

Q.1) (DRDO) has successfully test fired the anti-tank missile “Nag” recently. Consider the following statements.

1. Nag missile is a third generation “fire and forget” anti-tank missile
2. It can be launched from land, water and air-based platforms

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

Q.1) Solution (a)

The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully test fired the anti-tank missile “Nag” in Rajasthan.

The Nag missile is a **third generation “fire and forget”** anti-tank missile and can be launched from land and air-based platforms (not for naval use).



It is equipped with highly advanced Imaging Infrared Radar (IRR) seeker and has integrated avionics technology in its arsenal.

It is one of the five missile systems developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) under **the integrated guided missile development programme (IGMDP)**. The four other missiles developed under this programme include **Agni, Akash, Trishul and Prithvi**.

Do you know?

- NAMICA (Nag Missile Carrier) is a tank destroyer built for the army. It is equipped with a thermal imager for target acquisition.

THINK!

- HeliNA

Q.2) India began developing a multi-tiered Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system in 1999, after the end of the Kargil War in reaction to Pakistan's growing missile arsenal. Consider the following statements in this regard;

1. Prithvi Air Defense (PAD) / Pradyumna Ballistic Missile Interceptor destroys missiles at endo-atmospheric altitudes.
2. Advanced Air Defense (AAD)/ Ashvin Advanced Defense interceptor missile exo atmosphere at altitudes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

Q.2) Solution (d)

India began developing a multi-tiered Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system in 1999, after the end of the Kargil War in reaction to Pakistan's growing missile arsenal.

A consortium of 40 Indian companies were involved in the development of the missile defense shield.

India's BMD shield is a **two-tiered defense system**

Prithvi Air Defense (PAD) / Pradyumna Ballistic Missile Interceptor destroying missiles at exo-atmospheric altitudes of 50–80 kilometers (31–50 miles).

Advanced Air Defense (AAD)/ Ashvin Advanced Defense interceptor missile endo-atmosphere at altitudes of 20-40 kilometers (12-24 miles).

Do you know?

- In addition to the indigenously developed BMD system, India has procured six regiments of Russian S-300 air defense systems and is negotiating for five regiments of more advanced S-400 systems with Russia.
- Swordfish is long-range tracking radar developed for the BMD system. It was derived from the Israeli Green Pine long range radar.

THINK!

- Cruise Missiles
- Swordfish Radar
- Long Range Tracking Radar (LRTR)

Q.3) BrahMos is the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world. Consider the following statements regarding this:

1. The BrahMos is a medium-range scramjet supersonic cruise missile.
2. It can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft, or land.
3. It is a joint venture between the DRDO of India and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyenia (NPOM) of Russia.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q.3) Solution (b)

The BrahMos is a medium-range **ramjet supersonic cruise missile** that can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft, or land. It is the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world.

It is a joint venture between the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyenia and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) who together have formed BrahMos Aerospace.

Do you know?

- A hypersonic version of the missile, BrahMos-II, is also presently under development with a speed of Mach 7-8 to boost aerial fast strike capability. It is expected to be ready for testing by 2020.

THINK!

- Missile Technology Control Regime(MTCR).
- Ramjet and Scramjet.

Q.4) The Kalvari class is a class of diesel-electric attack submarines based on the Scorpène class submarine being built for the Indian Navy. Consider the following statements.

1. The submarines are designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS and are being manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.
2. It will also feature advanced Air-independent propulsion (AIP) systems.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

Q.4) Solution (c)

The Kalvari class is a class of diesel-electric attack submarines based on the Scorpène class submarine being built for the Indian Navy. The submarines are designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS and are being manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.

Which will also feature **advanced Air-independent propulsion (AIP)** systems to enable them to stay submerged for longer duration and substantially increase their operational range.

Do you know?

- The Project 75I-class submarine is a follow-on of the Project 75 Kalvari-class submarine for the Indian navy. Under this project, the Indian Navy intends to acquire 6 diesel-electric submarines.

THINK!

- Torpedoes.

Q.5) K-4 missile – intermediate-range submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM). Consider the following statements about it:

1. It is nuclear capable missile
2. It will arm the kalavari-class submarines.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

Q.5) Solution (a)

K-4 missile – intermediate-range submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).

Features

- It is nuclear capable missile.
- It is under development by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India.
- It will arm the Arihant-class submarines.
- It can carry a warhead weighing up to 2.2 tons.

Do you know?

- The K-4 was developed to overcome the difficulty of fitting in AGNI-III in equipping INS Arihant.

THINK!

- Frigates.

