not being an Indian citizen or for acquiring citizenship of another country

The word 'office' has not been defined in the Constitution or the Representation of the People Act of 1951. But different courts have interpreted it to mean a position with certain duties that are more or less of public character.

The Supreme Court, while upholding the disqualification of Jaya Bachchan from Rajya Sabha in 2006, had said, "For deciding the question as to whether one is holding an office of profit or not, what is relevant is whether the office is capable of yielding a profit or pecuniary gain and not whether the person actually obtained a monetary gain... If the office carries with it, or entitles the holder to, any pecuniary gain other than reimbursement of out of pocket/actual expenses, then the office will be an office of profit for the purpose of Article 102 (1)(a)..." However, a person who acquires a contract or licence from a government to perform functions, which the government would have itself discharged, will not be held

guilty of holding an office of profit. So, acquiring a gas agency from the government or holding a permit to ply do not amount to holding office of profit.

Source: http://indianexpress.com/article/what-is/office-of-profit-what-the-why-5032038/

### Q.80) Consider the following statements

- 1. In India, Red Panda is naturally found in the Western Himalayas only.
- 2. In India, Slow Loris lives in the dense forests of the North East.

# Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

# Q.80) Solution (b)

Red Panda is a mammal native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China.

Slow lorises are a group of several species of nocturnal strepsirrhine primates that make up the genus Nycticebus. Found in Southeast Asia and bordering areas, they range from Bangladesh and Northeast India in the west to the Sulu Archipelago in the Philippines in the east, and from Yunnan province in China in the north to the island of Java in the south.

# Q.81) Global Talent Competitiveness Index – 2018 is released by

- 1. Adecco
- 2. Insead
- 3. Tata Communications

#### Select the correct code:

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

#### Q.81) Solution (d)

The 2018 study is released by Adecco, Insead and Tata Communications.

India has moved up on a global index of talent competitiveness to the 81st position.

It is released every year on the first day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting.

China has moved up to 43rd now, Russia to 53rd, South Africa to 63rd and Brazil to 73rd position.

Source: <a href="https://www.ndtv.com/business/india-ranks-81st-on-global-talent-">https://www.ndtv.com/business/india-ranks-81st-on-global-talent-</a> competitiveness-index-1803347

# Q.82) National Regulatory Authority of India (NRAI) comprises of

- a) Pharmaco-vigilance Programme of India (PvPI)
- b) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

#### Q.82) Solution (c)

The National Regulatory Authority of India (NRAI), the vaccine regulating authority of India, has been given the highest ratings by global health body World Health Organization for vaccine regulations.

WHO carried out assessment of the NRA of India comprising the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), State Drug Regulatory Authorities, Pharmaco-vigilance Programme of India (PvPI) and Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) structures at the Central and States level.

National Regulatory Agencies (NRAs) are responsible for ensuring that pharmaceuticals and biological products, such as vaccines released for public distribution are evaluated properly and meet international standards of quality and safety.

#### Q.83) Hope Island is under the administration of

- a) West Bengal
- b) Orrisa
- c) Andhra Pradesh

d) Tamil Nadu

#### Q.83) Solution (c)

A relatively young island, it formed in the last 200 years into a 16-kilometre-long (9.9 mi) sand spit from the sand carried by the waters of Godavari delta.

The area between Kakinada coast and Hope Island is known as Kakinada Bay. The water spread of the bay is about 100 sq km (39 sq mi). Hope Island protects the city of Kakinada from the strong storm surges coming from the Bay of Bengal. Hope Island acts as a sort of natural break water and provides tranquility to the ships anchored in Kakinada bay which makes Kakinada Port one of the safest natural ports in the Eastern Coast of India.

The northern part of the island is called the "Godavari point" which overlooks the entry point into the Bay of Kakinada and the Kakinada harbour.

# Q.84) Consider the following statements with regard to Hungary

- 1. It is a landlocked country
- 2. River Danube flows through Hungary
- 3. The grassland biome found in Hungary is known as Puszta

#### Choose the appropriate code

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

#### Q.84) Solution (d)

Originating in Germany, the Danube flows southeast for 2,860 km (1,780 mi), passing through or touching the border of Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine before emptying into the Black Sea. Its drainage basin extends into nine more countries.