Q.6) Consider the following list of exercises of Indian Army.

| Exercise name | Participating country |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yudh Abhyas | USA |
| 2. Nomadic Elephant | Kazakhstan |
| 3. Indra | Russia |
| 4. Mitra Shakti | Sri Lanka |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) None

Q.6) Solution (c)

| Exercise Name | Participating Country |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Khanjar | Kyrgyzstan |
| Surya Kiran | Nepal |
| Al Nagah-li | Oman |
| Bold Kurukshetra | Singapore |
| Nomadic Elephant | Mongolia |
| Maitree | Thailand |
| Surya Kiran | Nepal |
| Yudh Abhyas | United States |
| Mitra Shakti | Sri Lanka |

Indra

Russia

Do you know?

- The Joint Indo-Russia Tri-Services Exercise INDRA. The name of the exercise INDRA has been derived from **IND**ia and **RussiA**. INDRA exercises have been undertaken between respective Armies, Navies and Air Forces

THINK!

- Indian Airforce Exercises.

Q.7) Consider the following

1. INS Jalashwa is an amphibious transport dock currently in service with the Indian Navy.
2. Dhanush is a howitzer used by Indian Army.
3. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is the highest decision making body on procurement headed by Defence Secretary.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.7) Solution (a)

INS Jalashwa is an amphibious transport dock currently in service with the Indian Navy. Formerly USS Trenton, she, along with six Sikorsky SH-3 Sea King helicopters were procured from the United States by India for a total of US\$90 million in 2005.

She was commissioned on 22 June 2007. INS Jalashwa is the only Indian Naval ship to be acquired from the United States. She is based in Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command.

Dhanush

- The Dhanush is a 155 mm towed howitzer used by the Indian Army.

Defence Acquisition Council

- DAC – is the government's highest decision-making body on procurement.
- **DAC is chaired by Union Defence Minister.**
- To counter corruption and speed up decision-making in military procurements.

The decision flowing from the Defence Acquisition Council are to be implemented by the following 3 Boards –

- Defence Procurement Board headed by the Defence Secretary
- Defence Production Board headed by the Secretary (Defence Production)
- Defence Research & Development Board headed by the Secretary (Defence Research & Development)

Do you know?

- Shardul-class landing ships are large amphibious warfare vessels built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers for the Indian Navy. They are an evolution of the Magar class amphibious landing ships. The class has an indigenous content of over 90% with state-of-the-art equipment.

THINK!

- HAL-Tejas.

Q.8) Which of the following statements regarding 'Navika Sagar Parikrama' are correct?

1. It is the world's first ever circumnavigation of globe by an All women crew.
2. The Voyage is undertaken by indigenously built sailing vessel INS Tarini.
3. The entire journey will have 10 stopovers before it reaches India.

Select the code from following:

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

Q.8) Solution (b)

Navika Sagar Parikrama

Navika Sagar Parikrama is the name of expedition for circumnavigation the globe on INSV Tarini by Indian Navy's Women Naval Officers. The six-member all-woman team will circumnavigate and manage the whole operation in this first ever global journey. The voyage is expected to be finished around March 2018 when the crew returns to Goa, with only 4 port calls in Fremantle Australia; Lyttelton, New Zealand; Port Stanley, Falklands; and Cape Town, South Africa.

Note: It is India's first all women circumnavigation Mission (not World's)

THINK!

Mark the locations on a map. They can be asked in a map based question.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding 'Sagar Kavach' security program:

1. It is a naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka.
2. A terror attack was simulated named 'Red Force' to check the effectiveness of Marine Policing.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.9) Solution (b)

The Governments of Odisha and West Bengal conducted joint security exercise named 'Sagar Kavach' to further tighten the existing coastal security mechanism along the 630 km long coastline.

Sagar Kavach security exercise is a realistic drill to check the efficacy of the security parameters and preparedness of various security forces like the Indian Navy, Marine police force, Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Forest Department, Fisheries and district administration

A simulated terror attack named 'red force' was organized at a random place along Odisha or West Bengal coast and check how effective our marine policing is.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/odisha-wb-to-hold-first-ever-joint-coastal-security-exercise/articleshow/61595268.cms>

Q.10) Which of the following has been named 'Fat boy'?

- a) It was the name given to the nuclear bomb used in Japan by USA
- b) It is the name given to India's GSLV Mk III.
- c) It is the name given to NASA's quiet supersonic aircraft.
- d) It is the name given to Agni V missile.

Q.10) Solution (b)**GSLV Mk III**

GSLV Mk III is popularly known as 'Fat Boy'. It is one of the most heaviest satellite launch vehicles of the World and also one of the shortest.

It has the capacity to carry payload of 4 – 8 tonnes.

It has three stage engine with solid, liquid and cryogenic phase.

THINK!

- Cryogenic technology
- Scramjet

Q.11) Which of the following statements regarding 'Thermobaric bomb of increased power'?

1. It is known as the Father of all Bombs.
2. It used uses atmospheric oxygen for explosion and does not contain an oxidizer.
3. It is the most powerful non-nuclear bomb of the World.
4. It has been recently developed by USA

Select the code from below:

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

Q.11) Solution (a)**Father of All Bombs**

Aviation Thermobaric Bomb of Increased Power nicknamed "**Father of All Bombs**" (FOAB) is a Russian-designed, bomber-delivered thermobaric weapon.

The bomb is reportedly similar to the US military's GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast which is often unofficially called "Mother of All Bombs" derived from its official military acronym "MOAB". This weapon would therefore be the most powerful conventional (non-nuclear) weapon in the world.

Note: All thermobaric bombs use atmospheric oxygen.

THINK!

- Mother of All Bombs

Q.12) Which of the following statements are correct regarding the 'Mountain Strike Corps' of India?

1. It has been built as a quick reaction force and as well as counter offensive force against China along LAC.
2. Its headquarters are located at Panagarh in West Bengal.

Select the code from following:

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

Q.12) Solution (c)

Mountain strike corps

XVII Corps of Indian army is the first mountain strike corps of India which has been built as an quick reaction force and as well as counter offensive force against China along LAC. Its headquarters are located at Panagarh in West Bengal.

China, incidentally, has re-organized its 2.3-million PLA into five theatre commands to crank up its offensive capabilities as well as establish better command-and-control structures. Its western theatre command now handles the entire LAC with India instead of the earlier Chengdu Military Region in the east and the Lanzhou Military Region towards the north.

THINK!

- Paramilitary Forces
- ITBP

Q.13) Who is known as the Missile Women of India?

- a) Tessy Thomas

- b) Nandini Harinath
- c) J Manjula
- d) N Valarmathi

Q.13) Solution (a)**Tessy Thomas**

- Born in 1963, an engineer and the Project Director for Agni-IV missile in Defence Research and Development Organisation, Tessy is the first woman engineer to head a missile project in India. She is known as the 'Missile Woman' of India.

<https://www.indiatimes.com/news/india/8-awesome-isro-scientists-who-happen-to-be-women-271697.html>

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding India's first unmanned Tank, MUNTRA:

1. It has been indigenously developed by DRDO.
2. It has three variants for surveillance, mine detection and reconnaissance in areas with nuclear or bio threat.

Select the code from following:

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

Q.14) Solution (c)**Muntra**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an unmanned, remotely operated tank which has three variants - surveillance, mine detection and reconnaissance in areas with nuclear and bio threats. It is called Muntra.

Muntra-S is the country's first tracked unmanned ground vehicle developed for unmanned surveillance missions while Muntra-M is for detecting mines and Muntra-N is for operation in areas where there is a nuclear radiation or bio weapon risk.

The vehicle has been tested and validated at Mahajan field firing range in Rajasthan under dusty desert conditions where temperatures touched 52 C. Army comfortably tele-operated the vehicle. It has surveillance radar, an integrated camera along with laser range finder which can be used to spy on ground target 15km away - may be a crawling men or heavy vehicles.

THINK!

- AI Weapons
- Ban on killer robots

Q.15) Which among the following is/are surface-to-surface missiles?

1. Prithvi II
2. Agni II
3. K-15 Missile
4. Shaurya Missile

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.15) Solution (d)

Agni II

- Agni-II (fire), is a nuclear-capable, **surface-to-surface** strategic ballistic missile.
- The Agni (missile) family is envisaged to be the mainstay of the Indian missile-based strategic nuclear deterrence.
- It is a two stage surface-to-surface missile, equipped with an advanced high accuracy navigation system and guided by a novel state-of-the-art command and control system.
- The Agni-II missile is developed by Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL) and integrated by the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Hyderabad.

Prithvi II

- Prithvi-II is India's first developed indigenously and inducted indigenous **surface-to-surface** strategic missile.

- It is first missile to be indigenously developed by DRDO under India's prestigious Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).

K-15

- K-15 (K-15 Sagarika missile) is an **underwater missile** developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- It is a nuclear-capable submarine launched ballistic missile with a range of 700 kilometres. It belongs to the K Missile family. It is being developed f... for use with Indian Navy nuclear-powered Arihant class submarine.

Shaurya missile

- The Shaurya missile is a canister launched hypersonic boost-glide **surface-to-surface** tactical missile developed by the Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for use by the Indian Armed Forces.