Prairie grasslands are found across the globe. They have a variety of names in other parts of the world: pampas in South America, veldt in South Africa and puszta in Hungary. These areas have deep, rich soils and are dominated by tall grasses; trees and shrubs are restricted to river valleys, wetlands and other areas with more moisture. Over the years the native

grass species on the extensive areas of level ground have been ploughed and fields seeded. Many of these grasslands have been lost to cereal crops.

#### The Grassland Biome -

http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/glossary/gloss5/biome/grassland.html

#### Q.85) Which of the following countries is/are members of New Agenda Coalition (NAC)

- 1. Brazil
- 2. New Zealand
- 3. South Africa

#### Select the correct code:

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

# Q.85) Solution (d)

The New Agenda Coalition (NAC), composed of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa, is a geographically dispersed group of middle power countries seeking to build an international consensus to make progress on nuclear disarmament, as legally called for in the nuclear NPT.

# Q.86) DHARMA App is concerned with

- a) Public Distribution System
- b) Dam Safety
- c) Tourism
- d) Cleaning of rivers

#### Q.86) Solution (b)

#### **DHARMA App**

Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA) app will serve as a web tool to digitize all dam related data effectively.

It will help to document authentic asset and health information pertaining to the large dams in the country, enabling appropriate actions to ensure need based rehabilitation.

Source: http://www.newindianexpress.com/pti-news/2018/jan/22/first-internationaldam-safety-conference-begins-tomorrow-1761140.html

#### Q.87) World Economic Outlook is published by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) World Bank
- d) World Trade Organisation

#### Q.87) Solution (b)

The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is a survey conducted and published by the International Monetary Fund.

It is published biannually and partly updated two times a year. It portrays the world economy in the near and medium context, with projections for up to four years into the future.

WEO forecasts include key macroeconomic indicators, such as GDP, inflation, current account and fiscal balance of more than 180 countries around the globe. It also deals with major economic policy issues.

# Q.88) Consider the following statements about Brasilia Declaration

- 1. It is related to Road Safety
- 2. India is a signatory to the declaration

#### Select the correct statements

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

# Q.88) Solution (c)

# IASbaba's Daily Quiz Compilation - January

Hosted by the Government of Brazil on 18-19 November 2015 in Brasilia, Brazil, and cosponsored by WHO, the 2nd Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety represented a historic opportunity to chart progress at the mid-point of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

At the close of the Conference, the 2200 delegates adopted the "Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety" through which they agreed ways to halve road traffic deaths by the end of this decade – a key milestone within the new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 3.6.

As a signatory to Brasilia Declaration, India is committed to reducing the number of road accidents and fatalities by 50 per cent by 2020.

# Q.89) Consider the following statements about National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

- 1. The NIIF is being operationalized by establishing three Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) under the SEBI Regulations
- 2. It seeks to create long-term value for domestic investors only, seeking investment in energy, transportation, housing, water, waste management and other infrastructure-related sectors in India

#### Select the correct statements

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

# Q.89) Solution (a)

NIIF Ltd. is a fund manager that seeks to create long-term value for domestic and international investors seeking investment in energy, transportation, housing, water, waste management and other infrastructure-related sectors in India.

NIIF has partnered with DP World to create an investment platform for ports, terminals, transportation and logistics businesses in India. The platform will invest in opportunities in the ports sector, and beyond sea ports into areas such as river ports and transportation, freight corridors, port-led special economic zones, inland container terminals, and logistics infrastructure including cold storage.

The NIIF is being operationalized by establishing three Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) under the SEBI Regulations. The proposed corpus of NIIF is Rs. 40,000 Crores (around USD 6 Billion). GOI's contribution to the AIFs under the NIIF scheme shall be 49% of the total commitment. NIIF has mandate to solicit equity participation from strategic anchor partners, like overseas sovereign/quasi-sovereign/multilateral/bilateral investors.

The company is jointly-owned by the Government of India and investors from India and abroad. While NIIF's government partnership ensures close engagement with policy-makers and central and state government agencies, its commercial investors ensure a principles led and professional approach to all investments. It will operate with the highest standards of governance, and keep in mind the need to balance transparency and confidentiality among stakeholders and partners.

# Q.90) In which one of the following countries, is Tamil a major language?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Indonesia
- c) Mauritius
- d) Singapore

#### Q.90) Solution (d)

Official languages of Singapore – English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil

Q.91) Efficient use of plants to remove, detoxify or immobilise environmental contaminants in a growth matrix (soil, water or sediments) through the natural biological, chemical or physical activities and processes of the plants is known as

- a) Phytoremediation
- b) Phytostabilization
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

#### Q.91) Solution (a)

Phytoremediation is the direct use of living green plants for in situ, or in place, removal, degradation, or containment of contaminants in soils, sludges, sediments, surface water and groundwater.

Phytoremediation ('phyto' means plant) is a generic term for the group of technologies that use plants for remediating soils, sludges, sediments and water contaminated with organic and inorganic contaminants.

Phytoremediation can be defined as "the efficient use of plants to remove, detoxify or immobilise environmental contaminants in a growth matrix (soil, water or sediments) through the natural biological, chemical or physical activities and processes of the plants". Plants are unique organisms equipped with remarkable metabolic and absorption capabilities, as well as transport systems that can take up nutrients or contaminants selectively from the growth matrix, soil or water. Phytoremediation involves growing plants in a contaminated matrix, for a required growth period, to remove contaminants from the matrix, or facilitate immobilisation (binding/containment) or degradation (detoxification) of the pollutants. The plants can be subsequently harvested, processed and disposed.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/moss-that-can-remove-lead-fromwater-identified/article22497791.ece

# Q.92) Consider the following statements

- 1. Taiwan is an island that lies in the Yellow Sea
- 2. Tropic of Cancer cuts across both Taiwan and India

#### Choose the correct code

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

# Q.92) Solution (b)

Taiwan lies between South China Sea and East China Sea.

Tropic of Cancer cuts across both Taiwan and India.



# Q.93) Sendai Framework, which was in news recently, is related to:

- a) Convention on Chemical and Biological Weapons
- b) Convention on Migratory Species
- c) Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
- d) Convention on Disaster Risk Reduction

#### Q.93) Solution (d)

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action.

It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).

The Sendai Framework is a 15 year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

The Sendai Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

#### Q.94) Recently, a Global Centre for Cybersecurity was launched by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Trade Organisation
- c) Visegrad Group
- d) SAARC

# Q.94) Solution (a)

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/weflaunches-global-centre-for-cybersecurity/articleshow/62634409.cms

## Q.95) Rotavac and Rabishield vaccine is concerned with

- a) Tuberculosis
- b) Japanese Encephalitis
- c) Hepatitis B
- d) None of the above

#### Q.95) Solution (d)

The Rotavac and Rabishield vaccine protects against childhood diarrhoea caused by the rotavirus.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/first-india-designed-vaccine-passeswho-test/article22512401.ece

# Q.96) Environmental Performance Index 2018 was released by

- a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- b) Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- c) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- d) None of the above

# Q.96) Solution (d)

EPI is a biennial report released by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the World Economic Forum (WEF). India is at 177th place out of 180 nations, where as china at 120th position.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/india-ranks-177out-of-180-in-environmental-performance-index/article22513016.ece

## Q.97) Muhuri, a transnational river flows between India and

- a) Myanmar
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Nepal
- d) Pakistan

# Q.97) Solution (b)

Muhuri char is a disputed land between India and Bangladesh . 90% is under India's control

Muhuri is a transnational river between India and Bangladesh. Rising in Tripura, it flows into Bangladesh where it merges with the Feni near the latter's mouth to the Bay of Bengal. The Muhuri is also known as the Little Feni.