Q.16) Which among the following activities are part of Indian Navy's 'Constabulary Role'?

1. anti-poaching operations
2. anti-smuggling operations
3. anti-piracy operations
4. to deter any military adventurism against the country
5. coastal surveillance

Choose the correct answer:

- a) 4 and 5 only
- b) 3, 4 and 5
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 5
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q.16) Solution (c)

Indian Navy undertakes the following roles - military, diplomatic, constabulary and benign.

The primary military objective of the IN is to deter any military adventurism against the country, including intervention in India's affairs and subversive strategies against the national interests and the ability to inflict a crushing defeat on the adversary in the event of hostilities.

However, as part of its 'Constabulary Role', the IN is involved in operations like anti-poaching, anti-smuggling, coastal surveillance and anti-piracy.

Q.17) Consider the following about Scorpene-class submarines and identify the incorrect statement:

- a) The submarines are built with the French technology at the Mazagaon Dock Ltd in Mumbai.
- b) The Scorpene-class submarines are a class of diesel-electric attack submarines jointly developed by the French Direction des Constructions Navales (DCN) and the Spanish company Navantia, and now by DCNS.
- c) All the six submarines under this class will be equipped with the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system, which will enable them to stay underwater for longer duration.
- d) None of the above

Q.17) Solution (c)

The Scorpène-class submarines are a class of diesel-electric attack submarines jointly developed by the French Direction des Constructions Navales (DCN) and the Spanish company Navantia, and now by DCNS. It features diesel propulsion and an additional air-independent propulsion (AIP).

In 2005, India chose the Scorpène design; purchasing six submarines. Under a technology transfer agreement, the state-owned Mazagon Docks in Mumbai will manufacture the submarines.

India plans to incorporate the DRDO-developed air independent propulsion (AIP) system onto the last two submarines being built and also to equip the P75I submarines, of which the DCNS is participating in the tender process.

In other words, in 2005 the Indian Navy ordered six Scorpène-class: all the Indian boats will be built in India, at Mazagon Dock and elsewhere, and only the last two are to be fitted with an Indian Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system. Hence, statement (c) is incorrect.

Q.18) Consider the following statements in regard to India's Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system:

- 1. India plans to deploy a two tiered BMD system to protect important cities from external threats.
- 2. BMD system can intercept incoming missiles both at exo-atmosphere and endo-atmosphere altitudes

3. Exo-atmosphere is altitudes between 47 and 80 km and endo-atmosphere is below 40 km altitude.

Choose the appropriate code:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) None of the above
- d) All the above

Q.18) Solution (d)

Self-explanatory – All the given statements are correct.

India plans to deploy a two tiered BMD system to protect important cities from external threats.

- BMD system can intercept incoming missiles both at exo-atmosphere and endo-atmosphere altitudes
- Exo-atmosphere is altitudes between 47 and 80 km and endo-atmosphere is below 40 km altitude.

India's BMD shield is a two-tiered defense system, with –

- Prithvi Air Defense (PAD) / Pradyumna Ballistic Missile Interceptor destroying missiles at exo-atmospheric altitudes of 50–80 kilometers (31–50 miles).
- Advanced Air Defense (AAD)/ Ashvin Advanced Defense interceptor missile at endo-atmosphere altitudes of 20-40 kilometers (12-24 miles).

Q.19) Consider the following pairs and choose the correctly matched pair/s from below options:

Missile deal : : Associated country

- 1. Spike anti-tank guided missile : : India-US
- 2. S-400 Triumf long-range surface-to-air missile systems : : India-Russia
- 3. Javelin anti-tank guided missile : : India-Israel

Choose appropriate code from options below:

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

Q.19) Solution (b)

Correct pairs are:

1. Spike anti-tank guided missile : : India-Israel
2. S-400 Triumf long-range surface-to-air missile systems : : India-Russia
3. Javelin anti-tank guided missile : : India-US

India will purchase Spike antitank guided missiles from Israel through the so-called government to government route.

“Spike is a battle-proven missile which has much longer range and comparatively light in weight when compared to locally made Nag missile.

India and Russia signed an intergovernmental agreement on the sale of the S-400 systems during a bilateral summit in October 2016 in Goa, India, in the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India plans to procure Israeli Spike, American Javelin and Indigenous MPATGM Anti-Tank missile for Indian Army.

Q.20) 'Ajeya Warrior' is a joint army training exercise between India and -

- a) Nepal
- b) UK
- c) US
- d) Russia

Q.20) Solution (b)

Exercise Ajeya Warrior-2017, a fourteen days training exercise between the Indian Army and the British Army, was concluded during December 2017 at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.