# Q.98) Which of the following committees are related to Railways?

- 1. Anil Kakodkar Committee
- 2. Bibek Debroy Committee
- 3. Justice H.R. Khanna Committee
- 4. Sam Pitroda Committee

#### Choose the correct code

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

#### Q.98) Solution (d)

Anil Kakodkar (2012)- High Level Safety Review Committee (Railways) - The Committee recommends a total financial investment of Rs 1,00,000 crore over a five year period

Sam Pitroda Committee on modernization of Indian Railways

Bibek Debroy (2014-2015) - Restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board

Railway Safety Review Committee (Khanna Committee) was set up in 1998 under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna In 1998, the Railway Ministry constituted Justice Khanna Committee to review the implementation of the recommendations of all previous accident inquiry committees, to examine the adequacy of existing organization and practices for safe running of trains and to suggest safety measures.

Q.99) With reference to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an international agreement between governments.
- 2. It is legally binding on the parties

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

#### Q.99) Solution (c)

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

CITES is an international agreement to which States (countries) adhere voluntarily. States that have agreed to be bound by the Convention ('joined' CITES) are known as Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.

For more info, check - <a href="https://cites.org/eng/disc/what.php">https://cites.org/eng/disc/what.php</a>

# Q.100) Consider the following statements with respect to Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)

- 1. It is a tax treaty signed between two or more countries and tax-payers in these countries can avoid being taxed twice for the same income
- 2. DTAAs are limited to taxing of income from shipping, air transport and inheritance only

# Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

#### Q.100) Solution (a)

A DTAA is a tax treaty signed between two or more countries. Its key objective is that taxpayers in these countries can avoid being taxed twice for the same income. A DTAA applies in cases where a tax-payer resides in one country and earns income in another.

DTAAs can either be comprehensive to cover all sources of income or be limited to certain areas such as taxing of income from shipping, air transport, inheritance, etc. India has DTAAs with more than eighty countries, of which comprehensive agreements include those with Australia, Canada, Germany, Mauritius, Singapore, UAE, the UK and US.

DTAAs are intended to make a country an attractive investment destination by providing relief on dual taxation. Such relief is provided by exempting income earned abroad from tax in the resident country or providing credit to the extent taxes have already been paid abroad. DTAAs also provide for concessional rates of tax in some cases.

#### Q.101) Indrajit Gupta Committee is concerned with

- a) State funding of elections
- b) Time limit for bye-elections
- c) Amendment of the anti-defection law to restrict disqualification
- d) Minimum age of voting to be 18 years

#### Q.101) Solution (a)

Indrajit Gupta was the chairman of the all-party parliamentary committee on state funding of elections. The 8-member committee that set up by the all-party conference in May, 1998, submitted its report in January, 1999.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/a-vote-for-statefunding/article22545432.ece

# Q.102) The term 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' often appears in the news in the context of the affairs of a group of countries known as

- a) G20
- b) ASEAN
- c) SCO
- d) SAARC

# Q.102) Solution (b)

RCEP is a FTA between ASEAN and six other countries (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand)

#### Q.103) 'European stability mechanism', is an

- a) Agency created by EU to deal with the impact of millions of refugees arriving from Middle East
- b) Agency of EU that provides financial assistances to euro zones countries
- c) Agencies of EU to deal with all the bilateral and multi-lateral agreements on trade
- d) Agency of EU to deal with the conflicts arising among the member countries

# Q.103) Solution (b)

The European Stability Mechanism (ESM) is an intergovernmental organization located in Luxembourg City, which operates under public international law for all Eurozone Member States having ratified a special ESM intergovernmental treaty. It was established on 27 September 2012 as a permanent firewall for the Eurozone, to safeguard and provide instant access to financial assistance programmes for member states of the Eurozone in financial difficulty, with a maximum lending capacity of €500 billion.

#### Q.104) Consider the following statements about 'Project Sunrise'

- 1. It is a project to tackle the increasing HIV prevalence
- 2. It is focused on North Eastern States of India

#### Select the correct statements

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

# Q.104) Solution (c)

Project Sunrise aims at bringing the people living with HIV/AIDS into the national mainstream and create more awareness about the disease in North Eastern States.

# Q.105) Intellectual property Index is released by

- a) WIPO
- b) WEF
- c) IMF
- d) None of the above

# Q.105) Solution (d)

It is published by US Chamber of Commerce

# Q.106) Consider the following statements about the recently launched high performance computer (HPC) system 'Mihir'.

- 1. It is launched by Ministry of Earth Science
- 2. It is dedicated to weather and climate forecasts

#### Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2

#### d) Neither 1 nor 2

#### Q.106) Solution (c)

In an initiative to improve India's weather forecasting, the ministry of earth science (MoES) on Tuesday launched a high performance computer (HPC) system named Mihir.

The HPC will be India's largest in terms of peak capacity and performance and will propel the country's ranking from the 368th position to the top 30 in list of HPC facilities across the world.

India will now also be ranked 4th, after Japan, UK and US for dedicated HPC resources for weather/climate community.

The facility was launched at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting in Noida.

The facility is expected to improve weather forecasts at the block level across India, predict extreme weather events, and offer high resolution seasonal and extended range forecasts of active/break spells of the monsoon.

The facility will also make possible very high resolution coupled models for prediction of cyclones with more accuracy and lead time. Further, the services that will improve with the new facility are ocean state forecasts including marine water quality forecasts at very high resolution, tsunami forecasts with greater lead time, air quality forecasts for various cities and climate projections at very high resolution.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176000

# Q.107) What is "virtual private network"?

- a) It is a private computer network of an organization where the remote users can transmit encrypted information through the server of the organization.
- b) It is a computer network across a public internet that provides users access to their organizations network while maintaining the security of the information transmitted.
- c) It is a computer network in which users can access a shared pool of computing resources through a service provider.
- d) None of the statements given above is correct description of virtual private network.

#### Q.107) Solution (b)

A virtual private network (VPN) extends a private network across a public network, and enables users to send and receive data across shared or public networks as if their computing devices were directly connected to the private network. Applications running across the VPN may therefore benefit from the functionality, security, and management of the private network.

VPN is all about maintaining privacy over the public internet.

Q.108) With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, consider the following:

- 1. The Right to Development
- 2. The Right to Expression
- 3. The Right to Recreation

Which of the above is/are the Rights of the child?

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

#### **Q.108) Solution (d)**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (commonly abbreviated as the CRC or UNCRC) is a human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. The Convention defines a child as any human being under the age of eighteen, unless the age of majority is attained earlier under national legislation.

Nations that ratify this convention are bound to it by international law. Compliance is monitored by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is composed of members from countries around the world.

All are correct.

Read More - <a href="https://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights">https://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights</a> overview.pdf

Q.109) Which of the following is known as Berne and Paris-plus agreement?

- a) WIPO
- b) TRIPS
- c) Sustainable Development Goals
- d) UNFCC

#### Q.109) Solution (b)

The TRIPS Agreement says WTO member countries must comply with the substantive obligations of the main conventions of WIPO — the Paris Convention on industrial property, and the Berne Convention on copyright (in their most recent versions).

With the exception of the provisions of the Berne Convention on moral rights, all the substantive provisions of these conventions are incorporated by reference. They therefore become obligations for WTO member countries under the TRIPS Agreement — they have to apply these main provisions, and apply them to the individuals and companies of all other WTO members.

The TRIPS Agreement also introduces additional obligations in areas which were not addressed in these conventions, or were thought not to be sufficiently addressed in them.

The TRIPS Agreement is therefore sometimes described as a "Berne and Paris-plus" Agreement.

# Q.110) Lisbon treaty is related to

- a) European Union
- b) MERCOSUR
- c) African Union
- d) Trans-Pacific Partnership

#### Q.110) Solution (a)

The Treaty of Lisbon (initially known as the Reform Treaty) is an international agreement that amends the two treaties which form the constitutional basis of the European Union (EU). The Treaty of Lisbon was signed by the EU member states on 13 December 2007, and entered into force on 1 December 2009. It amends the Maastricht Treaty (1993), known in updated form as the Treaty on European Union (2007) or TEU, and the Treaty of Rome (1957), known in updated form as the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

(2007) or TFEU. It also amends the attached treaty protocols as well as the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM).