It was third joint military exercise between India and UK. The first exercise was conducted in 2013 at Belgaum, Karnataka and second exercise was held in 2015 in UK.

Q.21) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Festival

State

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Kambala | Maharashtra |
| 2. Jalikattu | Tamil Nadu |
| 3. Aanaval Pidi | Kerala |

Select the correct code:

- 2 Only
- 1 and 2
- 2 and 3
- 1, 2 and 3

Q.21) Solution (c)

Kambala – Karnataka

Jalikattu – Tamil Nadu

Aanaval Pidi (Catching elephant's tail) – Kerala

Kambala is an annual buffalo race which is a tradition in the Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts' farming community. This area is called Tulunadu (Land of Tulu Language).

A pair of buffaloes are tied to the plough and one person anchors it, beating the buffaloes with a stick to run faster. There are two parallel muddy tracks, on which two competing pairs of buffaloes run. Fastest team wins.

Read More:

- <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/all-you-need-to-know-about-kambala/listshow/56774237.cms>
- <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/what-is-jallikattu-1650547>

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/centre-clears-kambala-bill/article18788687.ece>

Q.22) The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project covers which of the following?

- West Bengal and Rakhine
- Odisha and Yangon
- West Bengal and Yangon
- Mizoram and Mandalay

Q.22) Solution (a)

The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is a project that will connect the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by sea. In Myanmar, it will then link Sittwe seaport to Paletwa, Chin State via the Kaladan river boat route, and then from Paletwa by road to Mizoram state in Northeast India.



Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/india-awards-road-contract-to-complete-kaladan-project-in-myanmar/article9723297.ece>

Q.23) Consider the following statement about 'SATH' Programme

1. It is launched by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Centre for Policy Research (CPR)
2. It is aimed at transformation in the education and healthcare sectors along with State governments

Select the correct statements

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

Q.23) Solution (b)

To usher in transformation in the education and healthcare sectors along with State governments, NITI Aayog has launched the SATH (Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital) programme.

SATH programme will be implemented by NITI Aayog along with global consultancy McKinsey & Company and IPE Global consortium.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/niti-aayog-launches-sath-programme/article9724293.ece>

Q.24) Consider the following statements about 'Transports Internationaux Routiers' (TIR Convention)

1. It is under the auspices of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
2. It was developed aftermath of Second World War
3. The TIR system only covers customs transit by road

Select the correct statements

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

Q.24) Solution (b)

News: India became the 71st signatory to TIR international transit system, designed to facilitate the seamless movement of goods throughout the countries in Asia and Europe

The Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) is a multilateral treaty that was concluded at Geneva on 14 November 1975 to simplify and harmonise the administrative formalities of international road transport. (TIR stands for "Transports Internationaux Routiers" or "International Road Transports".)

TIR transit system was developed soon after the Second World War in order to help revitalise the economies of post war Europe. The TIR Agreement was concluded in 1949 and its success led to the establishment in 1959 of the first TIR Convention.

The 1975 convention replaced the TIR Convention of 1959, which itself replaced the 1949 TIR Agreement between a number of European countries. The conventions were adopted under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). As of January 2018, there are 73 parties to the Convention, including 72 states and the European Union.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/dqvNmMJGbgQAC8pYZPAYdi/India-ratifies-TIR-Convention-to-access-transnational-multi.html>

Q.25) Consider the following statements about Municipal Bonds

1. They are permitted for public offering by SEBI
2. Pune Municipal Corporation was the first ULB to issue Municipal Bond in India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.25) Solution (a)

Municipal bonds are debt instruments—a promise to repay a fixed principal amount with interest periodically, which can be paid at fixed intervals or at the end of the tenure, with the principal.

Under the Sebi (Issue and listing of Debt Securities by Municipalities) Regulations, 2015 (ILDM), a municipality or a Corporate Municipal Entity (CME) making public issue of debt securities should not have negative net worth in any of three immediately preceding financial years.

Besides, Sebi said that municipality should not have defaulted in repayment of debt securities or loans obtained from banks or financial institutions during the last 365 days.

The new rules that will allow these instruments to be offered to the public, listed and traded on stock exchanges will hopefully rekindle the appetite for them.

Municipal bonds are there in India from 1997 onwards. Bangalore Municipal Corporation was the first ULB to issue Municipal Bond in India in 1997.

Municipal bonds in India enjoy tax-free status if they conform to certain rules and their interest rates will be market-linked. Their tradability means you need not have to hold them till maturity.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/stock-markets/pune-municipal-bond-lists-on-bse/article9733623.ece>

